

HALIFAX REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY

TAXI AND LIMOUSINE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MINUTES

October 11, 2007

PRESENT: Councillor Stephen D. Adams, Chair
Mr. Denis St. Laurent, Vice-Chair
Mr. Jamie Bolduc
Ms. Lisa Dahr
Mr. Robert Richards
Ms. Cathy Towers

REGRETS: Mr. Tim Hosford
Mr. Kevin Bulley
Ms. Susan Carroll
Mr. Derek Mathers

STAFF: Ms. Chris Newson, Legislative Assistant
Ms. Shawnee Gregory, Legislative Assistant

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COMMITTEE MINUTES

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1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 10:03 a.m in the Community Meeting Room, 2nd Floor, Captain William Spry Centre, 10 Kidston Road, Spryfield.

2. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES - September 12, 2007

MOVED BY Mr. Robert Richards, seconded by Mr. Denis St. Laurent that the minutes of September 12, 2007, be approved. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

3. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA, ADDITIONS AND DELETIONS

Additions:

- 12.1 Regional By-law T-108 update delay - Mr. Denis St. Laurent
- 12.2 Safety of Taxi Drivers - Mr. Denis St. Laurent
- 12.3 Letter of Introduction regarding Limousine issue - Mr. Robert Richards

Deletions:

- 5.1 Taxi Driver Safety deferred until November 8th meeting

MOVED BY Mr. Jamie Bolduc, seconded by Ms. Cathy Towers that the agenda, as amended, be approved. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

4. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

4.1 Pre-Arranged Cars (pick-up) at the Airport

Ms. Cathy Towers, HIAA Representative, stated that the pre- arranged car concern is still an ongoing issue which she is trying to deal with on a case by case basis. The airport itself is dealing with staffing issues involved in this problem (i.e.comissionaires). Passengers are not getting their pre-arranged cars and, instead, are being asked to take the next car in line. It was requested that further information on this issue be provided at the next meeting.

4.2 Non-Illuminated Rooflights - Tickets

- A report dated September 13, 2007, on the above noted was before the committee.

The committee reviewed the SOT report. It was noted that the SOT's in relation to By-law T-108 are listed in schedule 18 and that there are 24 offences.

Mr. Robert Richards raised concerns that certain police officers are ticketing drivers when they should just be given a warning. He would like to see these tickets squashed and instead have a letter of communication from the police to the drivers regarding the importance of having their rooflights on.

Mr. St. Laurent asked that consideration be given to attaching report 4. 2 to By-law T-108 for distribution to new drivers.

MOVED BY Mr. Denis St. Laurent , seconded by Mr. Robert Richards that schedule 18 be attached to By-law T-108 for information purposes. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

4.3 Taxi Owner Licence (Transferability)

Mr. Richards expressed concern that no report had been come forward to the committee to date even though it was requested in April. In response, Councillor Adams stated that he had been told that the information was not yet available. He advised he would contact Mr. Anstey about the status of this issue.

MOVED BY Mr. Denis St. Laurent , seconded by Mr. Robert Richards that a request go to the Mayor with respect to the report on transferability in reference to a request in April and a request in September that have not been answered or acknowledged by those responsible to sign off. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

5. MOTIONS OF RECONSIDERATION - DEFERRED

6. MOTIONS OF RECISSION - NONE

7. CONSIDERATION OF DEFERRED BUSINESS

7.1 Booster Seat Legislation

Ms. Cathy Towers stated that the legislation is causing an issue at the airport with a lack of consistency among the municipality, the RCMP and the airport's legal department. The licences at the airport do not state that a driver can refuse a passenger if they do not have a booster seat. However, until this issue is resolved Ms. Towers has given the drivers permission to choose whether or not they take passengers without their own seat.

Mr. St. Laurent raised the point that in the NS Motor Vehicle Act it states that the operator of the vehicle is responsible for the safety apparatus' of all it's occupants as the driver is also responsible for the safety of all it's occupants. Ms. Towers stated that while Mr. St.

Laurent is correct, she has also received legal interpretation from HRM stating that taxi drivers are not responsible for this. Ms. Towers stated that it also causes drivers to lose business if they are giving up space for a booster seat; particularly in cases of drivers coming in to the city from the airport.

Councillor Adams suggested that the HRM legal staff look into the Motor Vehicle Act as there are two conflicting positions.

8. CORRESPONDENCE, PETITIONS & DELEGATIONS

8.1 Correspondence

8.1.1 E-mail dated September 24, 2007 from a Dartmouth Resident re: Ongoing (Crosswalk Safety) Training/Education for Taxi Drivers

Mr. Robert Richards stated that the drivers are educated and trained, however, there is no ongoing training. The Chair requested that a letter stating this be sent to the resident.

8.2 PETITIONS - NONE

8.3 DELEGATIONS - NONE

9. REPORTS

9.1 Taxi and Limousine Advisory Committee Annual Report

The committee was advised the report was being drafted.

10. MOTIONS - NONE

11. NOTICES OF MOTION - NONE

12. ADDED ITEMS

12.1 Regional By-law T-108 update delay

Councillor Adams requested that the fact that the committee has been waiting since last October for a response be added to the letter to the mayor. The committee feels that this is an unreasonable amount of time to wait.

Mr. St. Laurent stated that he feels that all of the efforts put forward by the group of volunteers on the committee has been curtailed because the By-law has been under review for so long. He also feels that it is interfering with the committee's mandate.

Mr. Richards raised his concern that the committee may not get to see the By-law draft before it goes to Council.

12.2 Safety of Taxi Drivers

Mr. St. Laurent brought up the point that it is not in the committee's mandate to discuss the safety of drivers. It is a mandate of the provincial government. Mr. St. Laurent requested staff contact Mr. Ben Macbeth, the Policy Officer, and invite him to the next meeting to make a presentation. It was noted that comments on document 12.2 are due by October 26.

12.3 Letter of Introduction Regarding Limousine Issue

Mr. Richards submitted and presented this letter.

13. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, November 8, 2007

14. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 11:01 am

Shawnee Gregory
Legislative Assistant