

MINUTES
PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION & PARKING COMMISSION
November 16, 2011

The Public Transportation and Parking Commission met on the above date at 9:15 a.m. in the City Council Chambers at City Hall.

Members Present: Ms. Lisa Simmons, Ms. Marsha Wyly, Mr. Bob Thompson, Mr. Ronald Dunbar, Mr. Warren Daniels and Mr. Eric Foushee.

Staff Present: Mr. Thom Moton, Assistant City Manager; Mr. Bill Little, Assistant City Attorney; Mr. Wes Anderson, Director of Public Works; Ms. Nancy Harrington, Transit Manager; Ms. Stacey Pigford, Engineer I; and Ms. Geraldine Teel, Secretary.

Council Liaison: Ms. Kandi Smith

WELCOME: Ms. Geraldine Teel, Secretary, called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone to the meeting. Ms. Teel stated that a quorum was established. Ms. Lisa Simmons welcomed everyone to the meeting.

AGENDA: The agenda for the November 16, 2011 meeting was approved with one exception; to move Public Comments after Taxi Ordinance.

MINUTES: Mr. Bob Thompson made a motion to approve the minutes of the October 19, 2011 meeting. This was seconded by Mr. Ronald Dunbar. The motion carried unanimously.

INTERMODAL TRANSPORTATION CENTER UPDATE: Mr. Thom Moton gave a brief update on the ITC project. He stated that the City Council met on October 10, 2011 at the request of staff to consider a proposal to initiate the second site selection process. He stated that staff is preparing a new Request for Qualifications (RFQ) and that responses will be due by the end of December. Mr. Bob Thompson asked about the steering committee for the new site selection process. Mr. Moton stated that there will be opportunities for community involvement and that suggestions for the steering committee will be presented to City Council. Mr. Thompson made a motion to consider a member of the Public Transportation and Parking Commission for the ITC steering committee. This was seconded by Mr. Ronald Dunbar. The motion carried. A selection will be made at the January meeting.

TAXI ORDINANCE: Mr. Bill Little, Assistant City Attorney gave report on the proposed new taxi ordinance. Mr. Little stated that the City Council requested that the Public Transportation and Parking Commission receive a presentation on the recommendations for the taxi ordinance in order to make a recommendation of support or opposition to the basic ordinance. Mr. Little stated that previous presentations have been made to City Council on this issue. In addition, he advised that public meetings, stakeholder meetings, and meetings with the taxi association have been held. Mr. Little discussed: 1) franchise limits verses no limits, 2) meter verses zone, 3) driver education- franchise initiative, and 4) rates. He stated that at the present time there are seventeen authorized franchises with five under review for operational status, sixty authorized taxis and thirty-four taxis operational with two Pedi-cabs authorized and operational. He stated that the proposal is for 15 taxi franchises with ten vehicles per franchise and five Pedi-cabs with six per franchise. Mr. Little stated that currently taxi fares in the City of Greenville are based on

the travel between a series of concentric circles or zones. He stated that the benefits of meters would include increased professional image, improvements in perception of honesty and integrity of drivers and taxi franchises, improved accountability, long term increase in business and a reduction in complaints regarding fares. He stated that the benefits of the Zone are: knowledge of existing system, low cost implementation and improved understanding among citizens. Mr. Little stated that the new proposed ordinance will require a map and rates to be posted in the vehicle whether zone or meter. He stated that all vehicles for hire must be ADA compliant. Mr. Little showed examples of meter rates verses zone rates. He stated franchise holders may have the option to use meter or zone (hybrid). Once chosen, the franchise must use that choice for a year. Rates will be established for each and will be similar. Both options will still require maintenance of manifests and posting of rates in the vehicle. Both systems will require posting of taxi inspector's phone number for complaints. Regarding the taxi education initiative, Mr. Little stated that initial training for new franchise holders and drivers will be provided by the Chief of Police or designee. They must successfully complete the training before beginning operations or driving and have annual refresher training. Mr. Little discussed rates for metered or zone. A discussion was held and the Commission members made recommendations to the City Council. Mr. Bob Thompson made a motion to make a recommendation to City Council to adopt the Basic Ordinance. This was seconded by Mr. Ronald Dunbar. The motion carried. Ms. Marsha Wyly made a motion to make a recommendation to City Council for No Franchise Limits. This was seconded by Mr. Thompson. The motion carried. Ms. Wyly made a motion to make a recommendation to City Council for the hybrid option (zone or meter). This was seconded by Mr. Dunbar. The motion carried. Mr. Eric Foushee made a motion to make a recommendation to City Council to elect the zone or meter \$2.00 zone increase or \$.25 per 1/6th mile. This was seconded by Mr. Warren Daniels. The motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: One member of the taxi association, Mr. Israel, had comments. He had concerns about the rates. He stated that there has not been a rate increase in years. He stated that due to the gas price increase, he asked that the rate increase \$1.00

GREAT DATA & RGP SERVICE REPORT: Due to time limitations, there was no oral report. The written monthly report was provided to each member.

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned. The next meeting is scheduled for January 18, 2012 at 9:15 a.m. in Public Works Conference Room.

Respectfully submitted,

Geraldine Teel, Secretary
Public Transportation & Parking Commission