

**REPORT NO. 273** of the  
**ENVIRONMENT, TRANSPORTATION & PUBLIC SAFETY**  
**STANDING COMMITTEE**  
of its meeting held June 17, 2015


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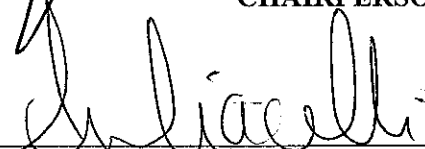
**Present:**                    **Councillor P. Borrelli**  
                                  **Councillor F. Francis**  
                                  **Councillor C. Holt**  
                                  **Councillor H. Payne**  
                                  **Councillor B. Marra (Chair)**

That the following recommendations of the Environment, Transportation and Public Safety Standing Committee **BE APPROVED:**

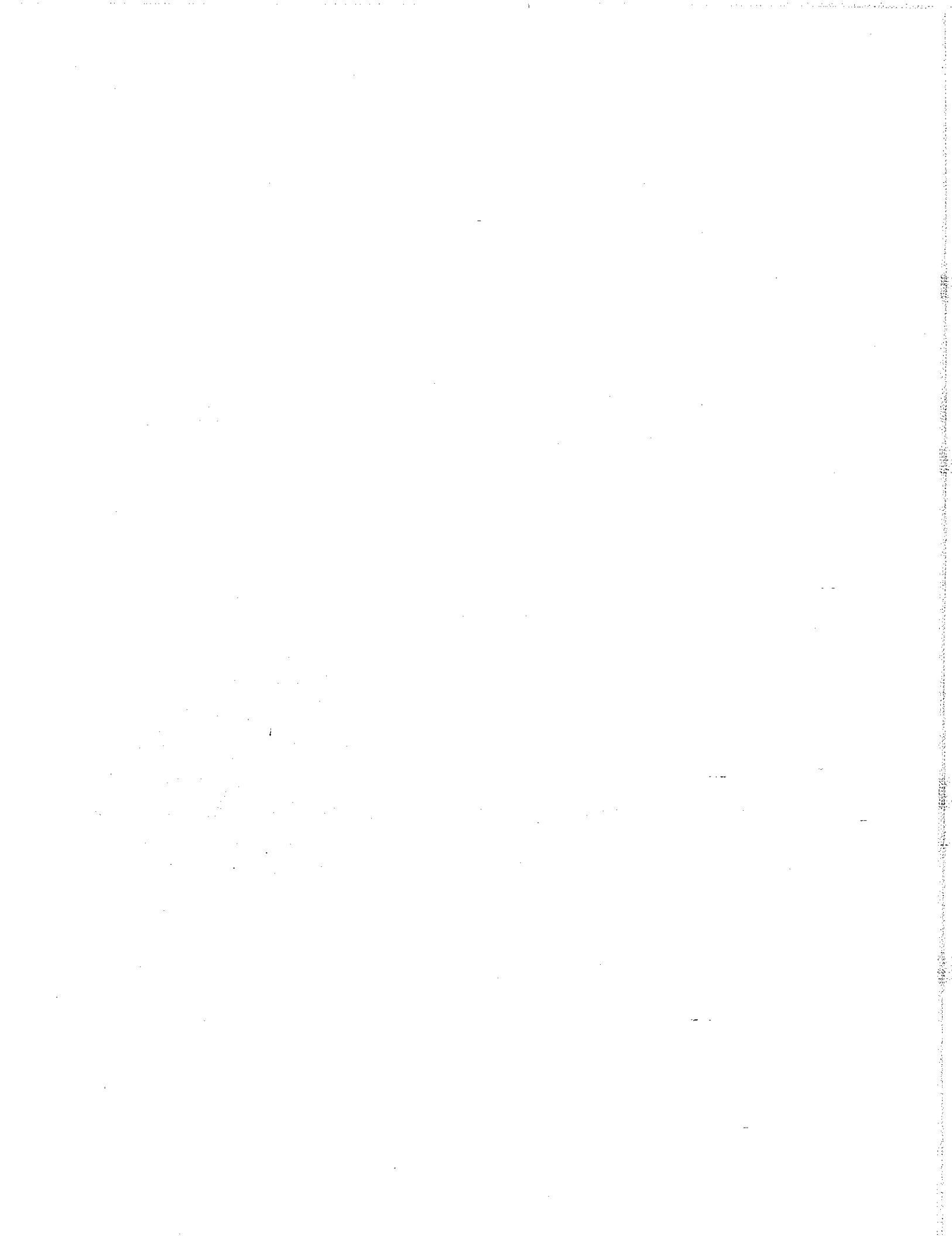
Moved by Councillor Borrelli, seconded by Councillor Payne,  
THAT the minutes of the Windsor Licensing Commission meeting held May 27,  
2015 **BE RECEIVED** for information.  
Carried.

