

**Special Meeting
Regular Public Safety & Transportation Commission
June 26, 2000 at 6:00 p.m**

Members present included James Berlin, Tae Hwa Chung, Mary Gregory, John Hastie, and Guy Mercurief. Absent were Carl Berger, Jim Blake and Mike O'Brien. Ex-Officio members present included Lt. Peter Crum, Andrew Steele, and Cyndee Simpson-Sugar.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Lt. Crum invited members to introduce themselves to each other.

INTRODUCTION OF MEMBERS

Motion was made by Mr. Mercurief and seconded by Mr. Hastie to nominate Mary Gregory as Chairperson. Motion was closed.

ELECTION OF CHAIR

Motion was made by Mr. Mercurief and seconded by Mr. Chung to nominate John Hastie as vice-chair. Motion was closed. Lt. Crum asked if we should take a vote on Mary Gregory for chair? Mary Gregory said that when you nominate and it's already seconded and closed you don't need to when it is closed. Guy Mercurief said it is fine.

ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIR

Member terms were read aloud. It was decided that members would keep their current terms as they appear to be sufficiently staggered. Mary Gregory asked for a motion to seat Mr. Chung on the Commission. Motion was made by Guy Mercurief and seconded by Mr. Hastie to seat Mr. Chung on the Public Safety & Transportation Commission. Motion was carried unanimously.

DRAWING FOR TERMS

Regular meeting time was set as the first Monday of each month at 7:00 p.m.

ESTABLISHMENT OF REGULAR MEETING TIME

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Chairperson Mary Gregory called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER

Members present included James Berlin, Tae Hwa Chung, Mary Gregory, John Hastie, and Guy Mercurief. Absent were Carl Berger, Jim Blake and Mike O'Brien. Ex-Officio members present included Lt. Peter Crum, Andrew Steele, and Cyndee Simpson-Sugar.

ROLL CALL

Mr. Terryl Miller addressed the Commission regarding revocation of his taxi permit. It was explained that a letter scheduling a hearing had been sent to Mr. Miller. The Commission asked him to wait for his hearing. The Commission would then hear the case and make a decision.

PEOPLE TO BE HEARD

Mr. Dominic Malaj also addressed the Commission regarding revocation of his permit. The Commission asked Mr. Malaj if he was requesting a hearing, no answer was received. Discussion followed regarding Mr. Malaj's permit. His permit was revoked because he was fired from Alaska Cab. If he becomes employed with another company his permit would be returned. Mr. Malaj explained that he wanted to become independent. Mr. Hastie explained that this governing body does not have power to grant his request; the City Council, City Attorney, and Transportation Inspector would need to discuss and review ordinances.

Mr. Albert Malaj addressed the Commission regarding revocation of his chauffeur's permit due to a felony charge. He explained that one charge was dismissed and the other lowered to a misdemeanor. He asked the commission to reinstate his permit. The Transportation Inspector will research this issue.

Motion to approve the minutes of 5/11/00 was made by John Hastie and seconded by Guy Mercurief. The motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Discussion followed on agenda items to carry over from Public Safety or Transportation Commissions. Motion to approve agenda with additions of Vehicle Safety, Executive Session, and Oath of Commission to "New Business," was made by James Berlin and seconded by Guy Mercurief. The motion was carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Fire and Police Chief reports were included in mailed packets. Lt. Crum who attended the meeting in Chief Pettitt's absence reported that the Bethel Police Department now has 14 officers and is expecting a fifteenth. A new dispatcher will begin July 10th. BPD has been preparing for the 4th of July and plans to put on extra people to keep the intoxicated person problem down to a minimum. Last year it went very well; we only had to PC half a dozen. The parade route will be the same and will commence at 11:00 a.m. at Swanson's.

CHIEF'S REPORTS

We are expecting two new police vehicles this summer. We have already been cutting into next year's maintenance budget

The Transportation Inspector was absent from the meeting. Mr. Steele presented a report outlining DMV income and number of taxi cab companies and number of cabs for each.

TRANSPORTATION INSPECTOR'S REPORT

Discussion followed regarding Mr. Miller's comments. Mary Gregory mentioned that she had been approached by Mr. Miller regarding revocation of his permit. She asked him to please come before the whole body. Mr. Mercurief mentioned that he had also been approached by Mr. Miller. Mary Gregory stated that she likes to be careful about talking with individuals outside of Commission meetings because she gets misquoted.

The Commission asks that the Transportation Inspector communicate with Dominic Malaj regarding his taxi permit and whether he would like a hearing.

It was discussed that the upcoming hearings will be held at the City offices and that the hearing procedures will be discussed with the City's attorney during the executive session.

Mr. Hastie asked about the procedure for adding agenda items for upcoming meetings. Mrs. Gregory said that agenda items could be brought up during the previous meeting or by calling the recording secretary before agenda posting. Street signs and culvert drainage will be added to the next regular meeting agenda.

COMMISSION MEMBER COMMENTS

Lt. Crum suggested that the target figure for taxi permit numbers and whether or not we have a moratorium on any new cab

Companies be discussed. Guy Mercurief would like to see the ability for exceptions to be made. Discussion followed on supply and demand in the Bethel taxicab industry.

OLD BUSINESS

The taxicab permit increase was returned to the Commission by the City Council. The Commission revisited the fee and suggests that it be set at \$125.00. The Commission needs to follow up to be sure the increase is sent back before the City Council.

NEW BUSINESS

Guy Mercurief would like to revisit the snow machine issue and would like to see a more solid record kept of snow machine incidents within the city for future reference. It was confirmed that all of the information that comes to the Commission including agendas and minutes are kept.

Mr. Hastie spoke about concern of children on big machines not complying with law. If we're going to enforce it at all we need to provide funding to the police department for positions and snow machines. Mr. Hastie suggested that we look at increasing sales tax to pay for some of these things; there has not been an increase in sales tax in 21 years.

Mr. Mercurief suggested gathering information from other communities about how they address snow machine safety. Lt. Crum said that the Public Safety Commission has done this in the past. They've looked into such things as dedicated trails, routes for snow machines, enforcing speed laws, and education.

Mary Gregory is concerned about walkers and bikers and how we can educate. She suggested that we do a PSA with a message about walking into the traffic and biking with it. Mary will work with Cyndee to compose a message in English and Yup'ik. Mr. Hastie suggested we might want to look into doing something jointly with YKHC Injury Prevention program. They may have funds for newspaper ads. Lt. Crum said that the Tundra Drums would run a public service announcement free.

An Executive session was set for Wednesday, July 5th at 7:00 p.m. Oath of Office for the Commission will be given on July 5th.

Next regular meeting will be Monday, August 7, 2000 at 7:00 p.m. Meeting was adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

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