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Windsor, Ontario May 27, 2015

A meeting of the **Windsor Licensing Commission** is held this day commencing at 9:30 o'clock a.m. in the Council Chambers, 3rd floor, City Hall, there being present the following members:

Councillor Ed Sleiman, Chair
Councillor Paul Borrelli
Councillor John Elliott
Gino Conte
Jack Fathers

Also present are the following resource personnel:

Sonia Bajaj, Financial Planning Administrator
Gary Cian, Deputy Licence Commissioner and Senior Manager of Policy, Gaming, Licensing & By-law Enforcement
Ann Kalinowski, Manager of By-law Enforcement
Craig Robertson, Supervisor of Licensing & Deputy Licence Commissioner
Janna Tetler, Senior Licence Issuer
Gazmon Tahiri, Masters Student, University of Windsor
Karen Kadour, Committee Coordinator

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Chair calls the meeting to order at 9:32 o'clock a.m. and the Commission considers the Agenda being Schedule "A" **attached** hereto, matters which are dealt with as follows:

2. MINUTES

Moved by Councillor Elliott, seconded by J. Fathers,
That the minutes of the Windsor Licensing Commission of its meeting held April 29, 2015 **BE ADOPTED** as presented.
Carried.

3. DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST

None disclosed.

4. REQUESTS FOR DEFERRALS, REFERRALS OR WITHDRAWALS

None.

5. COMMUNICATIONS

None.

6. LICENCE TRANSFERS

None.

7. APPLICATIONS/HEARINGS

None.

8. REPORTS AND ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

(a) Review of Taxicab Tariffs

Walter Bezzina, Veteran Cab Company, Charles Clark, Veteran Cab Company, Haidar Aouli, Unifor Local 195, John Toth, 1st Vice President, Unifor Local 195 and Javanshir Abdoulrahmanpour, Veteran Cab Company are present and available to answer questions.

C. Robertson succinctly provides the following as it relates to the taxicab tariffs:

- In 2014, Unifor Local 195 requested that Licensing Administration consider a taxicab meter increase due to rising insurance costs, fuel prices and more importantly, that the 8% HST was never incorporated into the taxicab meter rate in 2010.
- In December 2014, City Council directed the Licensing Administration to initiate a taxicab tariff review process including a public hearing before the Windsor Licensing Commission for all stakeholders and other interested parties.
- Veteran Cab Company has indicated they would support a taxi meter increase utilizing the taxicab cost index but the increase should not exceed 5%.
- The owner and operator of Canadian Checker Cab Company stated he is in favour of the 8% increase that would be applied to taxi tariffs due to the implementation of the HST.
- Administration conducted a survey comparing current taxicab tariff rates and the handling of the HST component throughout 22 municipalities as part of the review process.
- All of the municipalities with the exception of the City of Windsor and the City of Hamilton provided an increase/adjustment for the HST introduced in July 2010, either as a sole adjustment for the 8% increase from the added tax or through a full review of the meter rate.

- Both the Town of Milton and City of Hamilton confirmed they increased their tariffs in 2010 but it was not specific to the implementation of the HST alone.
- Any change to the City's taxicab meter rate requires new calibration, testing and sealing of each taxicab meter within the fleet (approximately 220 vehicles). The process for testing the meter rates and sealing is under the responsibility of the By-law Enforcement Division. The By-law Enforcement Officers are required to inspect taxicab meters twice annually to ensure meter accuracy, application of a new vehicle, through complaints and other random inspections.

Walter Bezzina and Charles Clark, Veteran Cab Company provide the following comments:

- Maximum increase of 5% due to the current economic challenges facing Windsor.
- Increase average 5km trip from \$10.50 to \$11.00.
- Adjust the flag from \$3.50 to \$3.75 and the additional \$0.25 built into the distance of the 5km.
- The Veteran Cab Company is recommending Option 3 in the report of the Supervisor of Licensing and Deputy Licence Commissioner as follows "*That an independent consultant be retained to conduct a full comprehensive review of the current taxicab tariffs to be funded from the Budget Stabilization Reserve Fund utilizing the municipality's taxicab cost index comprising the statistics since the last meter tariff increase was implemented in 2008*".

Haidar Aouli, Unifor Local 195, John Toth, 1st Vice President, Unifor Local 195 provide the following comments:

- Local 195 is requesting that, in addition to a review of the bylaw to consider the implementation of the HST on meter rates, the city also begin the process study regarding the increased costs associated with operating a taxi based on the Taxi Cab Index.
- When the HST was implemented, rates remained the same, meaning drivers and not riders were being assessed the tax. This inequity led to a substantial loss to drivers who do not collect the tax on fares but are required to submit it. Drivers have been forced to pay the HST on their leases, insurance, fuel and on maintenance and repairs. This issue should be corrected immediately to ensure fairness to drivers and to implement the intent of the tax which was to tax the service being purchased, not the person providing the service.

John Toth provides the document entitled "Comparison of Municipal Taxicab Tariffs", attached as Appendix "A".

Javanshir Abdoulrahmanpour, Canadian Checker Cab indicates he is in favour of recommendation Option 2 in the report of the Supervisor of Licensing and Deputy Licence Commissioner as follows: "*That the current taxicab meter tariffs be increased by 8% resulting from the implementation of the Harmonized Sales Tax (HST) to the following:*

Drop Rate: \$380

Distance increment \$0.10 cents/64 meters

Waiting time: \$27.00 and further, that section 24.4 Appendix "A" to Schedule 5 of By-law No. 137-2007 be amended accordingly".

Councillor Borrelli advises it is unfair for drivers to have to absorb the 8% HST and that a study is not required.

