



Vehicle for Hire Licensing Board 6/21/2019

Vehicle for Hire Licensing Board (Friday, June 21, 2019)

Generated by Christine Dunbar on Thursday, June 27, 2019

Members present

Bill Keogh, Jeff Munger, Charles Herrick, Adam Roof, Bethany Whitaker

Also present

Christine Dunbar, C/T; Joy Hovestadt, Asst. City Attorney; Nicholas Schieldrop, citizen

Meeting called to order at 10:03 AM

1. Agenda

Action, Procedural: 1.01 Adopt/Amend Agenda
Adopt/Amend the Agenda

Motion by Bill Keogh, second by Adam Roof.

Final Resolution: Motion Passes

Aye: Bill Keogh, Jeff Munger, Charles Herrick, Adam Roof, Bethany Whitaker

2. Public Forum

NS present but did not speak.

Discussion, Information: 2.01 Public Forum

3. Communication



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Communication: 3.01 New VFH Board Member - Bethany Whitaker

JM welcomes BW to the Board and the rest of the Board introduces themselves.

Communication, Information: 3.02 Monthly fees

CD explained that the companies highlighted in red were currently not paying fees for various reasons such as traveling or temporarily on hold or currently driving for Uber/Lyft. CD explained that she did not want to remove these companies from the spreadsheet because they were still paying their annual licensing fees and technically are still licensed to operate in the City.

BK moved to accept the fees and place it on file.

Communication, Discussion: 3.03 Commissioner items

JM would like to add a clause to the ordinance that would allow staff to perform audits on the VFH companies in regard to the monthly fee payments. AR stated that in order to do this, they would need to refer it to City Council for a vote and then move it on to the Ordinance Committee and then back to City Council for final approval. JM asked staff for some language to be drafted and distributed among the VFH Board. AR stated that he would sponsor a memo to City Council. CH asked what form this audit would take and how practical would it be for staff to carry out. JM stated that all cab companies are supposed to keep log books of their trips that will be used for the audits. AR questioned if this will be too much workload for staff and CD stated that it did not seem practical to audit every single taxi company but asked if there was a way to select a few at random to audit at one given time throughout the year. AR asked if there was a concern that some taxi companies are reporting and paying fees inaccurately to which JM and CD stated yes. BK asked that the drafted language state that CD or her delegate could perform this audit in case the workload is too much for CD. JH stated that she will work on drafting something to circulate to the Board.

BK asked for an update on the compliance officer position. CD stated that Nicholas Lopez reached out to Jan Wright at BPD and Jan stated that they do have a lieutenant in place to act as supervisor to this position once filled and would begin the interview process soon. JM stated the City still hasn't done anything about creating a pick-up/drop-off location for TNC drivers and that BPD are concerned about safety when the bars let out downtown and everyone is trying to get an Uber/Lyft in a very busy, congested area. JM asked CH if the new taxi stands are helpful and CH stated that 90% of the taxi business in the city is being taken over by Uber and Lyft. BW stated that it is common to have TNC pick-up and drop-off locations in other cities. CH agreed and stated that the Board is working on studying this in Burlington and working on creating these spots for TNCs. CD stated that she would ask the new lieutenant to the next VFH Board meeting (even if the compliance officer position isn't filled) to ask if they have any input on this issue.

BK asked that on the next agenda and moving forward that there be an item for a staff update from CD so that the Board can get caught up on what's been going on between meetings. CD asked if this item should be before Commissioner items in case the Board has follow-up questions and BK said yes.



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BW asked the Board if they will be regulating the electric scooters in the City and CH stated that he feels like that isn't their jurisdiction because it is not a driver providing a service to another person but rather a rental situation and AR stated that as a City Councilor he has not heard any active conversation yet on this issue because it is still in the pilot stage. BW stated that there is one currently operating in the City.

JM asked CD to send a copy of the VFH ordinance to BW.

BK asked about the minutes from the last meeting as it states that the CAO will be asked to re-evaluate the VFH budget after the Mayor's FY20 budget gets approved. CD stated that she will follow up with this issue and hopes to get it on an upcoming VFH agenda. CH would like to go on record saying that last year, the fees collected were well over the Board's projected budget and would like to know where these extra funds are ending up. JM agreed. AR stated that the City keeps budgeting for the compliance officer position and they have yet to fill the position for longer than a few months. AR thinks it is fair to ask and get a sense of what the purpose of these fees are and hopes that the CAO can shed some light on this.

4. Minutes

Action, Minutes: 4.01 April 16, 2019

Approve the minutes

Motion by Bill Keogh, second by Adam Roof.

Final Resolution: Motion Passes

Aye: Bill Keogh, Jeff Munger, Charles Herrick, Adam Roof, Bethany Whitaker

5. Adjournment

Action: 5.01 Adjourn

Adjourn meeting at 10:37 AM

Motion by Charles Herrick, second by Bill Keogh.

Final Resolution: Motion Passes

Aye: Bill Keogh, Jeff Munger, Charles Herrick, Adam Roof, Bethany Whitaker



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