

**TAXI AND LIMOUSINE ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MINUTES**

April 8, 2010

PRESENT: Councillor Stephen Adams, Chair
Ms. Joanne Coffey
Mr. Gary Russell
Mr. Richard McNeil
Mr. Jamie Bolduc
Mr. Robert Richards
Mr. Derek Mathers

REGRETS: Ms. Cathy Towers
Ms. Lisa Dahr
Mr. Earl Brown

STAFF: Ms. Barb Allen, Legislative Support

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1. CALL TO ORDER

Councillor Adams called the meeting to order at 10:10 am. at the Captain William Spry Centre.

2. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES - March 11, 2010

Ms. Coffey noted that item 5.2 Discussion Surrounding Possible Extension of the Friday and Saturday Open Zones from 3:00 a.m. to 6:00 a.m. - should be from 3:00 a.m. to 5:00 a.m. Mr. McNeil stated that the item was presented for consideration from 3:00 a.m. to 6:00 a.m., but the motion was put from 3:00 a.m. to 5 a.m.

Mr. Mc Neil asked to make a change to the motion made in item 5.2 of March 11, 2010 minutes . Councillor Adams said that a change can not be made to a defeated motion.

MOVED BY Mr. Bolduc , seconded by Ms. Coffey, that the minutes of March 11, 2010 be approved as amended. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

3. APPROVAL OF THE ORDER OF BUSINESS AND APPROVAL OF ADDITIONS AND DELETIONS

Mr McNeil asked to have "Proposal to have zone openings forwarded on to the roundtable on violence and Superintendent Don Spicer" as an addition to the agenda. Councillor Adams said a defeated motion can not be added to an agenda under additions without consent of two thirds of committee members present. He went on to say that a vote would be held to approve 8.1 and 8.2 as additions, then a second vote would be held to approve 8.3.

Additions:

8.1 Taxi Drivers List - Mr. Mathers

8.2 HST - Mr. Mathers

MOVED BY Mr. Russell , seconded by Mr. Mathers, that the Order of Business be approved as amended. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

8.3 Proposal to have zone openings forwarded on to the roundtable on violence and Superintendent Don Spicer - Mr. McNeil

MOVED BY Mr. Bolduc , seconded by Mr. McNeil, that the Order of Business be approved as amended. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

4. BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF THE MINUTES

4.1 Taxi Parking on City Streets - Memo from Mr. Taso Koutroulakis, Acting Manager of Traffic and Right of Way.

Councillor Adams reported that with respect to the motion put forward in 5.2 by Mr. Bolduc and seconded by Mr. Richards, the answer was “no”. This is for information purposes only.

4.2 8.1 Stickers for Taxi Van’s: Mr. Mathers asked for clarification of the motion passed under item 8.1 Stickers for Taxi Van’s, questioning if the stickers would be standardized and mandatory. Councillor Adams said that the intent was to ask for permission if a driver wanted to do this for easier identification of the Taxi number. He added that staff will come back with recommendations such as if the stickers should be mandatory and with design ideas.

5. CONSIDERATION OF DEFERRED BUSINESS - NONE

6. CORRESPONDENCE, PETITIONS & DELEGATIONS

6.1 Correspondence - None

6.2 Petitions - None

6.3 Presentations

6.3.1 Request for a 2 Year Moratorium on Discussions, Presentations and Motions to Do with Zone Regulations and Deregulation of the Taxi Business in HRM - Mr. Garry Jollymore

Mr. Jollymore started his presentation by playing a recording of a radio interview with Mr. McNeil and members of the public around issues caused by restrictions in place to open zones in the downtown area. Mr. Jollymore said the zone issue has been going on too long. He explained that there maybe a misconception around the zone issue and he said that there should be a moratorium for two years.

Mr. Jollymore said drivers are under represented on the Taxi and Limo Committee and said that is why a moratorium would be appropriate until new members, including more representation for Taxi Drivers, can be appointed.

Mr. Forest questioned if the Taxi and Limo committee had sanctioned Mr. McNeils’ comments on the recording. Councillor Adams said Mr. McNeil was interviewed as an individual and not as an appointed spokesperson for the committee.

Ms. Coffey questioned why a two year moratorium, saying that there are concerns that the moratorium on the issue of zones will delay discussions aimed at finding solutions for more accessible transportation and better service to the public.

Mr. Jollymore offered to prepare a presentation that would demonstrate how the public will not be served by opening the zones.

Ms. Coffey said that information and education on the benefits of having a two year moratorium would be welcome.

