

Windsor Licensing Commission

Meeting held March 29, 2023

A meeting of the Windsor Licensing Commission is held this day commencing at 9:30 o'clock a.m. in the Council Chambers, City Hall, 350 City Hall Square West, there being present the following members:

Councillor Ed Sleiman, Chair
Councillor Renaldo Agostino
Councillor Angelo Marignani
Sharon Strosberg

Absent:

Harbinder Gill

Delegations in attendance:

Walter Bezzina, Project Manager Vets Cab, Javanshir Abdoulrahmanpour, Owner, Checker Cab, Marwan Abouzeeni, President of Unifor Local 195 regarding *Item 8 (a)*.

Also present are the following resource personnel:

Steve Vlachodimos, City Clerk & Licence Commissioner
Craig Robertson, Deputy Licence Commissioner
Janna Tetler, Senior Licence Issuer
Sandy Hansen, Licence Issuer
Karen Kadour, Committee Coordinator

1. Call to Order

Steve Vlachodimos, City Clerk & Licence Commissioner calls the meeting to order at 9:30 o'clock a.m. and the Windsor Licensing Commission considers the Agenda being Schedule A attached hereto, matters which are dealt with as follows:

The newly appointed Windsor Licensing Commission members for the 2022-2026 term and administration provide introductions.

Election of Chair

The Committee Coordinator calls for nominations from the floor for the position of Chair. Councillor Renaldo Agostino nominates Councillor Ed Sleiman seconded by

Councillor Angelo Marignani. The Committee Coordinator asks if there are further nominations from the floor for the position of Chair. Seeing none, the Committee Coordinator asks Councillor Sleiman if he accepts. Councillor Sleiman accepts and assumes the Chair.

2. Adoption of the Minutes

Moved by Councillor Angelo Marignani, seconded by Councillor Renaldo Agostino, That the minutes of the Windsor Licensing Commission of its meeting held November 23, 2022 **BE ADOPTED** as presented.

Carried.

3. Disclosures of Interest

None disclosed.

4. Request for Deferrals, Referrals or Withdrawals

None.

5. Communications

None.

6. Licence Transfers

6.(a) Transfer of Taxicab Plate #219

Mr. Mohammed Akhtar, Transferor and Mr. Nasr Al-Shaibie, Transferee appear before the Windsor Licensing Commission.

Moved by Councillor Renaldo Agostino, seconded by Councillor Angelo Marignani, **WLC 8/2023** That the transfer of Taxicab Plate #219 from Mr. Mohammed Akhtar to Mr. Nasr Al-Shaibie **BE APPROVED** with the following conditions:

- i. Mr. Al-Shaibie be given thirty (30) days from the date of the approval to submit a vehicle for inspection that complies with Schedule 5 to By-law 137-2007 (amended by By-law 150-2018) including a valid safety standards certificate.
- ii. Mr. Al-Shaibie be given thirty (30) days from the date of the approval to submit a Taxicab Plate Holder application and pay the associated fee.

- iii. Mr. Al-Shaibie be given thirty (30) days from the date of the approval to provide verification that full compensation has been made to Mr. Mohammed Akhtar in consideration of the transfer of Taxicab plate #219.
- iv. Mr. Al-Shaibie shall not lease Taxicab plate #219 for a one year period as stated in Schedule 5, Section 21.3 of Licensing By-law 137-2007 (amended by By-law 150-2018).

Carried.

7. Applications/Hearings

None.

8. Reports & Administrative Matters

(a) Taxicab Industry's Proposal for Meter Increase – City Wide

Walter Bezzina, General Manager, Vets Cab, Javanshir Abdoulrahmanpour, Owner, Checker Cab, and Marwan Abouzeeni, President of Unifor appear before the Windsor Licensing Commission.

