

## COMMITTEE ON ADMINISTRATION/INFORMATION SYSTEMS

**June 10, 2008**  
**Aldermen O'Neil, Garrity,**  
**Osborne, Pinard, Domaingue**

**Immediately following Special Meeting**  
**of the Board of Mayor and Aldermen**  
**Aldermanic Chambers**  
**City Hall (3<sup>rd</sup> Floor)**

Chairman O'Neil called the meeting to order.

The Clerk called the roll. All members were present.

Chairman O'Neil addresses item 4 on the agenda.

4. Communication from members of the taxi industry requesting the City to approve a rate increase of \$.25 per 1/6<sup>th</sup> of a mile for taxi fares.

Chairman O'Neil calls Amy Cashman up to speak.

Chairman O'Neil asked Matthew Normand, Deputy City Clerk, to lead off with the framework of what is happening this evening and how it's come up before and how the Board has addressed it.

Deputy City Clerk Normand stated the request tonight comes from the Taxi Industry, particularly the drivers. In light of the increases in gas, they are looking for an increase to help them out but also keep it reasonable for their passengers. Certainly Amy is here tonight representing many of the drivers and she is looking to I think get to a point where it looks like \$.40 per sixth of a mile rather than the \$.25 that is on the agenda here tonight. That would make that first mile \$5.00.

Chairman O'Neil stated that was a clarification; there was some confusion on where we were actually at.

Deputy City Clerk Normand stated I think there was some confusion the last time that the Committee increased, there was a sunset provision of 90 days on the gas increase if you will and that was when that reverted back to the original cost there was some confusion with the companies, with all the companies I understand and they are actually charging \$.25 more. Right now the per mile charge would be \$4.50 for that first mile, rather than the \$4.20 that is allowed by Ordinance.

Chairman O'Neil asked Matt, based on your experience and your years of working with them, you support this increase.

Deputy City Clerk Normand stated yes. I think it's probably fair at this point. Certainly the Committee could invite them back at a time that your guys determine, if prices are to go down or the Committee has concerns.

Chairman O'Neil stated which just for clarification, we have done this, this president, we have done this in 2006 but as gas prices fell, we, as you set, sunsetted the increase. I know the drivers are concerned because there is no indication that gas prices are going to fall and are we going to leave them hanging and I personally make a commitment to them to that, although I believe we should put a sunset or look back on it, if gas prices are still high I have no problem extending and I am speaking for myself no the Committee members or the full Board.

Alderman Pinard stated I am fairly new at the cabs because when I took cabs in my days it was like a dollar from here to Grenier Field but those days are gone. When you, do you start your meter when you pick up a customer? Or I know that you have a bunch of cab companies down on Londonderry Turnpike. How does that work because I know a girl that takes a car from Chestnut and Pearl to Industrial Park Drive to Dunkin Donuts and they charge her \$8.00? I think that's a lot of money.

Amy Cashman stated yes. As soon as the customer gets in the cab, it's a \$3.00; it starts \$3.00 on the meter. After that the rates were I believe \$1.25 per mile after that.

Alderman Osborne stated that's one of the questions I had. I drove a cab when I was 16 so I know a little bit about it. I drove for Temple and I drove for Radio cab but anyways besides that I know you have an initial drop and that's what you are talking about the \$3.00.

Ms. Cashman stated yes.

Alderman Osborne stated for every sixth of a mile now, its how much? I just want to clarify this. This here is contradicting one page to the other here so I don't know what you are after.

Ms. Cashman stated its \$.25 per sixth of a mile.

Alderman Osborne asked is that an increase of \$.25?

Ms. Cashman stated no. It would be it increases it, all I know of the math I have done, up to its \$5.00 including the drop for the first mile.

Alderman Osborne asked for the first mile now, how much is it?

Ms. Cashman stated its \$4.25.

Alderman Osborne stated you are saying \$.75 a mile more is what you are looking for.

Deputy City Clerk Normand stated it doesn't quite work out because it's based on one sixth of a mile.

Alderman Osborne stated yes, I am talking the sixth. Six, sixths is a whole and so on and so forth.

Deputy City Clerk Normand stated the new total would be \$.40 per sixth so it would be \$3.40 for that first sixth of a mile. \$3.80, \$4.20, \$4.60 to get to \$5.00 for the first mile. That's what it would be.

