

AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY

MEETING DATE

September 26, 2023

PRESENTED BY

Kent White

AGENDA ITEM # III.1

City Regulation of Taxicabs

RECOMMENDATION

Overview of City ordinance related to taxicabs.

SUMMARY

City ordinances related to taxicabs have been in effect since 1931 and Council has reviewed them on multiple occasions. Chapter 37 of city code includes requirements, such as, (i) regulation of taxicab rates; (ii) criminal background checks for taxicab driver applicants; (iii) standards for the issuance of permits to operate a taxicab; (iv) a provision, where proper, to revoke permits to operate taxicabs; and (v) an appeal process in the event the revocation of a permit to operate a taxicab was not proper. While not required, Council has the option of holding a public hearing on changes to taxicab requirements.

City Council last reviewed these requirements and adjusted the rates on February 22, 2022. An excerpt from the minutes of that meeting is attached along with the agenda packet from that meeting. As part of that packet, the taxicab owners board provided a letter unanimously supporting the city regulating the rate, citing it as a mechanism for taxicabs to avoid price wars and provide a means of fixed-rate transportation that families can build into their budget. The Lynchburg Police Department also supported continuing to be involved in the licensing of those operating taxicabs and in ensuring the taxicabs meet all of the safety standards required under city code.

PRIOR ACTION(S)

August 9, 2005: After a public hearing, Lynchburg City Council voted 7-0 to adopt Ordinance #O-05-103 and incorporate fee increases for taxicab fare from \$1.40 to \$1.80 for the first one-ninth mile, or fraction thereof; from \$0.20 to \$0.25 for each succeeding one-ninth mile, or fraction thereof; and to increase the waiting time fee from \$0.40/min to \$0.50/min or \$30.00 per hour waiting time after the first three minutes of waiting time, effective September 1, 2005.

June 10, 2008: City Council voted 6-0 (one absent) to adopt Ordinance #0-08-088 amending the City Code and authorizing a \$1.00 surcharge on each taxicab fare to offset the high cost of fuel.

February 22, 2022: City Council voted 5-2 to adopt Ordinance #0-22-015 amending and reenacting Section § 37-109 of the City Code related to taxicab rates permitted within the City from \$1.80 to \$2.80 for the first one-ninth of a mile, or fraction thereof; from \$0.25 to \$0.28 for each succeeding one-ninth mile, or fraction thereof; and from \$.50/min or \$30.00 per hour to \$.60/min or \$36.00 per hour waiting time, after the first three minutes of waiting time.

FISCAL IMPACT

N/A

CONTACT(S)

Kent White, Director of Community Development
Matthew Freedman, City Attorney

ATTACHMENT(S)

1. Presentation
2. February 22, 2022 Meeting Minutes
3. February 22, 2022 Agenda Packet - Taxicab Rate Increases and City Regulation of Taxicabs
4. City Code Chapter 37 Article II - Taxicabs

REVIEWED BY



Mercedes Braun, Executive Assistant to the City Manager

Date: September 21, 2023



Wynter C. Benda, City Manager

Date: September 21, 2023



Alicia Finney, Clerk of Council

Date: September 21, 2023