Craig Robertson provides the following background information regarding the taxicab meter tariffs:

- On July 18, 2022, Licensing Administration received a proposal from Vets Cab and Unifor Local 195 requesting an increase to the City's taxicab meter rate and tariffs charged to the consumer.
- Section 151 subsection 156(1) of the *Municipal Act* 2001 provides that a local municipality under section 151 (Licensing Powers) of the Act with respect to the owners and drivers of taxicabs, may:
 - Establish the rates or fares to be charged for the conveyance of property or passengers either wholly within the municipality or from any point in the municipality to any point outside the municipality outside the municipality;
 - Provide for the collection of the rates or fares charged for the conveyance, and
 - Limit the number of taxicabs or any class of them.
- Requests to review or increase municipal taxicab meter rates is traditionally initiated by taxicab industries as a result of increased operating costs to provide public transportation services.
- It should be noted that the last increase to the City of Windsor's taxicab meter rates was in 2015.
- The Management of Vets Cab and Unifor Local 195 submitted a proposal to review the current taxicab meter rate and to consider amending Windsor's current

licensing by-law due to rising operating costs to provide public transportation to the community.

- Based on the stakeholder submission, the taxicab industry experienced an operational impact of 24% to date since the last meter rate increase in 2015. The taxicab industry has recognized that a 24% increase to the meter rate and tariffs would be detrimental to taxicab operations and the consumer, therefore a proposal for a 12% increase to the meter rate has been submitted for consideration.
- Administration reviewed the proposal and conducted a review of comparable municipalities and determined that the City of Windsor's current taxicab rates are on the lower end of the spectrum and that the proposed increase is reasonable compared to the municipalities researched.
- The City's taxicab meter rates and tariffs have not been reviewed or increased since 2015. Based on the taxicab industry's submission, Administration supports an increase to the taxi meter rate and tariffs being proposed and amending By-law No. 137-2007 (as amended by By-law No. 150-2018).

Walter Bezzina, Project Manager Vet's Cab appears before the Windsor Licensing Commission and refers to the "Taxicab Industry's Proposal for Meter Increase" document **attached** as Additional Information. He advises that as of January 1, 2023 the Cross Boarder Toll Rates increased from \$16.00 to \$18.50 for the Ambassador Bridge and as of January 15, 2023 increased from \$11.00 to \$13.50 for the Detroit Windsor Tunnel.

Javanshir Abdoulrahmanpour "Jay", Owner Checker Cab appears before the Windsor Licensing Commission and indicates that the large amount of traffic in the bridge/tunnel causes long wait times to traverse through to Canada. He adds that many drivers refuse to go to Detroit for these reasons.

Sharon Strosberg asks if the taxicab and the passenger pays the cost for the toll when they travel to Detroit. Jay Abdoulrahmanpour responds that the passenger pays the toll.

Moved by Councillor Angelo Marignani, seconded by Councillor Renaldo Agostino,

WLC 9/2023 THAT the existing taxicab meter rate and tariffs **BE INCREASED** based on the proposal submitted by Vets Cab and Unifor Local 195 to the following:

Drop Rate - \$4.25; and

Distance Increment - \$0.25 cents 142 meters; and

Waiting Time (passenger conveyance) \$30.00/hour; and

Waiting Time (services for board of education) - \$2.50; and

Cross Border Fees – meter rate plus \$12.00 CAD or \$9.00 USD plus tolls between Windsor and Detroit; and further,

THAT Appendix “A” of Schedule 5 to Public Vehicle Licensing by-law No. 137-2007 (as amended by By-law No. 150-2018) **BE AMENDED** accordingly if there are changes to the City’s current taxicab meter rate and tariffs.

Carried.

(b) Expired Applications(s) for Business Licence

In response to a question asked by Councillor Angelo Marignani, regarding the status of the businesses outlined in Item 8 (b), Craig Robertson responds that they issue licences under the by-law and there are certain requirements that the applicant has to satisfy including city inspections. He advises that some of the businesses noted in the report have closed, however some may be operating but have not satisfied their application requirement. This report is provided to the Commission for information purposes.

Moved by Councillor Angelo Marignani, seconded by Councillor Renaldo Agostino, That the report of the Deputy Licence Commissioner dated March 3, 2023 entitled “Expired Application(s) for Business Licence **BE RECEIVED**.”
Carried.

9. In Camera

No In Camera session is held.

10. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held at the call of the Chair.

11. Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting is adjourned at 10:07 o’clock a.m.

CHAIR

COMMITTEE COORDINATOR