



Municipality of Anchorage
Anchorage Transportation Commission
MEETING MINUTES
Monday, June 25, 2018

1 Called to order at 6:01 p.m.

2
3 **ROLL CALL**

4 Present were Ms. Lucy Odden, Mr. Kevin McGee, Erich Reed and Mr. Carl
5 Harnett. Transportation Inspector Eric Musser was present as Secretary to the
6 Commission.

7
8 **Approval of Minutes.** Moved by Mr. Harnett and Seconded by Ms. Odden to
9 approve minutes of March 27, 2017. Approved unanimously.

10
11 **PERMIT ACTIONS**

- 12
13 1. Permit 125 – Sale of Permit From: Juan Pereira & Carlos Oliva
14 To: Hector & Monica Guerra
15 **Moved by Mr. Harnett, seconded by Ms. Odden – Approved unanimously.**

16
17 **NEW BUSINESS**

18 None

19
20 **OLD BUSINESS**

- 21
22 1. Title 11 Code of Regulations – AMCR 11.10 – 11.20 – Revisions to conform to
23 new ordinance.

24
25 Mark Marion spoke and stated that what needed to be understood is that the
26 taxi industry set the value of permits so high. So therefore the municipality is
27 not responsible for the falling value of the permits.

28
29 Commissioner Harnett asked if existing permits had no value, should new
30 permits be based on value or future value?

31
32 Mr. Musser, on behalf of the chair, stated that the commission needed to
33 establish a record of each item on the agenda. For example he stated the
34 ordinance eliminated pre-licensure drug testing and physicals and stated that
35 the regulations were in the packet but a separate record of each agenda item
36 was needed. He stated that he thought most in the audience were there to
37 testify on item number 3.

38
39 Mr. Rifiquat Chaudhry approached the commission members and stated that
40 when he bought his permit there was no Title 11 and that it was created by the
41 TI and that he didn't have a single trip all day long anymore and asked where
42 the authority was coming from. He was ruled out of order but became
43 disruptive. Members in the audience assisted him to his seat.

44
45 The Chairman continued testimony on item 1, amendments to the Title 11

1 regulations.

2
3 Tim Huit spoke and stated that there was some confusion and that perhaps
4 those in attendance didn't quite understand the process of separate items on
5 the agenda..

6
7 Commissioner Harnett stated the ordinance referred to Section 7 but that the
8 draft ordinance before the commission referred to Section 3 and he was
9 confused.

10
11 Mr. Musser clarified for the members that the draft ordinance before them was
12 sectioned as a conforming form of art so that the draft Section 3 referred back
13 to the passed Section 7 in the ordinance.

14
15 Hector Guerra, permit owner and operator testified that the commission
16 needed to look at the existing structure of the cab industry before adding more
17 permits.

18
19 Mustafa Kadriu, owner of taxicab 047, spoke and stated he did not support
20 dirty cabs or elimination of training and drug testing.

21
22 Timothy Huit, a taxi operator and spokesperson for the Taxi Workers Alliance,
23 stated that degrading the quality of the driver does not help. He stated they
24 wanted drug testing and they wanted pre license physicals. He stated the
25 passed ordinance was backwards and was not supported by the taxicab
26 industry.

27
28 Commissioner Odden remarked that there had been a recent article regarding
29 an Uber driver that hit a bicyclist.

30
31 Mr. Huit continued by stating that under the present trend drivers would be
32 bankrupt.

33
34 David Butts testified and stated he was a driver and not an owner. He testified
35 that adding more permits was not the answer and that applicant drug testing
36 and physicals should be kept.

37
38 Vincent Bernard testified and stated there should be no auction for new
39 permits. He remarked that it used to be customers had to wait for a taxi and
40 that now it was the taxis that were waiting for customers.

41
42 Mr. Guerra testified and stated the quality of service would erode further with
43 the addition of new permits and that already drivers were single shifting cars
44 due to a lack of business.

45
46 Hussein Abdallah, a permit owner testified that they were not making enough
47 money to keep going and there was no need for any more permits to be

1 issued.

- 2
3 2. Hearings and report and/or amendment to AMCR 11.10.009 regarding
4 feasibility and effects of dynamic pricing.

5
6 Chair McGee kept public comment open on Agenda Item #1 and opened the
7 floor for testimony on Agenda Item #2 – Report and advising the assembly on
8 the feasibility and effects of dynamic pricing.

9
10 Tim Huit testified and stated nobody wanted any dynamic pricing as it was
11 price gouging, and not consumer protection.

12
13 David Butts testified against any kind of surge pricing.

