

Public Safety Committee
September 16, 2014
Summary and Motions

This meeting started at 1:00 pm. Council Members in attendance were Peggy Henson, Kevin Stinnett, Chuck Ellinger, Shevawn Akers, Bill Farmer, Harry Clarke and Ed Lane. Jennifer Scutchfield and Steve Kay attended as non-voting members.

1. Approval of Summary

Motion by Stinnett to approve the summary as amended, second Ellinger. Motion passed without dissent.

2. Substance Abuse Coordinator Position

Stinnett introduced the subject. He stated that the position was much needed as illegal drugs will touch everyone.

Clay Mason discussed the need for the position and how the position would be integrated within both Public Safety but housed in the Social Services Commissioner's Office.

Beth Mills stated that the position would concentrate on prevention, treatment and enforcement options.

Clarke stated that he was supportive of the effort.

In response to a question from Akers, Mills explained that they will need about \$ 15,000 to support the initial part time position.

Mason stated that they anticipated using Police Confiscated Funds to support the effort.

Motion by Stinnett to approve the proposal, second Clarke. Motion passed without dissent.

3. Taxicab Ordinance

Glenda George explained the draft changes Law prepared were for Councilmember Lawless. She stated it included reducing the number of taxicabs to ten to enter the market; the ability to add one new cab at a time; and to eliminate the need for the twenty four hour seven days a week dispatch requirement.

George stated that the Council had considered these same changes in March 2012 but rejected them all.

Stinnett suggested removing the item if Council did not take action on the proposal.

Henson proposed deferred discussion until the next meeting.

4. Ridesharing Services

Henson introduced the topic.

George stated that the Law Department determined that the ridesharing companies and their drivers should be regulated under the Taxicab Ordinance. She stated that the taxicab ordinance might need to be amended to accommodate the ridesharing services. She also stated that the state will issue emergency regulations in October that might impact how Lexington will regulate the companies.

Greg Kujawski representing Bluegrass Cab addressed the subject. He stated that the ridesharing drivers should be regulated similar to the taxicab drivers. He stated that they operate a vehicle for hire service.

Jonathan Miller representing Lyft stated that they are a technology company and different from a taxi cab company.

Several taxicab drivers spoke in favor of regulating the ridesharing companies and their drivers.

James Andrea, a General Manager with Uber spoke about the company's safety and driver selection process.

In response to a question from Clarke, Andrea stated that Uber retains 20% of the passenger fare. Andrea also stated that Uber does not allow hailing down a driver.

In response to a question from Clarke, Andrea stated that they couldn't guarantee twenty-four hour, seven days a week service.

In response to a question from Henson, Andrea described the accessible services Uber provides.

In response to a question from Henson, Miller stated that Lyft would abide by any reasonable rules the city proposes.

In response to a question from Henson, George stated that the Lyft and Uber drivers would need to obtain business licenses to operate in Fayette County.

George stated that the Static regulations should be issued in October.

Stinnett stated that will be confusing if taxicab drivers need to comply with the current regulations but the Lyft and Uber drivers do not comply with the regulations.

In response to a question from Ellinger, George stated that the County Attorney had determined that the Police could cite Lyft and Uber drivers.

In response to a question from Stinnett, Mason stated that his department will not require rideshare drivers to register until the state issues regulations.

Stinnett stated all parties need to operate under the same rules.

5. Items in Committee

Motion by Stinnett to remove Division of Police Home Fleet Policy from the list of Items in Committee. Seconded by Ellinger. Motion passed without dissent.

Meeting adjourned at 2:45 pm.

PAS 9.24.14