



**BURLINGTON VEHICLE FOR HIRE LICENSING BOARD
QUEEN CITY ROOM, 3RD FLOOR, CITY HALL, 149 CHURCH ST. BURLINGTON, VT
05401**

**MINUTES OF MEETING
December 19, 2023**

Member Present: Paul Hines
Stephen Hamlin
Youness Jamil
Also present: Hayley McClenahan
Tenzin Chokden

Meeting start time: 5:37 p.m.

1. Agenda

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Subject **1.1. Motion to amend/adopt agenda**

Motion to accept the agenda by Stephen Hamlin
Seconded: Youness Jamil
Approved unanimously.

2. Previous Minutes

2. Previous Minutes

Motion to accept the previous minutes by Stephen Hamlin
Seconded: Youness Jamil
Approved unanimously.

3. Public Forum

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No members of the public present for the public forum.

4. Hearings

4. Hearings

Subject **4.1. Easy Cab**

Hayley McClenahan swore in Mahmoud Alshaabi, the owner and driver of Easy Cab.

Mahmoud Alshaabi shared that Courtney Rice, the customer, requested a ride from the airport to Burlington, he gave her the estimate, and she agreed. He then dropped her off at her location, gave her the receipt upon her request, and left. He was surprised to see this complaint from her.

Youness Jamil asked: Did you tell her that you were going to use the meter? Where did you drop her?

Mahmoud Alshaabi replied: He told her he was not using his meter and the fare price is \$30. He asked whether she accepted the price or not. He doesn't remember exactly where, but she was dropped off near Downtown.

Stephen Hamlin asked: Why don't you use your meter?

Mahmoud Alshaabi replied: Most drivers at the airport don't use their meters. The meter rate is not enough to cover the cost of maintenance, insurance, and fees. He followed the rule set by the vehicle for hire order on the pre-agreement of the fare before the ride began.

Paul Hines asked if that is the right interpretation.

Hayley McClenahan replied that under the ordinance, if one is acting as a taxi and picking up street hail, they have to use the meter. If one is acting as a vehicle for hire, then the ride must be pre-arranged and the fare negotiated before the pick-up.

Subject **4.2. Queen City Transportation**

The complainant was not present for the hearing.

Hayley McClenahan swore in Usamah Abdulkhaleq, the owner and driver of Queen City Transportation.

Usamah Abdulkhaleq stated he doesn't get why the complaint was about not having a meter when he has one in his car. He told her he would charge her a flat rate fee, and she agreed.

Youness Jamil asked if the driver has a meter installed in his car, and if so, why is the complainant saying that you don't have a meter.

Usamah Abdulkhaleq said he does have a meter, but the meter wasn't on because the flat rate fee was agreed upon by the complainant. The ride went okay, and he believed he was given a tip at the end of the trip.

Stephen Hamlin asked where he dropped off the customer.

Usamah Abdulkhaleq replied in South Burlington, near Hinesburg Rd., but shortly agreed with the board, who mentioned in the complaint that the drop-off location was in the Old North End.

Subject **4.3. Route 100 Taxi**

Hayley McClenahan swore in Anmar Abdulkhaleq, the owner and driver of Route 100.

Usamah Abdulkhaleq, interpreting on behalf of his brother, Anmar Abdulkhaleq, said there was a miscommunication between him and the complainant. He thought the customer was going to Hinesburg, but it was Hinesburg Road in South Burlington, and the customer never rode with him. The customer got a ride with MB Taxi, which was next in line.

Youness Jamil agreed that misunderstandings can happen between customers and drivers.

5. Deliberative Session

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Subject **5.1. Deliberative Session**

The board deliberated on the three hearings privately.

6. Report

6. Report

Subject **6.1. Report on business license fees and pickup/dropoff fees**

6.1. Report on business license fees and pickup/dropoff fees

Tenzin Chokden presented the revenue collected in last three years from business license fees and pickup/dropoff fees.

INCOME	ESTIMATED	ACTUAL	Total
2021 Business Lic. Fees Collected		2,000.00	2,000.00
2022 Pickup/Dropoff Fees		35,982.75	35,982.75
2022 Business Lic. Fees Collected		3,375.00	3,375.00
2022 Pickup/Dropoff Fees		64,495.00	64,495.00
2023 Business Lic. Fees Collected		4,375.00	4,375.00
2023 Pickup/Dropoff Fees		86,718.00	86,718.00
Total Income		196,945.75	196,945.75

2021 Business License Fees = \$2,000
2021 Monthly Pickup/Dropoff Fees = \$35,982.75

Customer 4064 - Rasier LLC - Pickup/Dropoff	\$26,864.50	75%
Customer 4096 - Lyft, inc - Pickup/Dropoff	\$7,250.50	20%
Other Taxi Companies - Pickup/Dropoff	\$1,867.75	5%
	\$35,982.75	
2022 Total	\$67,870	
2022 Business License Fees	\$3,375	
2022 Taxi Pickup/Dropoff Fees	\$64,495	
Customer 4064 - Rasier LLC - Pickup/Dropoff	\$57,046	88%
Customer 4096 - Lyft, inc - Pickup/Dropoff	\$6,452.25	10%
Other Taxi Companies - Pickup/Dropoff	\$996.75	2%
	64495	
2023 Total	\$91,093	
Business License Fees	\$4,375	
Taxi Pickup/Dropoff Fees	\$86,718	
Customer 4064 - Rasier LLC - Pickup/Dropoff	81351.5	94%
Customer 4096 - Lyft, inc - Pickup/Dropoff	\$4,233.75	5%
Other Taxi Companies - Pickup/Dropoff	\$1,132.75	1%
	86718	

The board agreed that the evidence from the fees collected shows that the fee system is not working and should come up with another way to collect the fees. Youness Jamil suggested adding an annual fee to these companies instead of collecting \$25 per pickup or dropoff in Burlington. Paul Hines asked if this annual fee could be applied to all companies except TNC companies. Hayley McClenahan, the board, can make recommendations on fees to City Council, and then City Council will make ratification. This would also involve an airport commission, and it would be a comprehensive effort. The board will discuss this issue further in future meetings.

7. New Business

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Continued discussion from October meeting about meter rate updates.

It was confirmed from the taxi administration office that the licenses are issued on a rolling basis and that the board can update the meter by sending a notice at least 30 days in advance.

Youness Jamil brought up the suggestion of bringing a technician from Florida and calibrating all the taxi meters. Youness Jamil said he knows a guy in Canada who may be able to come and calibrate the meters. He will give this information to Tenzin, and Tenzin can research it further.

Hayley McClenahan suggested that if the board is going to pick one company to calibrate all meters, then there needs to be procurement.

Paul Hines said he has been working with Scott Barker on an app-based company, so we don't have the issue of finding someone to calibrate the physical meters.

Youness Jamil made the motion to pick the date for the new rate to go into effect at the next January meeting. Seconded by Stephen Hamlin.

Passed unanimously.

The next meeting is on January 22, 2024.

8. Adjournment

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Subject

8.1. Motion to adjourn

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The motion to adjourn by Stephen Hamlin and seconded by Youness Jamil.

The meeting ended at 7:03 p.m.