14
15 Vincent Bernard testified and stated that he had never heard of surge. He
16 remarked that from 4 – 7 p.m. Uber surge is apparent.

17
18 Rifiquat Chaudhry stated that there was no money for the taxicabs.

19
20 Rafael Barboza, a permit owner testified and stated he had been here for 34
21 years and remarked that surge pricing and more permits would be bad for
22 everyone.

23
24 Krenar Lena, a permit owner testified that he was not interested in dynamic
25 pricing as they were suffocating out there on the streets already.

26
27 Commissioner Reed remarked to the audience that it was apparent nobody in
28 attendance was for price surging and that the commission would make
29 recommendations based on the testimony and evidence presented.

30
31 Joyce Nedu testified and stated the municipality should buy the permits back
32 as owners were facing bankruptcy.

33
34 Jackie Ransom, a permit owner testified that so far, nobody in the municipality
35 has listened. Everyone owning a cab is ready to go belly up and that the
36 commission should send a message to the assembly.

- 37
38 3. Annual market conciliation review per Section 11.20.030 A & B.

39
40 Jackie Ransom testified that nobody is doing anything and that something
41 seriously needed to be done to keep permit owners from going bankrupt.

42
43 Tim Huit testified the commission needed a good framework for the annual
44 market conciliation review and asked that once adopted by the commission
45 that it be placed on the TI website, along with any comments received, so the
46 public could review what is being submitted.

47

1 Chair McGee remarked that the comments being received were very much
2 appreciated and that the commission was listening and would take all the
3 testimony received and ensure the message is delivered.
4

5 Mr. Limani (unknown) testified and stated he had been following the industry
6 for a decade and asked what was the basis and framework of the study and
7 asked if it was going to be an independent and unbiased study.
8

9 Kevin _____ (unknown) stated that perhaps the commission could write
10 and request data from Uber and Lyft so the commission could look at the
11 whole picture.
12

13 Rifiquat Chaudhry, Permit owner testified and asked what was the
14 qualifications of whom is doing the study and why couldn't the TI get any
15 information.
16

17 Hector Guerra, permit owner testified and asked for a state representative to
18 participate. He also remarked that Alaska Yellow Dispatch needed to help by
19 knowing how many calls are actually coming in.
20

21 Jackqueline Choque, a permit owner testified and stated the permit owners
22 have been going through this issue for years and asked what were the
23 variables being considered?
24

25 George Rendon testified and stated there should be no more taxicabs.
26

27 Chair McGee stated that he felt everyone in the audience was very passionate
28 but that the commission would not tolerate any disrespect toward the
29 commission or the staff. He remarked they do their very best and would
30 continue to do what they could to disseminate information to the public as
31 quickly as possible. Regarding the framework of the study he did not have
32 the answer but would get it out as soon as possible. He acknowledged the
33 cab industry was suffering and could be impacted by the additional permits.
34

35 Commissioner Harnett stated he was appreciative of everyone coming out
36 tonight but the commission did not have the legislative power to make the
37 changes being requested. He suggested that folks in the audience to contact
38 their assembly and state representatives to advise them of the negative
39 impacts of what is going on the transportation industry. He stated the
40 commission would do it's best to ensure the report received its due.
41

42 Commissioner Reid stated that in the past there was a lot of discussion
43 regarding support and the commission would support efforts.
44

45 Commissioner Odden stated she appreciated everyone coming down to testify
46 and share their concerns.
47

1 Jacqueline Ransom stated under public comments that she hoped that she
2 would encourage the commissioners to understand the concerns of the taxi
3 owners and help resolve them.
4

5 George Rendon spoke and presented the commissioners with a letter outlining
6 things that could happen to help.
7

8 Tim Huit spoke and stated he hoped everyone could work together to produce
9 a viable report for the assembly.
10

11 Mr. Musser stated that he thought it may be fairly easy to setup a folder on the
12 TI website to put information in so it could be followed by the public. He stated
13 he would try to set something up within a week.
14

15 He stated that it was easy to want information to be tied to the dispatch
16 companies being the problem. He stated the assembly put the provisions for
17 affected parties to show the commission how they have been harmed directly,
18 and not to ask for everything from others or to complain about the dispatch
19 companies. He stated the ordinance was clear that only in the year 2021
20 could the commission order that no new permits could be issued. He
21 remarked that staff had been reduced 50 percent and that the commissioners
22 were volunteers but that the work needed to come directly.
23

24 Moved by Commissioner Harnett and seconded by Commissioner Odden to
25 adjourn.
26

27 Adjourned at 9:00 P.M.
28

29 Respectfully submitted,
30
31
32

33 Eric L. Musser
34 Secretary
35
36
37