

City of Salem, Massachusetts



"Know Your Rights Under the Open Meeting Law, M.G.L. c. 30A ss. 18-25 and

City Ordinance Sections 2-2028 through 2-2033."

The City Council Committee on Ordinances, Licenses and Legal Affairs co-posted with the Committee of the Whole

met in the Council Chamber on April 21, 2022 at 6:00 P.M.

for the purpose of discussing the matters(s) listed below. Notice of this meeting was posted on

April 5, 2022 at 9:46 A.M.

(This meeting is being recorded)

ATTENDANCE

ABSENT WERE: None. C Dominguez joined remotely; all other committee members in person Also in attendance: COW: C Watson Felt, C McClain, C Morsillo; City of Salem: Beth Renard; Salem Police Department; Lt Tucker, Officer Troncosco

SUBJECT(S)

#Possible changes to Ch. 44 Vehicles for Hire Sec 38; fares established

C Riccardi opened meeting with reading the order and offered the floor to Lt Tucker and Officer Troncosco to report out requested changes. Part of the reason is the request for a fare increase from the Taxi Companies.

Also, some house keep is needed on the ord. The age of the ordinance was discussed as this has not been fully reviewed and updated in 10 years, and there have been many changes in the industry. The last fare update was also in 2012, and the taxi fare noted in the ord is not what is currently being charged. The ord notes \$5.50 for first mile, but \$7 is being charged currently. Violations to the ord and penalties were discussed.

It was also requested that fares be posted clearly for riders, and that a clear identification system is created for the various companies. Halloween / October pricing was discussed, as well as the need to compete with Uber. License Type (Taxi vs Livery) was also explained, as well as how fares are distinguished between the two. These are all items that need to be updated in the ordinance.

C Prosniewski moved that the City Solicitor meet with the Salem Police Department representatives, as well as representatives from the Salem Taxi companies, to review changes needed to the current ord and report back to the OLLA committee suggested amendments by the end of May. Seconded by C Dominguez. Roll Call vote: 5/0 Passed. C Riccardi collected contact information from the Taxi Company representatives that were in the room.

Fares were discussed next.

C Cohen moved to recommend to full council that Section 44 – 38 : Fares Established be amended to read: (1) One mile or fraction thereof be amended from \$5.50 to \$7.00. Seconded by C Varela. RCV 5/0 Passed.

Public Comment: By way of translation for the Taxi Representatives (list attached): They were unhappy with the launch of the Salem Skipper and have seen them operating outside of the advertised hours, as well as outside of Salem. It is hard to complete with the Salem Skipper pricing.

B Rennard will work to schedule and the matter will remain in committee.

Claims

B Rennard reviewed all open claims with Committee

C Cohen moved to Deny # 544, 545, 645, 124; Discharge #581 and Pay # 122; seconded by C Prosniowski. RVC 5/0 passes

On the motion of C. Varella

the meeting adjourned at 7:39 P.M.

(Chairperson)