

City of Memphis

Transportation Commission Minutes Public Session

Thursday, February 6, 2014 1:30 p.m.
City Council Chambers - City Hall
125 North Main Street
Memphis, TN 38103

- I. **Call to Order** – The regular scheduled meeting of the Memphis Transportation Commission was called to order by the Sgt-at-Arms, Officer Gerald Lake at 1:40 p.m. in the City Council Chambers at City Hall.
 - II. **Roll Call** – The following Commissioners were present: Vincent Higgins, Jeffery Harris, Kevin Kane, Lisa Gleaves, Richard White, and Scott Boucher. Tawanda Knight was absent.
 - III. **Approval of Minutes of the Previous Meeting** – The minutes of the previous meeting were distributed prior to the meeting. **Commissioner White moved to approve the minutes. Commissioner Kane second. The motion passed.**
 - IV. **Vehicle for Hire Company Application(s)**
 1. Zamzam Adan – 5391 E. Holmes Rd – “**Bluff City Taxi**”

Ms. Zamzam Adan was present and represented by Attorney Alexander Wharton whom had submitted the application on behalf of Bluff City Taxi, LL. Prior to proceeding, Attorney Evan Nahmias approached the podium and requested to address the commission. The request was approved. Attorney Nahmias, representing Metro Advantage Cab, made a request to delay the hearing on the basis of a conflict of hearing by Mr. Wharton appearing before the commission which was appointed by the Mayor who happens to be his father and also Mr. Wharton’s brother, Attorney Andre Wharton, is a part-time city attorney. After some discussion, between all parties, Mr. Kane moved to continue matter, however, the motion failed for a lack of a second. Attorney Courtney Vest, representing another existing vehicle-for-hire company was allowed to address the commission and raised the objection about not receiving adequate notice about the application in order to review it thoroughly. The concern was noted. Ms. Courtney Vest spoke in opposition, she wanted the matter continued to the next Transportation hearing based on the fact that not enough public notice was given and it would give
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everyone time to fully vet the fact if it is proper for The Wharton Law firm to represent Bluff City Taxi. Commissioner Kane motioned to table the application to the next meeting. No second was motion. The motion died. Mr. Howard provided information that a 5 day notice is required for a public hearing. Mr. Hamilton Smythe IV, owner of Yellow and Checker Cab, requested to be heard after the applicant provided proof of the need. Mr. Reginald Payne, owner of City Wide Cab, questioned if anyone at the Wharton Law firm had any financial or business relationship with the applicant. Mr. Wharton answered that no one at the law firm had any relationship with applicant other than legal representation. The commission then began the formal hearing. Ms. Zamzam was asked routine questions by the board. The marketing firm, Hyphen Market Solution hired by Bluff City Taxi, LLC was asked question by the board. Chairman Higgins allowed any person with an appearance card speak for or against the approval of the certificate. There were several objections. After further discussion, **Commissioner Kane moved to deny the application for Bluff City Taxi. Commissioner Gleaves second the motion.** The floor was open for question/comments by the commissioners. Commissioner Harris questioned the company having no vehicles register for the company. Mr. Howard assured Commissioner Harris that certificate would be issued until the required amount of vehicles were titled and registered. A roll call was done on the motion. **The following Commissioners voted in favor of denying the approval of the certificate: Commissioner Boucher, Commissioner Gleaves, and Commissioner Kane. The following Commissioners voted against denying the approval of the certificate: Commissioner Harris, Chairman Higgins, and Commissioner White. Commissioner Kane changed from yes to no. The motion failed.** There was some additional discussion by the commission. Afterwards, **Commissioner Gleaves then moved to table the application to the next meeting, March 6, 2014. Commissioner Boucher second the motion. A roll call was done. The following Commissioner voted for the continuance: Commissioner Boucher, Commissioner Gleaves, Chairman Higgins, and Commissioner White. The following Commissioner voted against a continuance: Commissioner Harris and Commissioner Kane. The motion passed.**

V. Old Business

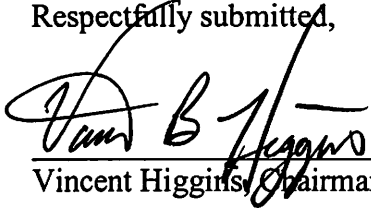
VI. New Business

2. Discussion of the proposed amendments to the Limousines, shuttles, and other vehicle for hire ordinance. **Commissioner White moved to continue this item to March 6, 2014 meeting.**

Commissioner Harris seconded the motion. The motion passed.

VII. Adjournment - There being no further business to come before the commission. **Commissioner Gleaves moved for adjournment at approximately 3:10 p.m. Commissioner White second. The motion passed.**

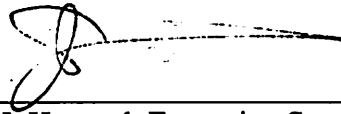
Respectfully submitted,



Vincent Higgins, Chairman

April 3, 2014

Date



Aubrey J. Howard, Executive Secretary

4/3/14

Date