

Committee of the Whole Agenda Cover Memorandum

Meeting Date: February 23, 2009

Item Title: Request for Additional Taxi Licenses

Action Requested:

- Approval
- For discussion
- Feedback requested
- For your information

Staff Contact: Cathy Doczekalski, Assistant to the City Manager
Phone Number: 847/318-5209
Email Address: cdoczeka@parkridge.us

Background:

The City has received a request from American Taxi to obtain a Certificate of Operation to allow for pick-up livery service within the City. Currently there is only the Park Ridge Taxi that has a Certificate of Operation in Park Ridge. American Taxi has requested five taxicabs to be licensed. Currently, Park Ridge taxi is allowed up to 35 taxicabs under their existing Certificate of Operation.

The City has also been made aware of a recent proposal that was sent out from District 207 for taxi and transportation services for their Special Education program. A company that is awarded that contract would have to comply with the City ordinance. District 207 is aware of the regulation and has sent out an addendum to their original RFP notifying prospective bidders of the City's ordinance.

Staff requests input from the Committee as to whether they wish to entertain a proposal from American Taxi at this time. The P&R Committee last reviewed this in 2005 at which time the Committee voted not to award a Certificate of Operation to both American Taxi and 303 Taxi. Copies of the minutes from those meetings are attached.

If the Committee wishes to discuss this further, this item will begin the formal application process and schedule a public hearing.

Recommendation:

Discuss issue and provide direction to staff.

Budget Implications:

Does Action Require an Expenditure of Funds: Yes No
If Yes, Total Cost:
If Yes, is this a Budgeted Item: Yes No

Attachments:

- Request from American Taxi
- Minutes from the February 1, 2005 and March 1, 2005 P&R Committee meetings



834 E. Rand Road • Mount Prospect, IL 60056 • Telephone (847) 259-1555 • www.american-taxi.com

February 3, 2009

Honorable, Mayor Howard P. Frimark
Park Ridge City Hall
505 Butler Place
Park Ridge, IL 60068



James Buer
Corporate Sales / Service

834 E. Rand Rd., Suite 8
Mt. Prospect, IL 60056
www.american-taxi.com

office: 847.259.1555 ext. 2282
cell: 847.691.3603
email: jbuer@american-taxi.com
fax: 847.818.3790

Dear Mayor Frimark:

Subject: American Taxi Dispatch, Inc. is applying for cab licenses in City of Park Ridge, IL.


American Taxi Dispatch, Inc would appreciate if the City of Park Ridge would authorize our company to obtain 5 cab licenses which would be dedicated exclusively to your community.

American Taxi Dispatch, Inc. commenced business in 1975 with 2 cabs in Northbrook, and has grown to over 850 owner operator cabs, serving over 250 Chicago land suburbs.

The following is a brief summation of American Taxi Dispatch, Inc.

- Requires \$500,000 insurance for all cabs, State requirement is \$250,000.
- In house inspection every four months.
- New centralized dispatch software systems.
- Internet ordering.
- Flat rates to/from the airports and the Loop.
- Accepts all major credit cards.
- Participates in over forty senior programs in the suburbs.
- Uses riders, (unknown to the driver) to spot check drivers, to insure they are following all rules, charging the correct rates, cars are clean and they are driving in a safe manner, etc.

Thank you, your cooperation.

Yours truly,

James G Buer
Sales and Service Manager



CITY OF PARK RIDGE

MINUTES

PROCEDURES AND REGULATIONS COMMITTEE

February 1, 2005

7:00 PM

Mayor's Conference Room

Aldermen Present: Chairman DiPietro, Aldermen Bateman, Cox, Frimark, Bell, and
Beaumont

Staff Present: Assistant City Manager Juliana Maller

I. APPROVE MINUTES OF JANUARY 10, 2005 MEETING

The Committee approved the minutes from the January 10, 2005 P&R Committee meeting.

II. NON-MEMBER ALDERMEN WISHING TO BE HEARD OF NON-AGENDA ITEMS

None

III. CITIZENS PRESENT WISHING TO BE HEARD ON A NON-AGENDA ITEM

None

IV. ACTION ITEMS

A. Application for Certificate of Operation for American Taxi

A public hearing for American Taxi Company to receive a certificate of operation to license taxicabs within the City of Park Ridge was held on January 10, 2005. Notice of the public hearing was published in the Pioneer Press on December 30, 2004.

The Committee discussed whether there was a need for a second taxi company to service Park Ridge. Dan Coyne, from American Taxi, was present. He explained that American Taxi would like to provide service in town and that they would abide by any requirements the City has for taxi companies, including senior programs.

Lee Carpenter, owner of the Park Ridge Taxi Company, was also present. He explained that Park Ridge Taxi is adequately meeting the needs of Park Ridge residents. He stressed that the seniors are an important part of his business and that the seniors are very comfortable with his drivers. They feel they have a good relationship with the police department as well. Another taxi company would negatively affect his business. Park Ridge Taxi is a locally owned and operated company with an on-site manager. They oversee the train station and help maintain it by picking up litter until 10:00 p.m.

Aldermen Bell, Frimark and Bateman spoke against issuing a certificate of operation to American Taxi, stating that Park Ridge Taxi provides good service to the residents. Aldermen Beaumont and Cox stated that they thought competition should not be limited.

Action: The motion failed on a vote of 2-4 to approve a certificate of operation for American Taxi. The Committee will submit their findings via these minutes to the City Council.

B. Review of Noise Ordinance

The Committee discussed the hours of snow removal as stated in the Municipal Code and the proposal at their last meeting to eliminating the language in 14-9-4(a) of the Municipal Code, which prohibits snow removal between 11 p.m. and 6 a.m. thus allowing both commercial and residential to plow without time restrictions.

The Committee voted 5-1 to make the change to the ordinance. Alderman Beaumont stated that she thought that there should continue to be time restrictions in residential areas.

Action: Place ordinance on next City Council agenda for ordinance prep.

C. Modification to Liquor Ordinance

The Committee reviewed a draft ordinance based on the request from PRC Partners, developers for Target Area 2, to modify the liquor ordinance. Class G would change to increase allowable square footage for display of alcoholic liquor and increase total above-grade allowable floor space to allow for a specialty food store in the new development.

Action: Place ordinance on next City Council agenda for ordinance prep.

D. Review of Mayor's Advisory Board for the Boards and Commissions

The Committee reviewed draft language for the 3P Manual, which creates a new standing committee of the City Council - The Mayor's Advisory Board consists of the chairmen of the four standing committees of the City Council. The Board interviews candidates for the boards and commissions and acts in an advisory capacity only. The new language also defines the makeup of the Executive Committee.

Action: Place revised 3P Manual language on next City Council meeting for approval.

E. Administrative Adjudication Ordinance

The Committee reviewed minor modifications proposed to the process including time frame for continuances; written appeals; and timeframe for paying fines.

Action: Place ordinance on next City Council meeting agenda for ordinance prep.



CITY OF PARK RIDGE

MINUTES

PROCEDURES AND REGULATIONS COMMITTEE

March 1, 2005

7:00 PM

Mayor's Conference Room

Aldermen Present: Chairman DiPietro, Aldermen Bateman, Cox, Bell, and Beaumont
Aldermen Absent: Alderman Frimark
Staff Present: Assistant City Manager Juliana Maller, City Attorney Buzz Hill, and Fire Chief Ed Dubowski

I. APPROVE MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 1, 2005 MEETING

Committee approved the minutes from the February 1, 2005 P&R Committee meeting.

II. NON-MEMBER ALDERMEN WISHING TO BE HEARD OF NON-AGENDA ITEMS

None

III. CITIZENS PRESENT WISHING TO BE HEARD ON A NON-AGENDA ITEM

None

IV. ACTION ITEMS

A. Public Hearing for Livery Application for Certificate of Operation for 303 Taxi

The Committee conducted a public hearing for 303 Taxi to receive a certificate of operation to license taxicabs within the City of Park Ridge. Notice of the public hearing was published in the Pioneer Press on February 17, 2005.

Representatives from 303 Taxi made a presentation stating that 303 Taxi is a dispatch service. They lease their licenses to drivers (don't own any taxis). Vehicles are required to be inspected every 4 months. 303 Taxi is requesting 10 licenses at this time. Drivers are locked into a zone to control who can and cannot provide service to Park Ridge. They closed by saying that their company has a very good reputation.

Mr. Lee Carpenter, Park Ridge Taxi stated that they are a "Ma and Pa" operation that has provided service to Park Ridge for 26 years. Their cabs are inspected regularly and all must pass. He does not see the need for another taxi company in Park Ridge.

Chairman DiPietro reminded the Committee that the applicant needs to show there is a public need for an additional company to provide service. There may be a need in the future once Target Area II is built, but he personally does not see the need now.

Alderman DiPietro moved approval of granting 10 licenses to 303 Taxi. The motion failed with only Alderman Cox voting in favor of the motion.

Action: The Committee will submit their findings via these minutes to the City Council. The motion failed on a vote of 4-1.

B. Modification to 3P Manual -- Committees, Boards and Commissions

The Mayor's Advisory Board consists of the chairmen of the four standing committees of the City Council. The Board interviews candidates for the boards and commissions and acts in an advisory capacity. The Committee agreed that the 3P Manual should be modified to reflect this Board as one of the advisory groups to the City Council. The Executive Committee is also defined.

Action: Revise language and place on next City Council agenda for approval.

C. Modifications to Liquor Ordinance

The Committee reviewed a draft ordinance modifying Chapter 6 – "Alcoholic Liquors" of the municipal code. The modifications set term lengths for membership on the Liquor License Review Board – 4 year staggered terms and creates a new Class I-PR authorizing sale at retail of alcoholic liquor by an off site caterer holding a Park Ridge Class B, B-1, C or D license.

The Committee made slight modifications and voted to approve the ordinance.

Action: Place ordinance on next City Council agenda for ordinance prep.

The Committee also reviewed a draft resolution which would permit the service of alcoholic beverages on City owned property at special events. The Committee voted to approve with slight modifications.

Action: Place resolution on next City Council agenda for approval.

V. DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. Park Ridge Commons Annexation

The Committee heard presentations from representatives of Park Ridge Commons and North Maine Fire Protection District.

Matt Kline, Bob Walter and Bill Perkins represented Park Ridge Commons. Matt Kline proposed annexation of Park Ridge Commons to the City of Park Ridge. It is a 47 building complex with 16 rental units in each building. The current owners have owned the property for 8 years and plan to hold onto the property. The owners have done substantial renovations to the buildings. They do not intend to convert to condos. The