

PUBLIC SAFETY & LICENSE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

SEPTEMBER 13, 2017 at 6:06 PM

Woburn City Hall

Committee Room

Voting members: Chairman Lindsay Higgins, Alderman Michael Concannon, Alderman Richard Gately, Alderman Joanne Campbell and Darlene Mercer-Bruen

Non-voting members present: President Richard Haggerty, Alderman Mark Gaffney, Alderman Edward Tedesco, Alderman Michael Anderson (late)

On the application of Checker Cab of Woburn Inc., 289R Salem St., for two new livery licenses. Chairman Higgins asked if the vehicles have been inspected by the Woburn Police Dept. Checker Cab general manager Michael Sherman responded the vehicles cannot be inspected until the license is issued, but he has never had a car fail inspection. Mr. Sherman said his augmented fleet will consist of two taxis and five livery vehicles for a total of seven vehicles, and that the business is starting to grow again. The two new vehicles added to the fleet will be used vehicles: a 2007 and a 2009 Mercury Grand Marquis. Mr. Sherman said he continues to get a lot of fares from the Woburn Senior Center in conjunction with a discount program for seniors. Alderman Gately praised Checker Cab for being a good business. Alderman Mercer-Bruen echoed Alderman Gately's comments and asked if there have been any issues with the Woburn Police Dept., aside from the inspections requirement. Chairman Higgins replied there have been no issues with the police, and agreed Checker Cab provides excellent service to the city's senior citizens. Motion made by Alderman Mercer-Bruen and seconded by Alderman Gately that application for two new livery licenses "ought to pass" with the following conditions: 1.) The two vehicles to be added to the fleet must pass inspection, and; 2.) registration of the two new vehicles must be provided to the City Clerk's office; approved, 5-0.

On the application of Sam's Liv Express LLC, 22 North Warren St., for three new livery licenses: Appearing was Sahil Sherchan, who told the committee he has moved the business from Watertown to Woburn and is seeking licenses for three vehicles, two of which will be parked at his residence and a third which will be parked in Everett, at the driver's home. Alderman Gately said only one vehicle is allowed in a residential area, and Alderman Mercer-Bruen said Mr. Sherchan will have to find an alternate place to park if there is more than one vehicle. Alderman Concannon asked Mr. Sherchan what his Plan B will be. Alderman Mercer-Bruen suggested granting one license and then Mr. Sherchan can return for the other two once he finds a suitable location. Alderman Gately said the last thing he needs in Ward 2 is hearing from constituents about livery vehicles parking on the street. Alderman Mercer-Bruen said one car can be parked on North Warren Avenue, and the other can be parked in Everett, and advised Mr. Sherchan he needs to make appropriate arrangements for the third vehicle. President Haggerty suggested keeping the application for the third vehicle in committee and Mr. Sherchan can return when he finds a suitable place for it. Alderman Gately advised Mr. Sherchan that officials in

Everett may object to parking a vehicle in that city if it is licensed in Woburn. Motion made by Alderman Gately and seconded by Alderman Campbell that the license application “ought to pass,” as amended, for the following two vehicles: 2015 Lexus ES350 sedan, and 2014 Lincoln sedan; approved, 5-0.

On the application of KPS Bhatti Inc., 28 Campbell St. #1, for a new livery license. Appearing was Parmjit S. Bhatti who said he intends to park the vehicle at his residence, which is a 2-family home with five parking spaces, including one for the vehicle that is included in the application. Alderman Gately told Mr. Bhatti there will be no on-street parking. Alderman Concannon noted there are three vehicles listed on the Certificate of Liability Insurance and asked which one will be used as the petitioner’s livery vehicle. Mr. Bhatti responded he will use the 2016 Chevrolet Suburban listed on the form. In response to a question from Alderman Gately, Mr. Bhatti said he bought the Suburban about a year ago. Motion made by Alderman Campbell and seconded by Alderman Concannon that the livery license application “ought to pass;” approved, 4-1, with Alderman Gately opposed.

Alderman Anderson arrived.

Under Old Business, the following items were recommended to be received and placed on file, approved, 5-0:

- 1.) Incomplete application for new livery license from Brazez Auto Appraisal (2015)
- 2.) Resolve regarding illegal limousine business at 11 Lynn St. (Mercer-Bruen; 8/27/15)
- 3.) Order regarding review of rate structure for taxi cab service (Haggerty; 4/2/15)
- 4.) Memoranda regarding motor vehicle sales license, Woburn Auto Sales, 1095 Main St. (3/25/15)
- 5.) Application to renew common carrier license for Boston Tours Inc. (4/2/14)
- 6.) Correspondence from Bombay Taxi regarding 2-way radios in taxis (7/18/14)
- 7.) Incomplete application for new livery license from Adria Transportation (1/8/14)

Regarding a resolve from 2013 requesting a meeting with Chief of Police Robert Ferullo to discuss public safety issues, President Haggerty suggested keeping the matter in committee. President Haggerty said the committee used to meet with the Chief on a quarterly basis until he was instructed to no longer appear before the committee. President Haggerty said the meetings were important because it gave members of the council an opportunity to be kept abreast of what public safety issues are happening in the city. Alderman Gately agreed it is important for the council to be kept informed. Chairman Higgins asked if it would be beneficial to invite the Chief to a future meeting. Alderman Anderson suggested council members could ask questions of Chief Ferullo when he appears at Finance Committee meetings in regards to transfers and appropriations as they are requested during the course of the year. Alderman Concannon said the issue of requesting department heads to appear at committee meetings was discussed when the council determined it has subpoena powers, but Alderman Anderson suggested obtaining a subpoena to have a conversation with a department head about routine issues might be overkill. Alderman Mercer-Bruen asked how long it has been since Chief Ferullo appeared before the committee, and suggested inviting him to a meeting if he’s available. Alderman Concannon said

similar requests to other department heads to appear at committee meetings have resulted in a tug-of-war between the council and the administration. Alderman Gately said department heads are told not to show. President Haggerty said requiring departments heads to appear at meetings is one of the reasons the council does have subpoena power, and Alderman Mercer-Gately said no-shows are becoming more of a problem. Alderman Concannon suggested requesting quarterly updates from the heads of the public safety departments. No action taken on the resolve. Motion made by Alderman Mercer-Bruen and seconded by Alderman Concannon to adjourn; approved, 5-0. Alderman Higgins adjourned the meeting at 6:35 p.m.

A TRUE RECORD ATTEST

Gordon Vincent
Clerk of Committees