Mr. Jollymore said information from 43 Canadian cities studied has been compiled in the Schaller Report. He said that Taxi and Limousine Committee members need to be provided with the URL to the report. <http://www.schallerconsult.com/taxi/>

Mr. Mathers said that this issue of opening zones has been dealt with repeatedly by the Taxi and Limousine Committee and that it would not be beneficial to raise the issue again at this time. He stated that there needs to be more research and new information brought forward before the matter is put back up for discussion again.

6.3.2 Committee Membership Requirements - Mr. David Buffett -

Mr. Jollymore said that Mr. Buffett was unable to attend the meeting and had sent his regrets. Councillor Adams recommended that a memo be sent to the Selection Committee stating Taxi Drivers concerns around adequate representation of Taxi Drivers on the Taxi and Limousine Committee. He continued that Council decide on a committees make up through the Selection Committee and that the Mayor is Chair of the Selection Committee. Councillor Adams said that Council is discussing adopting new structures for standing committees, which would see the number of committees reduced by combining some of them, however this is just at the discussion stage at present.

6.3.3 Presentation - Mr. Eddie Hanna

Mr. Hanna asked what the status is on a request he made fourteen (14) months ago to have a ticket reversed.

Mr. Hindle will be asked to report on status of this request at next meeting and to share the draft document with Mr. Hanna.

Mr. Hanna asked whatever happened to initiatives to make driving safer. Councillor Adams said requests were made to the Province for action on safety of Taxi Drivers and recommendation on hybrid cars. He continued that the hybrid initiative went through, but nothing around driver safety. Councillor Adams said MLA's must be contacted as these are Provincial responsibilities.

6.3.4 Representation of Halifax Zone Drivers - Mr. Michael Forest -

Mr. Forest said that he does not feel that the Taxi and Limousine Committee represents him and his interests and issues as a Halifax driver. Councillor Adams suggested that interested drivers contact the Selection Committee to have names put forward.

Councillor Adams said that committees of Council maybe downsizing and adopting new structures, which is why the renewal date for membership for the taxi and Limousine Committee has been extended until the summer.

Mr. Jollymore spoke to the Terms of Reference for the Taxi & Limousine Committee stating that item 4A speaks about the makeup of the committee. Mr. Jollymore said that there should be a representative for specifically for a Halifax driver.

Councillor Adams went over the Terms of Reference and will check with the Membership/Selection committee and invite them to attend a future Taxi and Limousine Committee meeting

Councillor Adams stated that all members of the Taxi and Limousine Committee provide good representation, however the situation could be resolved by having additional members on the committee.

7. REPORTS - None

8. ADDED ITEMS

8.1 Drivers list - Mr. Mathers said he would like to revisit ruling that the driver list be made public, he said he sees no harm in making this information to the public.

MOVED BY Mr. Mathers , seconded by Mr. Richard, that HRM legal staff be asked why the waiting list for driver is not public document, and then to have the Drivers list be made a public document . MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

8.2 HST - Mr. Mathers stated that as of July 1, 2010 HST will be increased by two percentage points and the committee must find out what the industry wants to do in reaction to the increase. Mr. McNeil stated that there has not been a rate increase for drivers since May 2005, and that when the HST was lowered to thirteen percent, drivers essentially got a rate increase. He continued that if the HST is raised back to fifteen percent, drivers will be taking a two percent cut in their pay. Mr McNeil said an application for a rate increase for taxi drivers was submitted five years ago, but has not been acted on.

Councillor Adams said he had requested a mechanism for an automatic rate increase to be put in place and has not heard back from staff on this matter. He requested that staff to bring information on this item forward at the next meeting.

8.3 Zone issues forwarded on to Superintendent Don Spicer and the Roundtable on Violence.

MOVED BY Mr. McNeil , seconded by Ms. Coffey, that the issue of zone openings be forwarded on to the Roundtable on Violence and Superintendent Don Spicer. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

8.4. Limousine Licences - Mr. Richards

Mr. Richards stated that drivers with Limousine licenses are acting as taxis in downtown area. He said he would like to see a moratorium on issuing new licenses for Limousine driver and there must be a limit placed on how many Limousines can operate.

Councillor Adams said that Limousines are only to work in designated places and are not supposed to pick people up off the street. Councillor Adams said the Regional

Police and By-law Services enforce regulations with respect to Limousines picking up passengers in HRM

MOVED BY Mr. McNeil , seconded by Ms. Coffey, that Halifax Regional Police and By-law Services enforce regulations with respect to Limousines picking up passengers in HRM and for staff to find out how many licensed Limousines there are in HRM. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

Mr Russell said that if members of staff can not attend Taxi and Limousine meetings there should be a designated sent in their place.

9. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting was scheduled for May 13 , 2010

10. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 11.11 a.m.

Barb Allen
Legislative Support