

## Taxi Cab Code Slated for Rewrite

Thursday, 01 April 2010

{audio}/images/stories/mp3/100401.taxi\_permits.mp3{/audio}

Jay Barrett/KMXT

For a short time at last night's Kodiak City Council meeting, about half of all taxi cab permits in the city were endangered. An issue with taxi permit number 11, which had been revoked by the city clerk's office because the cab had not been on the road the minimum number of hours per month, threatened to spill over and affect many of the cabs in town. The council however overturned the revocation and avoided setting a precedent.

### City Clerk

Debra Marlar said that in surveying the cabs in town, she found that many had not been on the roads the minimum number of hours:

-- (Taxi 1 27  
sec "I  
think it's important ... and limousine permittees.")

### Taxi permit

number 11 is owned by Donna Jones, who admitted to not having her cab on the road the 120 hours a month because of extenuating circumstances. She said the rule needed more flexibility:

-- (Taxi 2 40  
sec "The  
120-hour rule ... and most important, safety issues.")

The council  
took a conciliatory tone in overturning the revocation, three of the  
four  
present saying they were wrong to have voted no when Jones attempted to  
transfer the permit to her friend and financial backer, Shane Rupe. The  
sale,  
for the amount of five-dollars, would have reset the clock on the cab's  
time on  
the road, and would have allowed them to avoid the revocation.  
Councilman Tom  
Walters:

-- (Taxi 3 34  
sec "I'd  
like to see you ... your pocketknife, anything.")

Councilman  
Terry Haines agreed that he too should have voted differently on the  
sale of  
the permit. He defended the clerk, but said the code does need work:

-- (Taxi 4 31  
sec "I  
think it's very clear ... shake it and see what rattles.")

Marlar  
agreed, and asked the council to review the code and work with her on  
rewriting  
it:

-- (Taxi 5 22  
sec "As  
written, Code 540 is ... if it is withdrawn.")

Walters  
suggested involving taxi drivers and owners in the redrafting of the  
taxi cab  
code.

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