
Public Vehicle Advisory Committee

Date

2017/04/24

Time

10:32 AM

Location

Civic Centre, Council Chamber,
300 City Centre Drive, Mississauga, Ontario, L5B 3C1 Ontario

Members Present

Councillor Ron Starr, Ward 6 (Chair)
Councillor John Kovac, Ward 4 (Vice-Chair)
Al Cormier (Citizen Member)
Rajendra Singh (Citizen Member)
Baljit Singh Pandori (Taxicab Brokerages)
Karam S. Punian (Taxicab Drivers)
Harsimar Singh Sethi (Elected at Large)
Nirmal Singh (Taxicab Owners)

Members Absent

Vikesh Kohli (Citizen Member)
Joshua Zahavy (Limousine Owners)

Other Attendees

Councillor Carolyn Parrish, Ward 5

Staff Present

Douglas Meehan, Acting Director, Enforcement
Daryl Bell, Manager, Mobile Licensing Enforcement
Karen Morden, Legislative Coordinator, Legislative Services

Find it online

<http://www.mississauga.ca/portal/cityhall/publicvehicleadvisory>

1. **CALL TO ORDER** - 10:32 AM

2. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Approved (J. Kovac)

3. **DECLARATION OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST** - Nil

4. **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

4.1. Minutes of the October 18, 2016 meeting of the Public Vehicle Advisory Committee

Approved, as presented (A. Cormier)

5. **DEPUTATIONS**

5.1. Mark Sexsmith, All Star Taxi spoke regarding the impact and implications of Council Resolution 0054-2017, specifically pertaining to Part 3 of the Resolution, the issuance of 250 taxi plates, on the Mississauga Taxi Industry. Additionally, Mr. Sexsmith noted the impact on members of the public and requested that Council rescind Part 3 of Resolution 0054-2017.

Karam Punian, Taxi Driver Representative inquired about the current value of a taxi plate, to which Mr. Sexsmith spoke regarding the vast reduction in current plate value.

Councillor Parrish spoke regarding the issuance of 250 taxi plates, noted that it would not cause the destruction of the industry and commented on the impact that Uber has had. Mr. Sexsmith commented that the Hara report had advised that the current number of taxi plates in the City was adequate and that the issuance of 250 taxi plates would cause significant financial impact on current driver/owners.

In response to a question from Al Cormier, Citizen Member Daryl Bell, Manager, Mobile Licensing Enforcement provided clarification on the justification of the issuance of 250 plates and advised that staff would be conducting a thorough review of the Public Vehicle Licensing By-law 420-04, as amended.

Recommendation

That the deputation by Mark Sexsmith, Taxi Industry with respect to Council Resolution 0054-2017, to issue 250 taxi plates to individuals on the priority list, be received.

Received (K. Punian)

Recommendation PVAC-0001-2017

- 5.2. Peter Pellier, Taxi Plate Owner spoke in opposition to Council Resolution 0054-2017, noting that the decision to issue 250 taxi plates had caused significant stress on members of the taxi industry. Additionally Mr. Pellier spoke to the Charter of Rights and Freedoms and requested that Council rescind Part 3 of the Resolution. Karam Punian, Taxi Drivers Representative asked staff how many people were currently on the priority waiting list, to which Daryl Bell, Manager, Mobile Licensing Enforcement advised that there were 197 people on the list. Mr. Punian inquired what would happen to the plates once the Pilot Program had ended and whether the formula used to determine the number of plates that should be issued was still in place, to which Mr. Bell commented that the Resolution was an attempt to 'level the playing field' for the duration of the Pilot and that there would be a complete review of the by-law, at which time it would be decided how many plates should continue to be issued.

Recommendation

That the deputation by Peter Pellier, Taxi Industry with respect to Council Resolution 0054-2017, to issue 250 taxi plates to individuals on the priority list, be received.

Received (K. Punian)

Recommendation PVAC-0002-2017

At this time, Councillor Starr requested that Public Question Period be conducted after all other items on the agenda. The minutes reflect the order in which items were dealt with.

7. **MATTERS CONSIDERED**

- 7.2 Report dated April 10, 2017 from the Commissioner of Transportation and Works: Amendments to the Public Vehicle Licensing By-law 420-04, as amended, to change the driver's abstract requirements from more than six demerit points to more than seven demerit points.

No discussion took place on this item.

Recommendation

That a by-law be enacted to amend the Public Vehicle Licensing By-law 420-04, as amended, to prohibit persons from obtaining a taxicab licence or limousine licence who has a driver's abstract that contains more than seven demerit points as outlined in the report from the Commissioner, Transportation and Works, dated April 10, 2017 and entitled "Amendments to the Public Vehicle Licensing By-law 420-04, as amended, to change the driver's abstract requirements from more than six demerit points to more than seven demerit points".

