

MINUTES – ORDINANCE COMMITTEE
December 29, 2020

The Standing Committee on Ordinances and Rules was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by Councilor Cruise with Councilors Cruise, Monahan, Eaniri, Rodrigues and Thompson present.

Agenda read into the record.

The Committee first considered the following:

1. Ordinance: An Ordinance Amending Part II of the Revised Ordinances, Chapter 21 “Taxicabs, Buses, etc.” Be it Ordained by the City Council of the City of Brockton: Section 21-11(a) shall be amended.

Comments by Councilor Cruise
(request would make taxi cab light optional)

Comments by Councilor NiCastro
(recommends hearing comments from Donald Carp of Yellow Cab from Ward 4)

Comments by Donald Carp
(resident of 11 Skyview Drive)

Comments by Brian Parker
(resident of 15 Michaelson Drive, East Bridgewater, yellow cab owner, spoke in support of ordinance amendments, Uber/Lyft does not have these restrictions, looking for an even playing field to stay in business, drivers at yellow ca who refuse to drive with shield, Yellow Cab transport elderly, rides to work/hospital, roof light technology just not compatible)

Comments by Donald Carp
(withing with City and the police department smoothly over the years, no complaints, taxi cab industry is in survival mode, Yellow Cab only cab company in area, important infrastructure to Brockton, 24/7 company, ordinance is form 1976, signs are maintenance issue, they leak, shields are issues as drivers/customers don't want them so the cars with them sit in the parking lot, shields are hard to set up, create ac/heat issues, want them to be voluntarily, Uber/Lyft don't give money to the City and don't have to follow the City ordinance, lights are good for advertising, but they advertise on the vehicle doors/body, shields don't shield anything)

Comments by Councilor Thompson

(appreciation for yellow cab, sign light as identified for cab vehicle)

Comments by Donald Carp
(other signage required, Yellow Cab uses reflective tape)

Comments by Brian Parker
(no marking required for Uber/Lyft)

Comments by Councilor Thompson
(inquiry re issue with shields/lights, is this a cost/expense issue?)

Comments by Brian Parker
(\$125-150 for lights, burn out/leaking lights, lots of cities have adopted less strict rules)

Comments by Councilor Thompson
(inquiry into shields, are they protective shields?)

Comments by Brian Parker
(1990/2000 passenger issues, Boston requires them, 1-1 conversation lost)

Comments by Councilor Cruise
(re 2000 murder of cab driver, same drivers pushed for shield)

Comments by Councilor Thompson
(1/4 already, meaning ¾ don't have them)

Comments by Lt. Perez, Brockton Police Department
(shield protection for drivers, looked for during inspections, lights are public safety issue, easily identifiable, Uber/Lyft apps have identification options)

Comments by Councilor NiCastro
(re compromise, last cab company in the City, they help a lot of residents)

Comments by Councilor Cruise
(national issue for Uber/Lyft and impact on cab companies, considers 1/8 for shields to give options for drivers who do want to use the shield, not keen on light change)

Comments by Brian Parker
(14 cars, 2 off now for insurance purposes, lights have issues with sunlight, would prefer to just use reflective tape)

Comments by Councilor Rodrigues
(agrees with Councilor Cruise, need to be safe rather than sorry, light identifiers are important for public safety, options for assistance in other methods, does not

like removing use of “shall”, not keen on changing the ordinance, looking for options for help from the City and promoting the cab company)

Comments by Councilor Eaniri

(interested in compromise, has seen SUVs/vans, can't control what Uber/Lyft does)

Comments by Councilor Thompson

(recognizes efforts of Yellow Cab in looking for help, Don and Brian did a fine job at explaining services, interested in strong reflective lighting)

Comments by Brian Parker

(would prefer to use reflective tape)

Comments by Councilor Thompson

(3/4s of vehicles already don't have shields)

Comments by Lt. Perez

(cars aren't approved by the City Council, they're approved by the police dept., shield is for driver, only 1/4 have shields, light is a public safety concerns and want identifiable options, believes light is important to identify vehicle as a cab)

Comments by Brian Parker

(many cities don't have these requirements, livery vehicles don't adhere to these and only use a license plate as an identifier)

Comments by Councilor NiCastro

(license conditions deleted because of identity light)

Motion by Councilor Thompson to amend the ordinance to reflect use of reflective lighting in lieu of illuminated lighting, and to adopt the 1/8 requirement for shields, 2nd by Councilor Eaniri. Motion WITHDRAWN.

Comments by Councilor Rodrigues

(wants to hear police's position on reflective lighting, wants more information, interested in tabling the items for further discussion, wants to see functionality of reflective lighting)

Comments by Councilor Cruise

(interested in the same, meeting in mid-January, looking at options for a compromise)

Motion to report POSTPONED to the next City Council Meeting by Councilor Thompson, 2nd by Councilor Eaniri. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion to adjourn by Councilor Monahan, 2nd by Councilor Thompson at 7:30 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:30 p.m.