Alderman Osborne asked so what is the increase for...you are including the drop here?

Deputy City Clerk Normand stated that's how the ordinance is structured right now. Its \$3.00 to get in the car.

Alderman Osborne asked which includes the drop, \$2.40 a mile.

Deputy City Clerk Normand stated correct. \$3.00 to get in the cab, to sit down and then the meter starts. That first one sixth. So that's included, that's how its structured right now.

Alderman Osborn asked so we have \$2.40 plus the drop? For the first mile.

Deputy City Clerk stated it raises \$2.00 that first mile.

Alderman Osborne stated let me make it a little easier. Its \$3.00, they get in the cab, they drop the flag, whatever. So the first mile goes by, how much is it going to cost?

Deputy City Clerk Normand stated \$5.00.

Alderman Osborne stated \$5.00. So there on after the next mile is going to cost how much?

Deputy City Clerk Normand stated \$7.40.

Alderman Osborne stated to it went up \$2.50, \$.40, whatever. So \$2.40 for a mile so you are talking just about gas now? Are you talking about gas what you're complaining about?

Ms. Cashman stated yes.

Alderman Osborne stated ok so \$2.40 for one mile. How many miles to a gallon does your car get.

Ms. Cashman stated it depends what you have. Whether you have a van or an 8 cylinder.

Alderman Osborn stated it takes at least 10 miles to a gallon. I would say.

Ms. Cashman stated yes. Even to get to the job, then the meter starts when we get there.

Alderman Osborne stated so you get a much, more of an increase than really what you are looking for as far as gas, is what I am trying to say. Gas is \$4.00 a gallon.

Ms. Cashman stated correct.

Alderman Osborne stated what I am trying to say is here they went way and above what the increase of gas is at the present time.

Chairman O'Neil stated I don't agree with that. They have actually haven't come in since the increase in gas prices. I don't know how long ago that started. They have been losing money for several years.

Deputy City Clerk Normand stated I have a receipt right here for their gas fill up for today's shift was \$53.00.

Alderman Osborne asked and that one tank full lasts you a shift?

Ms. Cashman stated that \$53.00 isn't a full tank. That's probably three quarters. You can use up anywhere from 40 to 60 in a shift.

Alderman Pinard asked if the rate of the price goes up and rumor are running around, it's very possible between now and the fourth of July it could go up to \$4.50 maybe even closer to \$5.00. Would you come back for another raise at that time if that happens. I hope it doesn't but the rumors are out there.

Ms. Cashman stated well that is up to all the taxi drivers.

Chairman O'Neil stated Amy your fellow drivers behind you are shaking their heads no.

Alderman Pinard stated that is good to know. Thank you.

Chairman O'Neil stated something that is very important, I have been involved with the taxi drivers for a while on this Committee, the taxi drivers are responsible for filling their tanks so one of the things we need to make sure of we, cant prevent it here but we need to encourage the owners to not increase the leases so that the increase in the rate actually goes to the drivers and gassing up their cars. We don't have a lot of oversight on that but we can do some compliance checks and have done them in the past and I think in 2006 I don't think we found any abuse.

Deputy City Clerk Normand stated I don't recall. No.

Chairman O'Neil stated I don't recall there was any abuse on it but Matt will go out with Police and actually do some compliance of it. Or maybe Kevin now I guess. We need to encourage that, that it goes to the drivers and not that the owners see an opportunity to raise the lease to the drivers on this.

Alderman Pinard moved to accept the increase in rates for taxi services at \$.40 per sixth of a mile. To be sunset cloused and come back to the Committee six months. Alderman Domaingue duly seconded the motion.

Alderman Osborne stated I am just curious what are the taxi cabs carrying for liability insurance today?

Deputy City Clerk Normand stated its \$500,000, Liability.

Alderman Osborne stated wasn't it one time, it was a million.

Deputy City Clerk Normand stated yes. I think there was a determination I think by the risk manager or somebody along the way to go back down to \$500,000. I am not sure maybe Tom might be able to...

Alderman Osborne asked how long ago was that?

Deputy City Clerk stated that might have been 1994.

City Solicitor Thomas Clark stated it was originally set at a million. The taxi cab drivers asked for it to be lowered. The risk manager did an analysis with the City Clerks office and made a recommendation of \$500,000.

Alderman Osborne stated I'll tell you a million dollar umbrella sometimes is not that much more than carrying \$500,000 in some cases as long as you get the basic. When I was an Aldermen 20 years or 25 years ago, I am the one that put in that. I am the one that went up to that million, I am the Aldermen that sponsored that particular thing because its not the sake of just trying to choke out cab drivers but today's economy especially now, its been a long time since that's been looked at again. In today's economy you are driving around with kids, you are driving around with all kinds of people and \$500,000 doesn't go nowhere today. If you get sued I am going to tell you it goes no where. So I think it's some time to look into something like this again. Don't get me wrong, I would look into cost to this because I know a million dollar umbrella sometimes is a lot of money depending on what you do, I realize that but we have got to do something to protect yourselves that's the big thing. Getting back to, one more follow up, I want to get back to the rate again. How much more, again, make this in laymen's language seeing I am only a layman here. Tell me exactly how much this is going to mean if somebody goes three miles. Difference of what you are getting now. Dollar wise, dollars and cents, how much is this going to cost them more?

Alderman Osborne asked on top of what you are getting now? Well that is what I am trying to ask you, you are getting, for three miles how much are you getting now?

David Burthier, Queen City Taxi Driver, stated I have been driving for Queen City for five years. Its \$3.00 to get in the car, on the books right now it's a \$1.25 a mile. To go 3 miles the fair would be \$6.75. It would become \$10.60.

Alderman Osborne stated ok, that's to go three miles with the drop. Now how much is it going to cost now with this increase?

Mr. Burthier stated it would be \$10.60 with the increase is what three miles would be now. If the increase goes through it will become \$10.60 for three miles as apposed to \$6.75 with the drop as to what the current legislation is.

Alderman Osborne stated so you are getting an increase of how much?

Alderman Domaingue stated \$3.95.

Mr. Burthier stated thank you.

Alderman Osborne stated so for three miles you are charging this customer \$3.95. How much gas did you use in three miles?

Mr. Burthier stated less than a gallon obviously.

Chairman O'Neil stated in all honesty they should have been in earlier asking for an increase so this is, they are never going to play catch up on it.

Alderman Osborne stated so in other words we are going to go retroactive is that what you are telling me?

Chairman O'Neil stated no. We are moving forward but I don't see this as they are looking to get fat on this. They are just trying to recover their cost to make a living.

Alderman Osborne stated ok. Drop it. Forget it.

Alderman Domaingue called the question.

Alderman Osborne asked by this increase of \$3.95 do you think this is going to hurt your business at all? Your regular customers. Here me out. They go the same place as they always do, whether its to work, from their home or wherever it might be and they get in that cab and you are going to say well its this and they are going to say what, I have always paid \$4.00 less. What's going on? Will that hurt you at all or what do you think?

Mr. Burthier stated the average ride runs from a mile to a mile and a half. This increase is a subtle enough raise that it can be explained to the gas prices are \$4.00 or \$4.50. If they go down that is what the sunset clause is for. I think this is not an overly large increase in the meter and I think it's subtle enough that it can be explained to the gas prices.

Alderman Osborne asked what are you doing Mr. Chairman?

Chairman O'Neil stated we are going to say the Clerk has recommended that it comes back before the Committee by the third Tuesday in January. So we don't get caught in the middle of Christmas and all that. That can be included as part of the motion Alderman Pinard by Alderman Domaingue.

Alderman Domaingue stated yes.

Alderman Osborne asked its going to come back before Christmas?

Chairman O'Neil stated no. We are going to approve it and come back with the sunset to take a look at where gas prices are.

There being no further discussion Chairman O'Neil called for a vote on the motion to accept the increase in rates for taxi services at \$.40 per sixth of a mile. To be sunset cloused and come back to the Committee in six months on the third Tuesday in January. There being none opposed the motion carried.

3. Communication from CIGNA HealthCare requesting permission to hang a 60' foot banner across Elm Street (at Elm and Amherst Streets) marking the official Start Line of the 16<sup>th</sup> Annual CIGNA/Elliot Corporate 5K Road Race.

Alderman Domaingue moved to approve the request. Alderman Pinard duly seconded the motion. There being none opposed the motion carried.

### **TABLED ITEMS**

**(A motion is in order to remove the following items from the table for discussion.)**

5. Proposal of new Department of Facilities, Grounds & Recreation submitted by Mayor Guinta.  
(Tabled 2/5/08)  
*Note: Information requested from Parks & Recreation and Highway/Facilities enclosed.*

Alderman Pinard moved to remove this Item from the table. Alderman Domaingue duly seconded. There being none opposed the motion carried.

Chairman O'Neil stated the Mayor added if you recall added a new letter to this with a change and if I recall it was just to move Parks and Recreation entirely to Public Works, which is different from this proposal. So again I think we need clarification from the Mayor. What is his proposal that is on the table at this time?

Alderman Pinard stated I would like to have the Mayor at the next meeting to explain what is going on.

Alderman Domaingue stated I would actually like the documentation to back it up first.

Chairman O'Neil stated I think as Alderman Domaingue said, Alderman Pinard, I think that is fine but we need to get the documentation first. We didn't have it last time so the discussion just went on and on.

Alderman Pinard stated whatever we need we should get and then get the Mayor to make his presentation.

Chairman O'Neil stated that is fine. The first step would be to get the detailed information from the Mayor.

Alderman Domaingue moved to retable this Item. Alderman Osborne duly seconded. There being none opposed the motion carried.

6. Proposal for new Community Development Department submitted by Mayor Guinta.

*(Tabled 4/1/08)*

*Note: The Committee is awaiting reports from the Human Resources Director (Analysis of the salary structure and the organizational chart of the proposed department); the Facilities Division Director (Summary of proposed reconstruction of the Annex, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor to accommodate the proposed department); and from the three Department Heads effected by the proposal (including a copy of the current organizational chart for the departments and a listing of positions with salary grades).*

Alderman Domaingue moved to remove this Item from the table. Alderman Pinard seconded. There being none opposed the motion carried.

Chairman O'Neil stated there was a lot of confusion about what the Committee was looking for. One of the things I spoke to the Mayor was the organizational chart that he provided was not detailed and I asked him that he needed to provide details. I know that the HR Director was looking for some clarifications regarding the organizational chart and what the Mayor proposal was regarding to the new Director of Community Development if the Board decided to move on. We can ask the Mayor for that formal clarification on the structure with grades etc. Then send it back to the Committee. Secondly the Facilities Division, it would be my recommendation before we ask the Facilities Division to get involved, they would probably need to incur some costs in having a structural engineer look at the building and I would say before we do that, we should figure out if we are even going to move down that road. Does that make some sense? So why don't we just

as a consensus request more detailed information from the Mayors office on his proposal and take it from there.

Alderman Domaingue moved to retable this Item. Alderman Pinard seconded. There being none opposed the motion carried.

Chairman O'Neil stated just note there is a handout a lot of good things going on and if you haven't been on there is a brand new website. It looks great. I have gone on to a few of the various links but if you get a chance take a look at it.

Alderman Domaingue stated the one thing that I would point out is that it is awfully slow and I see that they are working on the speed issues right now. It takes a long time to load as it is.

Chairman O'Neil stated I think Jennie would appreciate any feedback so if you want to fire off an email to her just letting her know your observations I think she would appreciate it.

City Clerk Johnson stated the Clerk would just ask whether or not the election workers issue is going to be taken up any time soon because I am going to start training sessions.

8. Petition from election workers requesting a pay raise.  
(Tabled 4/1/08)

Alderman Pinard moved to remove Item 8 from the table. Alderman Domaingue seconded the motion. There being none opposed the motion carried.

Chairman O'Neil asked Carol is any potential increase in your budget?

City Clerk Johnson stated anything that I have proposed within what I laid before the Committee I think can be absorbed within the budget one way or the other we would, the Clerks office will absorb it one way or the other. It's not a significant amount of money.

Chairman O'Neil stated I know the Committee, you had thought that changing the per diem for the day might be the way to go. I know that some of the discussion by the Committee, or maybe I have it the other way around. You thought changing the hourly was the way to go. I think some of the members of the Committee thought the per diem. Can we do both or do we need to make a discussion on one or the other.

