



AGENDA MEMORANDUM

First Reading Ordinance for the City Council Meeting of December 11, 2012
Second Reading Ordinance for the City Council Meeting of December 18, 2012

DATE: November 9, 2012
TO: Ronald L. Olson, City Manager
FROM: Floyd Simpson, Chief of Police
floyds@cctexas.com
886-2604

Amending Chapter 57, Vehicles for Hire

CAPTION:

- Motion to amend prior to second reading Section 1 of the Ordinance amending the Code of Ordinance, City of Corpus Christi, Chapter 57, Vehicles for Hire by revising Section 57-88 to allow vehicles modified with specialized access equipment to service persons with disabilities to operate up to 15 years of age.
- Ordinance amending Chapter 57, Article II "TAXICABS" of the Corpus Christi Code by modifying, clarifying and expanding taxicab inspector's duties, modifying and clarifying enforcement, procedures, and regulations for owners, operators, and drivers of vehicles for hire, repealing section 57-34 public notice of application, increasing fees for taxicab certificates, permits, and street user fees, and increasing fares for taxicabs; Amending Chapter 57, Article IIIA "LIMOUSINE AND SIGHTSEEING SERVICE" of the Corpus Christi Code by modifying and clarifying enforcement, procedures, and regulations for limousines and sightseeing services and increasing fees for permits and street user fees

PURPOSE: Update ordinance. City Council requested at a model incentive for handicap accessible vehicles to be allowed to operate for a longer period of time to allow taxi cab companies time to amortize cost of such vehicles at December 11, 2012 Council Meeting.

BACKGROUND AND FINDINGS:

Per City Council Discussion on December 11, 2012, the following amendment is proposed:

Sec. 57-88. - Age of vehicle.

The certificate holder shall not allow a vehicle in his or her taxicab service to be more than six (6) years old at the time it is placed into service, nor more than ten (10) years old while it is maintained for service. The age of the vehicle shall be calculated from January 1 of the model year of the vehicle.

No vehicles which are more than ten (10) years old, as calculated above, may be used as taxicab vehicle.

Exception: No vehicles modified with specialized access equipment to service persons with disabilities which are more than fifteen (15) years old, as calculated above, may be used as taxicab vehicle. Vehicles modified with specialized access equipment to service persons with disabilities which are more than ten (10) years old must pass an annual physical and mechanical inspection at a location to be designated by the Taxi Inspector. Vehicles modified with specialized access equipment to service persons with disabilities which are more than ten (10) years must be approved by the Taxi Inspector.

The changes to the ordinance are detailed below:

Fares: A 10% rate increase per mile, adjustments to fuel surcharge rate bands, adjusted 'wait time' fees, increases in airport surcharge, additional credit card transaction fee and minimum fare rate added for outlining areas of city. These changes are in line with industry standards and needed for fuel and equipment cost increases. The last time the fares were adjusted by City Council action was 2006.

Inspections: Inspections reduced from 4 times annually to once annually and a \$15 inspection fee added, in line with industry standards.

Fees: Application fees for new companies raised from \$200 to \$250, limo application fees brought in line with taxi application fees, driver permit fees raised from \$40 every two years to \$50 and a 20% late fee added for late 'street user fees'. These fee adjustments represent our actual cost of processing each. Revenue increase to the General Fund \$6,500.

Appeals: Appeal hearings will be filed with and conducted by City Managers Designee instead of City Manager. Appeal hearings will be held within 15 business days instead of 5 days.

Owner Certificate and Driver Permit Requirements: Owners will be required to maintain an office within the city limits of Corpus Christi, which is not a residence. New drivers requesting permits will be required to have been a resident of Corpus Christi, Nueces County or one of the contiguous counties bordering Nueces County for a period of 3 months.

Enforcement, Driver Regulations and Licensing Factors: Revision of driver drug and alcohol policies, penalties for lapsed insurance requirements, dress code revisions, updated limo definitions and updates of enforcement options to be more in line with industry standards.

ALTERNATIVES:

None

OTHER CONSIDERATIONS:

None

CONFORMITY TO CITY POLICY:

Conforms to all city policies.

EMERGENCY / NON-EMERGENCY:

Non-emergency

DEPARTMENTAL CLEARANCES:

Legal

FINANCIAL IMPACT:

Operating Revenue Capital Not applicable

Fiscal Year: 2012-2013	Project to Date Expenditures (CIP only)	Current Year	Future Years	TOTALS
Line Item Budget				
Encumbered / Expended Amount				
This item		\$6,500	\$6,500	\$6,500
BALANCE		\$6,500	\$6,500	\$6,500

Fund(s):

Comments:

RECOMMENDATION: Staff recommends approving the revisions to the ordinance.

LIST OF SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS: