

**City of Bethel**  
**Regular Transportation Commission Meeting**  
**January 21, 1999**

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

This meeting is called or order at 7:15p.m. at the City Council Chambers by Mary Gregory, Verdi Brogdon recorded the minutes.

**II. ROLL CALL**

Present: Carl Berger, Guy Merculiff and Allen Glore.  
Absent: Joerene Hout and Tania Oh.

**III. PEOPLE TO BE HEARD**

No people to be heard.

**IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Carl Berger/Guy Merculiff move to approve the minutes of November 19, 1998. Motion carried unanimously.

**V. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Carl Berger/Guy Merculiff move to approve the amended agenda adding Mary Gregory under new business item D, as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

**VI. TRANSPORTATION INSPECTOR'S REPORT**

The commission members would like to have the Transportation Inspector present at the next meeting. The Commission would like to have the Trans. Inspector contact Kusko Cab #43 and Quyana Cab#27 on getting their cab permits for 1999. Discussion on Quyana and City cab permits, how were they given. Would like a note from the Inspector stating how they were given the permits. Mary will write a letter to Joerene Hout, council rep. on putting caps on permits.

**VII. COMMISSION MEMBER COMMENTS**

Carl Berger - would just like to have the Chief present and would like to know how many cab permits there are on the road. Verdi stated that there are 81 cab permits legally. Also have the Chief discuss how to reduce or cap the number of permits. Also would like the enforcement procedure that the police department is going to follow.

Guy Merculiff - concerns on cabs with one headlight. No other comments.

Allen Glore - Would like to know who is signing off on these inspection papers.

Allen Glore/Carl Berger move to have all cab companies bring to the police department all of their dispatch records by February 4, 1999, if records are not given then they will be a fined.

Mary Gregory - Enjoyed being on the commission, too many cabs in town and thinks that there are some that are not legal and a lot of times they are a nuisance on the road. Would like the Chief be present at all the meetings. To be informed more on what is going on.

**VIII. OLD BUSINESS**

**A. Physicals**

Carl Berger/Guy Merculiff move to adopt the physical form that is presented and have the Police Department use the form. Motion carried unanimously.

**IX. NEW BUSINESS**

**A. Emergency Ordinance - Issuing Permits**

This item is already been discussed. And to be taken off the agenda.

**B. Snow Machine Trails**

There are some snow machine markers around town and would like to see some put up. Would like to write a letter to Joerene Hout and have here address this to the council.

**C. Mary Gregory - Resign**

Mary states that the KYUK would like her to resign from the commission because a conflict of interest. Commission states that there is no conflict of interest.

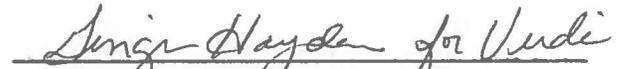
**X. ADJOURNMENT**

Carl Berger/Allen Glore move to adjourn at 7:55p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

PASSED AND APPROVED THIS 5<sup>TH</sup> DAY OF August 1999.

  
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Mary M. Gregory, Chairperson

ATTEST:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Verdi L. Brogdon, Recording Secretary

TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION  
REGULAR MEETING  
MARCH 25, 1999

I. CALL TO ORDER

This meeting was called to order at 7:13p.m by Chairperson Mary Gregory, the minutes were recorded by Verdi Brogdon.

II. ROLL CALL

Present: Mary Gregory, Allen Glore, Jorene Hout and Guy Mercurlif

Absent: Carl Berger excused Tania Oh unexcused

III. PEOPLE TO BE HEARD

Allen Glore/Joerene Hout move down after old business. Motion carried unanimously.

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Allen Glore/Guy Mercurlif move to approve the minutes of January 21, 1999 Motion carried unanimously.

V. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Allen Glore/Joerene Hout move as amended. Motion carried unanimously

VI. TRANSPORTATION INSPECTORS REPORT

Had question on how the inspector is giving out more permits, inspector stated that its does not state in the ordinance about putting cap on permits. Would like the city to write a letter to the attorney about power of attorney's on permits. Would like to hold a workshop on city ordinances for April 15, 1999

VII. COMMISSION MEMBER COMMENTS

Allen Glore is concerned about stop signs, send information to the Public Safety Commission.

Guy Mercurlif - Discussion on cab inspection, need to check on inspection with new permits and that they comply with the ordinance.

