

City of Corpus Christi Vehicle for Hire / Taxi Ordinance

Discover, Discuss & Decide Process



April 19, 2016



Timeline

March	29	Direction Given - City Manager to Return in 30 to 60 days with a TNC ordinance excluding Background Checks which Include Biometric Finger Printing <i>Additional Requests - Follow 3D Review Process, Review Audit Profiles for Background Checks & Review Cities Justification for Excluding Finger Printing</i>
April	12	Discovery - Transportation Network Companies Council Question Period for Staff
	19	Discovery - Vehicle for Hire/Taxi Regulations Staff Respond to Questions from April 12th Council Question Period for Staff
	26	Discovery / Discuss Staff Respond to Questions from April 19th <i>TNC Skype Session for Available Texas Cities Representatives</i>
May	10	Discuss / Direction
	17	2nd Reading ?
	24	2nd Reading ?



Discovery Timeline

April 12

Discovery - *Transportation Network Companies*

Corpus Christi Ordinance Under Reconsideration

Review Ordinances from 15 Other Texas Cities

Review Background Check Requirements

Pros & Cons to Regulations

Review Background Check Audit Findings

19

Discovery - *Vehicle for Hire/Taxi Regulations*

Respond to Council Questions 4.12.16

Review TNC Discovery

Corpus Christi Existing Taxi Ordinance

Matrix of 16 Texas Cities Taxi Ordinances

Identify Regulation

Provide Taxi Company Input



Questions Response

Questions Asked by City Council on April 12th, 2016

1. How has Bryan Texas changed their Vehicle for Hire / Taxi Ordinances in response to TNC regulation?
2. How has College Station Texas changed their Vehicle for Hire / Taxi Ordinances in response to TNC regulation?
3. What measures are taken by municipalities like College Station and Bryan to Audit TNC companies?
4. What can we learn about TNC Regulations & Vehicle for Hire Regulations from cities located outside of Texas?
5. How long is City Council required to refrain from amending an ordinance passed by referendum?



Questions Response

Questions Asked by City Council on April 12th, 2016

1. How has Bryan Texas changed their Vehicle for Hire / Taxi Ordinances in response to TNC regulation?

INSPECTIONS

Section 126 – 48: *“The City will no longer inspect vehicles and instead will rely on the State motor vehicle registration process which includes an inspection”*

BACKGROUND CHECKS

Section 126 – 77(b): *“The company will be required to conduct driver background checks. That is, the City will not conduct background Checks.”*

DRIVER PERMIT

Sections 126 – 106, 107, 108, 109, 110: *“The sections addressing City Taxi Driver Permit were removed as the change has only the company obtaining a permit.”*

RATE INCREASES

Section 126 – 134: *“The City Secretary’s Office is not required to be notified of rate increases and a limit of the number of increases a year is not regulated. ”*

AUDIT

Section 126 – 136: *“A taxicab service operator is required to maintain individual records of drivers for at least one (1) year after the driver’s relationship with the permit holder has ended.”*



Questions Response

Questions Asked by City Council on April 12th, 2016

2. How has College Station Texas changed their Vehicle for Hire / Taxi Ordinances in response to TNC regulation?

No confirmation of proposed changes, historically College Station and Bryan mirror one another



Questions Response

Questions Asked by City Council on April 12th, 2016

3. What measures are taken by municipalities like College Station and Bryan to Audit TNC companies?

Records, Audit, and Driver Information for Bryan Texas and College Station Texas

- (a) **Records and Books.** Each taxicab service operator shall maintain:
 - (1) Individual trip records of Riders for at least one (1) year from the date each trip was provided; and
 - (2) Individual records of taxicab drivers at least until the one (1) year anniversary of the date on which a taxicab driver's relationship with the permit holder has ended.
- (b) **Audit.** The taxicab service operator shall permit the City to conduct an audit and examine a reasonable sample of books and records relating to its performance of its obligations under this ordinance at a mutually agreed upon third-party location. The City shall provide notice of the books and records requested for inspection in writing at least seven (7) days before the scheduled examination.
- (c) **Emergency Situations.** Any law enforcement officer investigating a criminal case may request taxicab driver information from the taxicab service operator in emergency situations where a person is in danger of bodily injury, serious bodily injury or death. The taxicab service operator must respond immediately. This information must include all information relevant to the investigation. The law enforcement agency will follow up with a warrant or subpoena when practical.
- (d) **Other Criminal Cases.** In other criminal cases not involving emergency situations law enforcement will provide the correct means to gather the information and the taxicab service operator must respond either verbally or in writing within twenty-four (24) hours.

Sections. 126-137 - 126-153. Reserved.



Questions Response

Questions Asked by City Council on April 12th, 2016

4. What can we learn about TNC Regulations & Vehicle for Hire Regulations from cities located outside of Texas?

Municipal Vehicle for Hire Regulations from outside the State of Texas may not be a good measuring tool due to varying State laws. State laws can both bolster or hinder a municipalities authority and ability to regulate vehicle for hire.



Questions Response

Questions Asked by City Council on April 12th, 2016

5. How long is City Council required to refrain from amending an ordinance passed by referendum?

Corpus Christi City Charter

ARTICLE I. - HOME RULE GOVERNMENT

Sec. 4. - Initiative and referendum.

- (j) Any ordinance adopted by initiative shall not be subject to repeal or substantial modification by action of the council for a period of four years from the date of the election, except by referendum election called by the council or by petition as herein provided. Any ordinance repealed by referendum shall not be reinstituted in whole or substantial part by action of the council for a period of four years from the date of the election, except by referendum election called by the council or by petition as herein provided.

(Ord. No. 028733, §7, 8-24-2010, approved by Ref. 11-2-2010)



Taxi Discovery Spreadsheet Overview

Findings of Vehicle for Hire / Taxi Company Regulations from 16 Texas Cities (*Including Corpus Christi*)

Vehicle for Hire / Taxi Company:

- 15 of 16 Require Vehicle for Hire / Taxi Companies Obtain a Permit
- 15 of 16 Require Permitting Fees
- 5 of 16 Require Vehicle for Hire / Taxi Company maintain a local Office
- 10 of 16 Require Street Usage Fees

Vehicle for Hire / Taxi Driver:

- 7 of 16 Require Drivers be Finger Printed
- 7 of 16 Require Driver Training
- 16 of 16 Require Drivers be Permitted

Vehicle for Hire / Taxi Vehicle:

- 12 of 16 Require a Licensing Fee
- 14 of 16 Require Vehicle Inspections Above State Minimum
- 10 of 16 Require Vehicles have a Fire Extinguisher
- 6 of 16 Require Vehicles be Under a Maximum Age



Taxi Company Focus Group

General Recommendations

1. **Street User Fee Reduction – “Cited College Stations Taxi Fee: \$50 Dollars Annually”**
2. **Would like Repeal of the Local Office Requirement**
3. **Would like the Ability to Charge Flat Rates i.e. *Downtown to Southside***
4. **Would like the Ability for Drivers to Use a Phone to Accept and Dispatch Rides**
5. **Would like to Remove Outdated Ordinance Language i.e *Geographic Test, 2 Way Radio***
6. **Desire to Keep Fingerprinting and Permitting, but Would like 15 Days for Drivers to Pay for Their City Permit.**
7. **Would like to Remove the Overhead Light Requirements**

Taxi Company AIRPORT Focus Group TBA



Questions

Questions for Staff Regarding Vehicles for Hire / Taxi Companies