City Clerk Johnson stated the proposal before you, I guess for the moderators and the ward clerks because of the position they are we would be looking to have those as a full daily rate. Perhaps at the increased amount that we had projected in the hand out.

Chairman O'Neil asked would the selectmen be the same?

City Clerk Johnson stated no because you could actually have selectmen, appointing acting selectmen, which frequently happens in the wards, so I would rather prefer to put them probably in the hourly category. But certainly the ballot inspectors and the deputy registrars.

Chairman O'Neil asked can you come back with a proposal to us, maybe we could do a phone poll on it so that we can get it to the full Board.

City Clerk Johnson stated why don't I prepare an ordinance that would make some of these changes based on what I have submitted to you and then submit that to the Committee at its next meeting in an official form.

Alderman Domaingue stated that would be very helpful and I just want to know what the total increase is over what we are paying now city wide.

Chairman O'Neil stated the only reason I would suggest a phone poll, we are limited in the amount of number of meetings we are going to have in July and August and I don't want to, I think the ward workers need to know for the Primary in September.

Alderman Domaingue stated I am not adverse to doing it by phone poll, provided that I have the information in print prior to the phone poll.

City Clerk Johnson stated Mr. Chairman I would just note that we actually did provide it on a per ward basis, the average at least and we are looking at about \$300 a ward difference really when you come down to the bottom lines.

Alderman Domaingue stated the \$255 difference that I am looking at right now, would that be consistent for every ward.

City Clerk Johnson stated correct.

Chairman O'Neil asked Carol, we are talking roughly \$3600 max probably?

City Clerk Johnson stated somewhere in that general vicinity.

Alderman Domaingue asked would this allow, I guess my biggest concern is that we have, would this allow people to not work a full day and take a break so that they could become involved and not have to be there for 15 hours or 20 hours?

City Clerk Johnson stated that is the objective I am trying to achieve.

Chairman O'Neil stated with the exception of the moderator and ward clerk.

City Clerk Johnson recommends if the Committee is not comfortable with moving it forward, I can certainly bring something back to the Committee in an ordinance form.

Alderman Domaingue asked the \$255 per ward or the roughly \$3600 for all of the wards is that a set cost, is it going to go up from there based on how you structure it or are you telling me you can keep it within \$4,000- \$5,000 and your budget can absorb it?

City Clerk Johnson stated that is basically what I am saying because its going to, it depends on the ward. Different wards it depends on the voter registration and right now the voter registration numbers are based on what I am showing you that we need per ward. The deputy registrars or an election official going in and trying to do the calculations at the end of the day and help them out particularly at a presidential or if we are trying to bring in greeters. The greeters I am going to put down as an election official at \$10.00 an hour anyway that is what I do now. So those numbers are going to vary completely depending on what kind of election we are doing and how many people I can get to come in to help.

Alderman Domaingue asked and you are comfortable that you can absorb this in your budget.

City Clerk Johnson stated because we are also trying to get volunteers, we have already had meetings with schools, NEECP and a lot of other people to try and change the process that we have been doing somewhat. For presidential anyway.

Chairman O'Neil asked Carol, even if the Committee approved it, this still has to go to the full Board?

City Clerk Johnson stated correct. I have to prepare an ordinance for the Board to be submitted by the Committee.

Alderman Domaingue moved to accept and have the City Clerk prepare an ordinance on to the full Board, with a flat fee for the moderator and the Clerk and hourly for the balance of workers. Alderman Pinard duly seconded. There being none opposed the motion carried.

City Clerk Johnson stated I still want to tie that into some training as well, which is part of the current ordinance but I will make some minor adjustment to that.

7. Copy of a communication from Alderman Lopez to Committee on Community Improvement requesting the BMA to ask the Finance Officer, City Solicitor and Bond Counsel (if needed) to review the possibility of using Rooms and Meals Tax money in the future for Storm Water Utility/Sidewalks/Streets.

*(Tabled 09/25/2007)*

*Note: The Committee is awaiting further information from the Finance Department.*

9. Communication from Jennie Angell, Director of Information Services, regarding a policy authorizing website access to City Commissioners.  
*(Tabled 4/1/08)*

There being no further business, on motion to adjourn by Alderman Pinard duly seconded by Alderman Domaingue, it was voted to adjourn. There being none opposed the motion carried.

A True Record. Attest.

Clerk of Committee