Joerene Hout - No business

VIII. OLD BUSINESS

None at this time

IX. NEW BUSINESS

A. Letter of Resignation

Discussion on this issue that there is no conflict with Mary Gregory being on the commission, would like Verdi to write a letter with the commission signature to KYUK Christopher Butler.

B. Letter to Council Representative - Cap on Permits

No discussion

Cont. New Business

C. Ordinance #99-02, Mandatory Insurance - Taxi Cabs

Allen Glore is not for this ordinance, Mary Gregory stated that for the mandatory insurance it would cost more money for the business portion.

Allen Glore/Joerene Hout move not to support Resolution #99-02. Motion carried unanimously.

D. Letter - Chauffeur's Permits

Vera Gregory stated that she has quit drinking for a month now and would like to commission to issue her her chauffeur permit.

Allen Glore/Guy Merculif move to give back Vera Gregory her Chauffeur Permit with no stipulation. Motion carried unanimously.

III. PEOPLE TO BE HEARD

Raymond Watson gave the commission a letter of concern stating that Quyana Cab #26 flagged him down in front of AC Store stating that he owed \$8.00 his concern is the harassment from this cab company. The Transportation Inspector will call this Cab in to the Station to talk to him.

X. ADJOURNMENT

Allen Glore/Guy Merculif move to adjourn. Motion carried unanimously.

PASSED AND APPROVED THIS 5<sup>th</sup> DAY OF August 1999.

  
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Mary M. Gregory, Chairperson

ATTEST:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Ginger Hayden, Recording Secretary

**REGULAR TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION MEETING**  
**Wednesday, November 10, 1999**

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Chairperson, Mary Gregory, called the meeting to order at 7:09 p.m.

**CALL TO ORDER**

Members present were Mary Gregory; Joerene Hout; Carl Berger; Allen Glore, Police Chief Bob Pettitt . Andrew Steele was the meeting's note taker.

**ROLL CALL**

Guy Mercurief was absent for unknown reasons.

**ABSENTEES**

A motion to approve the amended minutes from the meeting of 10/14/99 to include the phrase "acting Chairman" in place of "Chairman elect", was made by Joerene Hout seconded by Carl Berger and unanimously carried.

**APPROVAL OF  
AMENDED MINUTES OF  
10/14/99**

The agenda was moved for approval by Mr. Berger, seconded by Ms. Hout and unanimously carried.

**AGENDA APPROVAL**

Chief Pettitt opened his transportation inspector's report by making the point that his report dealt in the main with the three items marked under New Business. For the past several weeks, he and Mr. Steele, the taxi technician, had been going through the historical data found in the taxi files in the Police Department. In addition, the data that Allen Glore had kindly made available, was invaluable to getting a historical perspective. It is evident that record keeping in the past has left something to be desired, and this, in conjunction with a lack of understanding of the definition and intent of the regulating ordinances and several errors in procedure, is largely responsible for the present situation.

**TRANSPORTATION  
INSPECTORS REPORT**

A review of the ordinances has revealed them to be written in an unsophisticated manner. There are many areas that are being researched by the City attorney with a view to changes in the definitions therein, to make the ordinances a better tool with which to work. The Chief did not believe it would be equitable treatment to the taxi business in Bethel to make changes to errors made in the past in the issuing or revocation of permits. Rather, moving forward, with a clear understanding of what and how the ordinance impact the industry would be the better way. The audit of the records is continuing but so far, several instances of what appears to be a "Shell Game," in which vehicles have been changed or switched on several occasions with a view to confusion and possibly the obtaining of permits illegally, have come to light. As an example the Chief cited the vehicle Taxi 89 which has had seven transfers of ownership and nine transfers of companies in the past five years. This mass movement, in conjunction with poor record keeping in the Police Department, has led to errors and probably the issuance of bogus permits in the past. With the addition of Mr. Steele, and once the present audit is completed, these records will be kept in an appropriate fashion to understanding the historical data, permit issuance, monies paid and relevant details of each cab, owner and driver.