Approved (Councillor Kovac)

Recommendation PVAC-0003-2017

- 7.3. Report dated April 10, 2017 from the Commissioner of Transportation and Works: Amendments to the Public Vehicle Licensing By-law 420-04, as amended, to eliminate the requirements for medical certificates for taxi and limousine drivers.

Councillor Kovac inquired when staff had done benchmarking with other municipalities on the issue of medical certificates and at what point did other municipalities who had the medical certificate requirement suspend the requirement. Daryl Bell, Manager, Mobile Licensing Enforcement indicated that the benchmarking had occurred earlier in the year as part of the TNC review and that other municipalities did not have the requirement. Further, Mr. Bell noted that Legal had advised that requiring a medical certificate was not an appropriate way to gain knowledge regarding a driver's health and that was why staff brought this report forward.

Recommendation

That a by-law be enacted to amend the Public Vehicle Licensing By-law 420-04, as amended, to eliminate the requirement for a medical certificate to be licensed as a taxi or limousine driver, as outlined in the report from the Commissioner, Transportation and Works, dated April 10, 2017 and entitled "Amendments to the Public Vehicle Licensing By-law 420-04, as amended, to eliminate the requirements for medical certificates for taxi and limousine drivers".

Approved (K. Punian)

Recommendation PVAC-0004-2017

- 7.4. On Demand Taxis for Disabled Persons

Email dated January 29, 2017 from Al Cormier, Citizen Member with respect to on-demand taxis for persons with disabilities.

Al Cormier, Citizen Member spoke to his concerns about accessible taxi service and noted that several accessible plates had been returned and requested staff input. Daryl Bell, Manager, Mobile Licensing Enforcement commented that staff had been continually reviewing accessible taxi service, that the request for on-demand accessible taxi service was relatively low and that the Hara report had recommended that Mississauga have 21% of the taxi industry fleet as accessible vehicles. Mr. Bell also noted that the TNCs do not provide accessible service but would be required to during the Pilot Program and in the event that they couldn't, they were to make alternate arrangements for those customers. Mr. Cormier requested that a report be brought forward on the issue. Councillor Parrish suggested that Mr. Cormier delegate to Regional Council on the issue of accessibility and increased on-demand service and that she would then request a report from Regional staff. Councillor Starr requested that staff bring forward a report on the issue.

Recommendation

That the email dated January 29, 2017 from Al Cormier, Citizen Member with respect to on-demand accessible taxi service, be received.

Received (H. S. Sethi)

Recommendation PVAC-0005-2017

7.5. Public Vehicle Advisory Committee 2017 Action List

Al Cormier, Citizen Member noted that there were items on the list since 2013 that hadn't been dealt with. Councillor Starr noted that it would be up to the Committee to add or delete items on the list.

Recommendation

That the Public Vehicle Advisory Committee Action List be received for information.

Received (H. S. Sethi)

Recommendation PVAC-0006-2017

7.1. Consideration of Council Resolution 0054-2017, amendments to the Public Vehicle Licensing By-law 420-05, as amended.

Councillor Starr requested that staff provide a brief background on Council Resolution 0054-2017. Daryl Bell, Manager, Mobile Licensing Enforcement noted that staff would be completing a complete review of the Public Vehicle Licensing By-law and that the implementation of a TNC Pilot Program would commence starting in July 2017.

Councillor Parrish spoke regarding the TNC Pilot Program, the review of the by-law, and asked what the recommended number of taxis was. Mr. Bell spoke to the Hara report and noted that there were currently 18 plates on the shelf that had been there for a number of months as owners couldn't find drivers to operate their vehicles due to high monthly lease fees. Councillor Parrish directed staff to send a letter to the 197 people on the priority waiting list to gauge interest of the possibility of being able to purchase a plate for a nominal administrative fee for the duration of the TNC Pilot Program and report back at the next meeting of the Public Vehicle Advisory Committee. Councillor Starr requested clarification on the temporary issuance of the plates and was advised that the plates would be temporary.

Harsimar Singh Sethi, Elected At Large inquired how many of the 668 plates were run out of the airport and was advised that none of the plates were run out of the airport as they were all City plates. Mr. Sethi asked how many dedicated taxi stands there are in the City, to which Mr. Bell noted that there are six City-wide. Mr. Sethi spoke to the need for more taxi stands in the City. Mr. Bell noted that they are on privately owned property

and that it is up to the owner of the property as to whether they will allow a taxi stand. Mr. Sethi spoke in opposition of issuing 250 taxi plates.

