

**TAXI AND LIMOUSINE COMMITTEE
MINUTES
May 17, 2004**

PRESENT: Councillor Ron Cooper
Donald Hatcher
Cal Demont
Don Shannon
Dave Withrow
Bob Richards
Jeffrey Rozee
Don Swinimer

ABSENT: Councillor Stephen Adams (Regrets)
Len Wilson (Regrets)
Derek Mathers

STAFF: Mr. Wayne Anstey, Municipal Solicitor
Mr. Dave Steele, Taxi Inspector
Ms. Sherryll Murphy, Legislative Assistant

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1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 4:30 p.m.

A Moment of Silence was observed in memory of Leo Greenwood, Robert Campbell and Mr. MacEachern, taxi drivers who have recently passed away.

2. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA, ADDITIONS AND DELETIONS

There were no additions to or deletions from the agenda.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES - MARCH 22, 2004 AND APRIL 19, 2004

MOVED by Mr. Withrow, seconded by Mr. Shannon that the minutes of March 22 and April 19, 2004 meetings of the Taxi and Limousine Committee, as distributed, be approved. MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

4. BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES

4.1 Transferability

Consideration of this matter was deferred pending Councillor Adams being present.

4.2 Update - Taxi Driver Incident Form

Consideration of this matter was deferred pending Mr. Mathers being present.

Mr. Shannon expressed concern that the need to begin documenting incidents is increasing. Situations are escalating and these should be documented. (i.e. drivers are assaulting other drivers, he has recently been assaulted by a passenger).

Ms. Murphy is to contact Mr. Mathers with regard to establishing a Safety Committee meeting.

4.3 Increased Enforcement of Zone Infractions

Ms. MacDonald reported that a meeting with the Police Department has been held. A report outlining an enforcement strategy (with emphasis on after hours enforcement) is planned for the next meeting of the Committee.

Members of the Committee wishing to have input to the report are to contact Ms. MacDonald within the next week.

4.4 Review of Proposed Amendment to Bylaw T-108 re Limousine Licensing

- A proposed amendment was reviewed with the Committee at the March 22, 2004 meeting of the Committee. This matter was deferred pending staff meeting with TIANS.

Mr. Steele advised that discussion with TIANS regarding an appropriate course for limousine drivers are not yet complete.

A discussion regarding the type of course limousine drivers should be taking ensued and it was **MOVED by Mr. Withrow, seconded by Mr. Richards that limousine drivers be required to complete the National Certification Program and a local tour/promotional program.**

MOVED by Mr. Richards that the motion be amended to provide that all taxi drivers who operate limousines be required to obtain, within 90 days, a limousine license and to complete the National Certification Program within one year.

There being no seconder, **the motion to amend was lost.**

The **MOTION WAS PUT AND PASSED.**

The Municipal Solicitor is to prepare a proposed amendment for the next meeting of the Committee.

4.5 Update - Taxi and Limousine Appreciation Day

- A Preparations/Progress Report for the Taxi and Limousine Appreciation Day from, Mr. Don Hatcher, was before the Committee for consideration.
- Distributed to members of the Committee was a draft proclamation.

Mr. Hatcher provided a further update noting that the Hotel Association of Nova Scotia and the Hotel Standards Committee have agreed to jointly sponsor a reception for Taxi and Limousine Appreciation Day. The event will be held on June 9, 2004 at Pier 21, from 2-3:30 p.m.

Posters will be distributed to major brokers, an ad placed in the newspaper, and possibly a radio Public Service Announcement will be issued.

Dave Withrow submitted 18 nominations equaling 500 years of experience in the taxi industry.

The Committee reviewed the proclamation making some minor changes.

4.6 Rooflight Positioning

- This matter was discussed at the last meeting of the Committee at which time Mr. Steele was requested to provide information in this regard.

Mr. Steele distributed the applicable sections of the By-law following which a discussion ensued.

The Committee agreed that the rooflight should be positioned on the vehicle so that the company name is visible from both the front and rear of the vehicle. Rooflight colours and the colour of lettering is to remain as is presently stated in the By-law. The font to be used is Arial. The By-law is to be changed to recognize new means of affixing letters and new types of light bulbs which can be used.

Mr. Anstey is to prepare a proposed amendment for review at the next meeting of the Committee.

4.7 Accessible Taxis

The Legislative Assistant advised that the Ottawa research ongoing. CPA is not holding an Annual Meeting in Halifax in 2004. Research as to possible other groups holding meeting is underway.

5. GOOD NEWS STORIES

Dave Withrow offered the following:

- Approval of various amendments to By-law by Regional Council on May 11, 2004.
- The work of an individual driver in collecting garbage on stands throughout Dartmouth. A letter is to be forwarded to Mr. Brian MacLeod commending him for his public service.

6. NEW BUSINESS

6.1 Clarification of Intent - Application of Fixed Rates to Airport (Possible housekeeping amendment to By-law)

Mr. Anstey advised that the text of the By-law and Schedule 4 of the By-law did not agree. He pointed out that the text referred to taking passengers **from** airport while the Schedule addressed fares both **to** and **from** the airport. Mr. Anstey asked the intent of the Committee in approving the fixed rates to the airport.

The Committee clarified that the intent was that the fixed rates be applied both to and from the airport.

The Municipal Solicitor will include this minor amendment when future amendments to the By-law go before Council.

6.2 Recommendation re Owners Licenses (Rooflights) - Councillor Adams

Consideration of this matter was deferred pending Councillor Adams being present.

6.3 Petition - Taxi Owners License Waiting List - Amendment to consider Years of Service

Consideration of this matter was deferred pending Councillor Adams being present.

6.4 Meeting with the Regional Taxi and Limousine Advisory Committee re Accessible Taxis

Councillor Cooper advised that one meeting had been held. Work on the issues is ongoing.

7. MOTIONS

7.1 Amendment to By-law T-108 re Standardization of Rooflights

Mr. Mathers gave Notice of Motion that at the next regular meeting of the Taxi and Limousine Committee to be held on May 17, 2004 he intends to introduce a motion to amend By-law T-108 to standardize the placement, lighting and fonts on taxi rooflights.

This matter will be dealt with when the proposed amendment under item 4.6 comes forward.

8. ADDED ITEMS

Dave Withrow requested that, as agreed to previously, the following statistical information be provided to the Committee:

- taxi owner license waiting lists
- a list of roof lights and expiration dates of each roof light
- the names of all the Taxi and Limousine companies operating in HRM
- the number of limousine drivers licensed
- the number of limousine owner licences which have been issued.

9. NOTICES OF MOTION

Bob Richards gave Notice of Motion that at the next regular meeting of the Regional Taxi and Limousine Committee he intends to introduce a motion to limit the number of limousine licenses within HRM.

10. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next regular meeting of the Taxi and Limousine Committee will be held on Monday, June 21, 2004

11. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:30 p.m.

Sherryl Murphy
Legislative Assistant