In response to a question asked by G. Conte regarding what triggers the rate increases, C. Robertson responds the rate increases are prompted by the industry requesting a review.

G. Conte questions if a review of the fares can be undertaken every two to three years. C. Robertson reiterates that rate increases are prompted by the taxi industry, and that City imposed reviews would not be fair to the industry and ridership. C. Robertson advises that this is a consistent process across the province.

Moved by Councillor Borrelli, seconded by G. Conte,

That City Council **APPROVE** the following as it relates to taxicab meter tariffs:

That the current taxicab meter tariffs **BE INCREASED** by 8% resulting from the implementation of the Harmonized Sales Tax (HST) to the following:

Drop Rate \$3.80

Distance increment \$0.10 cents/64 meters

Waiting Time \$27.00

And further, that section 24.4 Appendix "A" to Schedule 5 of By-law No. 137-2007 **BE AMENDED** accordingly.

Carried.

J. Fathers voting nay.

(b) Expired Application(s) for Business Licence

Moved by Councillor Borrelli, seconded by Councillor Elliott,

That the report of the Supervisor of Licensing dated May 11, 2015 entitled "Expired Application(s) for Business Licence" **BE RECEIVED**.

Carried.

9. IN CAMERA AGENDA

No In Camera session is held.

10. NEW BUSINESS

None.

11. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting will be held on June 24, 2015 at 9:30 o'clock a.m. in the Council Chambers, 3rd floor, City Hall.

12. **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, the meeting is adjourned at 10:22 o'clock a.m.

CHAIR

SECRETARY

A G E N D A

WINDSOR LICENSING COMMISSION

For a meeting on Wednesday, May 27, 2015
at 9:30 o'clock a.m.

Windsor City Hall, 350 City Hall Square West
3rd floor – Council Chambers

1. CALL TO ORDER

2. MINUTES

Adoption of the minutes of the meeting of the Windsor Licensing Commission held April 29, 2015 (copy attached).

3. DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST

4. REQUESTS FOR DEFERRALS, REFERRALS OR WITHDRAWALS

5. COMMUNICATIONS

6. LICENCE TRANSFERS

None

7. APPLICATIONS/HEARINGS

None

8. REPORTS AND ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

(a) Review of Taxicab Tariffs

(b) Expired Application(s) for Business Licence

9. IN-CAMERA AGENDA

No In Camera Session.

10. NEW BUSINESS**11. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The following 2015 meetings are scheduled for the Licensing Commission:

June 24, 2015	9:30 a.m.	Council Chambers
July 22, 2015	9:30 a.m.	Council Chambers
August 26, 2015	9:30 a.m.	Room 409, 400 City Hall Sq. E.
September 23, 2015	9:30 a.m.	Council Chambers
October 28, 2015	9:30 a.m.	Council Chambers
November 25, 2015	9:30 a.m.	Council Chambers
December 23, 2015	9:30 a.m.	Council Chambers

12. ADJOURNMENT

COMPARISON OF MUNICIPAL TAXICAB TARRIFS

Appendix "D +"*

AS REVISED BY UNIFOR

MUNICIPALITY	DROP RATE (\$)	INCREMENT PER METER	WAIT PER HOUR (\$)	HST	APPLIED HST (YEAR)	AVERAGE 5 KM Trip	AVERAGE TRIP 5 KM & 3 MINUTES WATING
Barrie	3.25	0.25 / 100 meters	30.00	YES	2010	15.75	17.25
Brampton	4.25	0.25 / 1.41 meters	30.00	YES	2010	13.11	14.60
Brantford	3.00	0.10 / 56 meters	30.00	YES	2010	11.92	13.40
Burlington	3.50	0.10 / 50 meters	30.00	YES	2010	13.50	15.00
Halton Hills	3.50	0.18 / 100 meters	27.00	YES	2010	12.50	13.85
Hamilton	3.90	0.13 / 72 meters	37.00		N/A	12.92	14.77
Kitchener/Waterloo	3.50	0.21 / 100 meters	31.20	YES	2010	14.00	15.56
Markham	4.25	0.25 / 143 meters	30.00	YES	2010	13.00	14.50
Milton	4.00	0.25 / 150 meters	23.70	***YES	2010	12.60	13.78
Mississauga	4.25	0.25 / 143 meters	30.00	YES	2010	13.00	14.50
NiagraFalls	3.75	0.27 / 110 meters	26.20	YES	2010	16.00	17.30
Oakville	4.25	0.25 / 140 meters	30.00	YES	2010	13.20	14.70
Oshawa	3.75	0.25 / 135 meters	25.40	YES	2010	13.00	14.27
Ottawa	3.45	0.16 / 86 meters	24.00	YES	2010	12.75	13.95
Richmond Hill	4.25	0.25 / 143 meters	31.00	YES	2010	13.00	14.55
Sudbury	3.50	0.25 / 112 meters	36.75	YES	2010	14.66	16.49
Thunder Bay	4.00	0.10 / 42 meters	45.00	YES	2010	15.40	17.65
Toronto	4.25	0.25 / 143 meters	31.00	YES	2010	13.00	14.55
Vaughan	4.25	0.25 / 143 meters	31.00	YES	2010	13.00	14.55
Whitby	3.80	0.22 / 100 meters	N/A	YES	2010	14.80	??
Windsor	3.50	0.10 / 69 meters	25.00	NO	N/A	10.75	12.00

*Increment rates were converted to "meters" for comparative purposes

** HST not considered due to a recent meter rate increase for other operation costs at time of tax introduction.

***Taxicab tariffs were increased considering the HST and other operating factors which included increased fuel and insurance costs.