**ORDINANCES**

Power of Attorney has become a major issue in the present confusion. The Chief believes that the definition of power of attorney is that it be used in emergency situations only, and that, as such, it is intended purely as a temporary solution to whatever emergency circumstances prevail at the time of its use. This has not

**POWER OF ATTORNEY**

**REGULAR TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION MEETING**  
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been the case however, as power of attorney is now in general use in the changing of ownership of vehicles and the permit attached thereto. The Transportation Inspector pointed out that this issue might have to go before a Magistrate to be litigated as case law to prevent its future use in circumventing the law. A reasonable solution that benefits all parties is what is needed. The intent is not to threaten anybody's livelihood. It is necessary however, to have control over the number of vehicles that are on the road for hire within the city, because it impacts the community in many ways. Highway maintenance and the safety of children on the streets are just two of these.

Chief Pettitt has some ideas on how the Permit Cap could be administered. Historically, ten years ago permits were issued to each cab company. At some later point, the City then took away fifty percent of these from each company and issued them to individuals. That began the evolving process of the search for loopholes in the ordinance, with people taking their vehicle and permit from company to company, contributing to the situation that exists today. The Chief has a presentation scheduled on these matters before the City council on the 16<sup>th</sup> of this month.

Joerene Hout suggested that once the number of cab permits was settled upon, her example was 70, through a series of qualification questions each driver be reviewed for his or her merits. These qualifications could include longevity of driving a cab and the amount of business generated. Once the qualification criteria was set, each driver would be judged on a point system with the top 70 getting permits. Then it could be handled just like any other business with any driver who leaves either the business or the city having the availability to sell his permit. Carl Berger added that he would like to see the record of the driver and how honestly he has conducted his business considered when adjudicating the qualifying questionnaire. Allen Gloré suggested setting a number of permits and making them available to the highest bidder. The City would recoup money from this sale and 5% sales tax thereafter each time the permit/s is resold. In addition there is the monthly permit fee of \$100.00 and the cab line monthly dispatch fee of \$100.00. The Chief pointed out that while these ideas are good and could be explored, he is not sure of the legal ramifications of arbitrarily setting a cap on permits, issuing that number and then removing both the permits and thus the livelihood of the remainder. The City will not be deciding anything on this issue in their next two sessions. The Chief's presentation is more of an overview to help explain the circumstances that have led up to the present situation, and that we do need to take a fresh look at its direction for the future. Redefinition of criminal acts to revoke or not issue a permit is one of the issues that need to be addressed. Definition of the permit itself is another. The permit belongs to the City and can be revoked at any time for probable cause. The causes for revocation need to be addressed also. There then followed an unresolved discussion between the Chief and Mr. Gloré as to whether a vehicle needs to be in a permit applicants name for that person to be able to get a permit. Mr. Gloré understood that this is not the case while the Chief held the opposite view. The issue was tabled for further discussion perhaps at a work session, with the understanding that a legal reading will also be necessary.

**TRANSPORTATION  
INSPECTORS  
REPORT(continued)**

***PERMIT CAP***

**REGULAR TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION MEETING**  
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Ms. Hout and Mr. Berger both commented on the continuing lack of a full board on the commission. A proposal was made that board members actively recruit to fill the two seats that have been open for over a year.

**MEMBER COMMENTS**

Mary Gregory asked that a work session to further discuss these topics be arranged for a date following the City council meeting on the 16<sup>th</sup>. This has been scheduled to be held at the Lion's Club on Monday the 22<sup>nd</sup> of November at 7:00 p.m.

**WORK SESSION  
SCHEDULED**

The three items under *New Business* were addressed by Chief Petitt's report and will continue into the forthcoming work session.

**NEW BUSINESS**

The chair recognized cab driver T.H. Chong who wished to point out the vandalism that is presently directed in the evening by children and young adults at taxi cabs. Snowballs, earth and stones are continually being thrown at the vehicles causing damage and much concern. Particular areas of concern include LKSD, the trailer court and hospital housing. The Chief promised to advise his officers of the situation in the hope of a speedy resolution.

**TAXI VANDALISM**

Seog G. Shon, owner of Yellow Cab wanted to know why his appeal both to the commission and the City council to reopen Yukon Cab had been refused. Chief Petitt responded that there seemed to be a communication problem in this case. Mr. Shon could reopen the line anytime using drivers with their own permits. Ms. Hout stated that his application for a further two permits before the council, however, had been denied

**YUKON CAB**

Mr. Berger made a motion to adjourn the meeting which was seconded by Ms. Hout, unanimously carried and the meeting adjourned at 7:51 p.m.

**ADJOURNMENT**