Al Cormier, Citizen Member requested clarification on Part 3 of Resolution 0054-2017. Councillor Parrish noted that the issuance of plates was slated for September 2017.

Councillor Starr commented that the responses to the letter gauging interest in purchasing a temporary taxi plate should come back to the Committee as soon as possible and that a Special meeting of the Public Vehicle Advisory Committee could be scheduled. Additionally, Councillor Starr noted the importance of receiving feedback from the industry and assured the members of the public that, based on the feedback received, he may consider amending Resolution 0054-2017, if needed.

Karam Punian, Taxi Drivers Representative asked what would happen to the seniority list if a person on the list declined to take a temporary plate, to which Mr. Bell advised that the priority list would remain and that the issuance of temporary plates would not impact the list.

Recommendation

1. That staff be directed to send a letter to all individuals on the taxi plate priority list to gauge interest in the purchase of a temporary taxi plate during the TNC Pilot Project;
2. That the consideration of Council Resolution 0054-2017 , specifically to the issuance of 250 taxi plates to those individuals on the priority list, be deferred to a Special Public Vehicle Advisory Committee meeting, following Enforcement staff's issuance of a letter to gauge interest in purchasing a temporary plate during the TNC Pilot Project.

Approved (A. Cormier)

Recommendation PVAC-0007-2017

8. **INFORMATION ITEMS**

Councillor Starr requested that all Information Items be received together, to which the Committee agreed.

Recommendation

That all Information Items on the Public Vehicle Advisory Committee agenda for April 24, 2017, be received for information.

Received (K. Punian)

Recommendation PVAC-0008-2017

The following Information Items were received:

- 8.1. Email dated September 20, 2016 from Mark Sexsmith, Taxi Industry regarding credit card/debit card POS machines in taxis.
- 8.2. Email dated December 2, 2016 from Ron Baumber, Accessible Taxi Owner
- 8.3. Letter dated March 29, 2017 from the Management at All Star Taxi Inc. regarding amendments to the Public Vehicle Licensing By-law 420-04, as amended.
- 8.4. Email dated April 15, 2017 from Peter Pellier, Taxi Industry regarding Resolution 0054-2017 and the issuance of 250 taxi plates.
- 8.5. Public Vehicle Advisory Committee 2017 Meeting Dates

6. **PUBLIC QUESTION PERIOD**

- 6.1. Sami Khairallah, Aeroport Taxi thanked the Councillors for standing with the industry and spoke to the issuance of 250 plates, noting that it would create increased competition within the taxi industry and not with Uber, as was intended. Additionally Mr. Khairallah commented that the supply should not increase when the demand decreases and asked the Councillors to wait on the issuance of the temporary plates.
- 6.2. Rick Saliman, taxi plate owner spoke to the difficulty he had been experiencing in finding a driver and asked the Councillors not to issue 250 taxi plates as stated in Resolution 0054-2017. In response to questions from Harsimar Singh Sethi, Elected At Large Representative Mr. Saliman indicated that he owned 3 taxi plates and reiterated that he could not find a taxi driver to lease a plate at \$200 per month.
- 6.3. Alexander Mantadis, Oakville resident explained that he was speaking on behalf of his mother and spoke regarding his father's career in the Mississauga taxi industry, noting that his father purchased a taxi plate to ensure financial security in the future. Additionally Mr. Mantadis spoke regarding the influx of TNCs in the City and asked that the issuance of 250 taxi plates not be granted.
- 6.4. Jagdeep Singh, Taxi Driver spoke to his 20 year career in the taxi industry, indicated that he was 15th on the priority waiting list and that he wanted to be issued a taxi plate when it was his turn and there were no other plates on the shelf, not as part of the pending issuance of 150 taxi plates.
- 6.5. Antoine Khairallah, Taxi Owner spoke regarding his history in the Mississauga taxi industry and spoke in opposition of the issuance of 250 taxi plates. Councillor Starr thanked members of the public for providing their input and reiterated that a Special PVAC meeting should be scheduled to discuss the issuance of 250 taxi plates.

Councillor Parrish spoke regarding the impact that TNCs have had on the taxi industry and indicated that the interest in response to the pending letter from staff regarding purchasing a temporary taxi plate would guide next steps. Al Cormier, Citizen Member moved to support Parts 1, 2 and 4 of Council Resolution 0054-2017.

9. **OTHER BUSINESS** - Nil.
10. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING** - June 20, 2017
11. **ADJOURNMENT** - 11:56 AM