

**TAXI AND LIMOUSINE ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MINUTES
January 11, 2007**

PRESENT: Councillor Stephen D. Adams, Chair
Mr. Denis St. Laurent, Vice-Chair
Mr. Hari Boggs
Ms. Susan Carroll
Mr. Kevin Bulley
Mr. Bill Harrison
Mr. Tim Hosford
Mr. Robert Richards

ABSENT
WITH REGRETS: Constable Winnell Jackson, HRP
Ms. Cathy Towers
Ms. Darlene Grant-Fiander
Mr. Derek Mathers

STAFF: Mr. Kevin Hindle, Regional Coordinator, Taxi and Limousine
Services
Mr. Randolph Kinghorne, Solicitor
Ms. Jan Gibson, Municipal Clerk
Ms. Chris Newson, Legislative Assistant

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1. CALL TO ORDER

Councillor Adams, Chair, called the meeting to order at 10:01 am in the Community Meeting Room, 2nd Floor, Captain William Spry Centre, 10 Kidston Road, Spryfield.

The Chair welcomed Ms. Susan Carroll, newly appointed Citizen Representative, to the Taxi and Limousine Advisory Committee.

2. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA, ADDITIONS AND DELETIONS

Addition: 9.1 Inequities in Distribution of Taxi Owner Licenses - Mr. Denis St. Laurent

MOVED BY Mr. Bill Harrison, seconded by Mr. Robert Richards that the agenda be approved as amended. MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

3. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES - November 9, 2006

MOVED BY Mr. Kevin Bulley, seconded by Mr. Robert Richards that the minutes of November 9, 2006 be approved as circulated. MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

4. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

4.1 Taxi and Limousine Advisory Committee's Workplan

Mr. Harrison advised that, at a previous meeting, the Committee agreed to dedicate at least one hour per meeting to develop a Workplan. It was **MOVED BY Mr. Bill Harrison, seconded by Mr. Hari Boggs that this item be deferred to the February 8, 2007 meeting and that the previously circulated information be re-distributed.**

The Chair requested that Committee members be prepared to discuss the matter at the February 8th meeting. If the matter is not discussed at the February meeting, the matter is to be removed from the agenda.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

5. CONSIDERATION OF DEFERRED BUSINESS

5.1 Safety of Taxi Drivers

Mr. Hindle advised that Constable Winnell Jackson is compiling information for the Committee in regard to training programs/information package on driver safety that are available in other areas.

5.2 By-law T-108 Review

This item is to be a status sheet item. No further update available at this time.

5.3 Transferability of Roof Lights

MOVED BY Mr. Robert Richards, seconded by Mr. Tim Hosford that the Taxi and Limousine Advisory Committee recommend that Regional Council allow rooflights and taxi and limousine licenses to be transferable.

Mr. Richards submitted a petition signed by 155 persons in support of this motion. He added that the Taxi Association has offered to present to Regional Council on this matter. Mr. Richards clarified that his intent is for taxi/limousine drivers to have the ability to transfer their license and roof light to a spouse or significant other once the driver decides he/she would like to exit the profession.

Mr. Richards suggested that by removing the word "not" in the appropriate section of By-Law T-108, the By-Law would then permit taxi owner licences to be transferable as the wording would read: *Taxi owner licenses "shall" be transferable.*

Mr. Richards requested that this issue be addressed as a separate matter at Regional Council and not as part of the By-Law T-108 amendments/review.

The Committee raised the following comments/concerns during the ensuing discussion:

- Clarification was requested on the process of transferability as the taxi rooflights/licenses are owned by the municipality. Some members of the Committee questioned how something that is not "owned" could be transferred.
- Transferability could create a value to the licenses. For those owners of multiple licenses, the value may be enormous. This value would have an impact on an individual's ability to afford to buy a license.
- All viable reasons for why transferability should occur have to be brought before Regional Council.

- Leasing (of rooflights) is occurring now and the rooflights owners are making money but not the leasee.
- The intent is that there be only one license owner and that the license be transferable.
- Criteria/condition for transfers would be that the transfer (or re-issuance) of the license be to a qualified applicant.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

In regard to process, Mr. Hindle responded to Councillor Adams that this recommendation would be a Taxi and Limousine Advisory Committee report direct to Regional Council.

