



**BURLINGTON VEHICLE FOR HIRE LICENSING BOARD
BUSHOR CONFERENCE ROOM, CITY HALL, 149 CHURCH ST. OR REMOTELY VIA
ZOOM**

MINUTES OF MEETING

September 26, 2023

Present: Paul Hines

Youness Jamil

Stephen Hamlin

Other present: Tenzin Chokden

Chair Paul Hines called the meeting to order at 6:05PM.

1. Agenda

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Motion to adopt the agenda made by: Stephen Hamlin.

Seconded: Youness Jamil.

Approved unanimously.

2. Previous Minutes

Motion to accept the previous meeting's minutes made by Stephen Hamlin.

Seconded: Youness Jamil.

Approved unanimously.

3. Public Forum

No members from the public present at the public forum.

4. Memo to City Council

4.1. Finalize Memo to City Council on Modernizing and Improving the Vehicle For Hire system

Discussion: Chair Paul Hines started the discussion by thanking Attorney Kyle Clauss for drafting the memo and stating that the memo was shared with Councilor Mark Barlow for review prior to the meeting. Once the memo is finalized and approved by the board, it will be shared with Councilor Karen Paul and presented at the next city council meeting. Paul Hines called this special meeting to finalize the memo as he has made some edits on the draft and would like approval from the board before it moves forward.

Paul Hines added text to explain why the board is writing this memo to city council in the third paragraph of the memo, stating there are serious problem with the current taxi and Vehicle for Hire system in the Burlington area. Most of these observations came from complaints brought before the board and personal experiences of the board members. The memo also included suggestions for solutions that could significantly

improve the system.

Paul Hines did some preliminary research on rates and found Burlington rates are significantly lower than rates in other cities in the Northeast and compiled a spreadsheet showing the rate comparison.

Youness Jamil expressed the concern that drivers are not making enough money. Since Burlington is not a big city, they have to wait in queue for several hours before getting a customer. Then, they don't make any money from short distance rides.

Paul Hines said the board is not going to talk about what the rate should be set at in this meeting and he will table that for a future meeting.

Paul Hines proposed app-based metering because conventional taximeters are difficult to maintain and make it more difficult for the customer to pay with a credit card or get a receipt. Paul Hines had this informal discussion with Scot Barker, Chief Innovative Officer, on app-based metering and recommends that the City Council request the CIO to collaborate with the board to identify cost effective mobile app-based solutions for taxi metering.

Paul Hines added that educating the drivers and riders about the city ordinances regarding vehicle for hire, and posting more information such as updated rates at the airport, would also improve the vehicle for hire industry in Burlington.

Youness Jamil expressed his concern that there are drivers who hold queue permits but don't operate at the airport and there are drivers who are willing to work but they can't get a queue permit because of the limited availability of permits.

The board recommended that the City Council and Airport commission amend BCO App. E, sec. 2.6 to establish a mechanism for revoking a queue permit following a period of prolonged inactivity. The board also recommends expanding the number of available queue permits and issuing them to those who are on the waiting list.

Stephen Hamlin made the motion to send the memorandum to city council.
Seconded by Youness Jamil.
Approved unanimously.

5. Deliberative Session

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5.1. Response to Airport Winooski Cab

Motion to enter deliberative session: Stephen Hamlin

Seconded by: Youness Jamil

Approved unanimously. The board entered deliberative session to discuss the hearing.

6. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn by Stephen Hamlin
Seconded by Youness Jamil. Approved unanimously.

The meeting ended at 6:45pm.