Mr. Hindle indicated that the present motion does not address the issue of amending the wording in the By-Law. Following a brief discussion by the Committee, it was **MOVED BY Mr. Robert Richards, seconded by Mr. Denis St. Laurent that the wording of By-Law T-108 be amended by removing the word "NOT" in the section relating to transferability so that the section will now read; *Transferability shall be permitted.*"**
MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Mr. Hindle further commented that the motion does not address the issue of ownership. The motion and the petition refer only to transferability. It was then **MOVED BY Mr. Robert Richards, seconded by Mr. Denis St. Laurent that the Taxi and Limousine Advisory Committee recommend Regional Council allow ownership of the taxi owners license.**

In response to a request for clarification, Mr. Randolph Kinghorne, Municipal Solicitor, advised that a license cannot be owned. He explained that if you own it, it is not a license. He further explained that there are proposed amendments for By-Law T-108 that a taxi license can only be granted to a qualified applicant therefore, transferring the license to a spouse or significant other could only occur if the person were a qualified applicant.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Councillor Adams commented that in regard to the first motion, it is not necessary to have ability to transfer a limousine license as there are no limitations on limousine licences. The Committee and mover/seconded of the original motion agreed to amend the motion to remove the reference to limousine drivers. The amended motion will now read: **MOVED BY Mr. Robert Richards, seconded by Mr. Tim Hosford that the Taxi and Limousine Advisory Committee recommend that Regional Council allow taxi roof-**

lights and licenses to be transferable. AMENDED MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

In response to a request on whether there will be an opportunity for public participation when this report is presented to Regional Council, Councillor Adams advised that public participation occurs during the public hearing stage of the process. He added that the public may, at any time, write to Regional Councillors requesting their support.

Councillor Adams advised that this Committee, and members of the taxi industry, will be advised of the date the report will go to Regional Council.

6. CORRESPONDENCE, PETITIONS, DELEGATIONS

6.1 Correspondence - None

6.2 Petitions

A petition was previously submitted by Mr. Robert Richards in regard to transferability of taxi licenses/rooflights. See item 5.1.3, page 4.

6.3 Delegations - None

7. REPORTS

7.1 Safety Camera Standards/Technology Sub-Committee - (Verbal)

The Committee agreed to defer this matter until Mr. Mathers was in attendance to provide an update.

7.2 2007 Meeting Schedule

MOVED BY Mr. Denis St. Laurent, seconded by Mr. Robert Richards that the Taxi and Limousine Advisory Committee approve, as presented, the 2007 meeting schedule. MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

8. NOTICES OF MOTION - None

9. ADDED ITEMS

9.1 Inequity in Owners Licenses

Mr. Denis St. Laurent commented that there are some persons who own many taxi licenses which results in a concentration of control in the industry to those few. He requested the names of the multiple license holders and the number of licenses they hold. There needs to be a more equitable distribution of licences. He suggested the entire system be based on an owner/operator system.

Mr. Hindle advised that the information, in regard to multiple license holders, had been previously circulated to the Committee.

Mr. Hindle further commented that the inequity has been addressed in the wording of the By-Law in regard to limitation. He explained that some of the situations that exist now were pre-existing and were there prior to the limitations being in place. According to the current By-law, you may only be issued one licence.

Mr. Bulley responded to Mr. St. Laurent that you cannot use current laws to rectify past inequities as you cannot go back and tell someone who has 50 licenses that he has to give up 49.

Mr. Randolph Kinghorne advised that there are certain vested rights and you cannot take away a licence that was validly given.

MOVED BY Mr. Tim Hosford, seconded by Mr. Denis St. Laurent that this item be deferred to the February meeting pending the re-circulation of the information. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

10. MOTIONS - None

11. DATE OF NEXT MEETING - Thursday, February 8, 2007 at 4:30 pm.

12. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 10:45 am.

Chris Newson
Legislative Assistant