Clerk's Note: The minutes of the Windsor Licensing Commission meeting held May 27, 2015 are attached as background information.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
CHAIRPERSON

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
SUPERVISOR OF COUNCIL SERVICES

NOTIFICATION:	
NAME	CONTACT INFORMATION



KK/  
Windsor, Ontario May 27, 2015

A meeting of the **Windsor Licensing Commission** is held this day commencing at 9:30 o'clock a.m. in the Council Chambers, 3<sup>rd</sup> floor, City Hall, there being present the following members:

Councillor Ed Sleiman, Chair  
Councillor Paul Borrelli  
Councillor John Elliott  
Gino Conte  
Jack Fathers

**Also present are the following resource personnel:**

Sonia Bajaj, Financial Planning Administrator  
Gary Cian, Deputy Licence Commissioner and Senior Manager of Policy, Gaming, Licensing & By-law Enforcement  
Ann Kalinowski, Manager of By-law Enforcement  
Craig Robertson, Supervisor of Licensing & Deputy Licence Commissioner  
Janna Tetler, Senior Licence Issuer  
Gazmon Tahiri, Masters Student, University of Windsor  
Karen Kadour, Committee Coordinator

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

The Chair calls the meeting to order at 9:32 o'clock a.m. and the Commission considers the Agenda being Schedule "A" **attached** hereto, matters which are dealt with as follows:

**2. MINUTES**

Moved by Councillor Elliott, seconded by J. Fathers,  
That the minutes of the Windsor Licensing Commission of its meeting held April 29, 2015 **BE ADOPTED** as presented.  
Carried.

**3. DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST**

None disclosed.

4. **REQUESTS FOR DEFERRALS, REFERRALS OR WITHDRAWALS**

None.

5. **COMMUNICATIONS**

None.

6. **LICENCE TRANSFERS**

None.

7. **APPLICATIONS/HEARINGS**

None.

8. **REPORTS AND ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS**

(a) **Review of Taxicab Tariffs**

Walter Bezzina, Veteran Cab Company, Charles Clark, Veteran Cab Company, Haidar Aouli, Unifor Local 195, John Toth, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President, Unifor Local 195 and Javanshir Abdoulrahmanpour, Veteran Cab Company are present and available to answer questions.

C. Robertson succinctly provides the following as it relates to the taxicab tariffs:

- In 2014, Unifor Local 195 requested that Licensing Administration consider a taxicab meter increase due to rising insurance costs, fuel prices and more importantly, that the 8% HST was never incorporated into the taxicab meter rate in 2010.
- In December 2014, City Council directed the Licensing Administration to initiate a taxicab tariff review process including a public hearing before the Windsor Licensing Commission for all stakeholders and other interested parties.
- Veteran Cab Company has indicated they would support a taxi meter increase utilizing the taxicab cost index but the increase should not exceed 5%.
- The owner and operator of Canadian Checker Cab Company stated he is in favour of the 8% increase that would be applied to taxi tariffs due to the implementation of the HST.
- Administration conducted a survey comparing current taxicab tariff rates and the handling of the HST component throughout 22 municipalities as part of the review process.
- All of the municipalities with the exception of the City of Windsor and the City of Hamilton provided an increase/adjustment for the HST introduced in July 2010, either as a sole adjustment for the 8% increase from the added tax or through a full review of the meter rate.

- Both the Town of Milton and City of Hamilton confirmed they increased their tariffs in 2010 but it was not specific to the implementation of the HST alone.
- Any change to the City's taxicab meter rate requires new calibration, testing and sealing of each taxicab meter within the fleet (approximately 220 vehicles). The process for testing the meter rates and sealing is under the responsibility of the By-law Enforcement Division. The By-law Enforcement Officers are required to inspect taxicab meters twice annually to ensure meter accuracy, application of a new vehicle, through complaints and other random inspections.

Walter Bezzina and Charles Clark, Veteran Cab Company provide the following comments:

- Maximum increase of 5% due to the current economic challenges facing Windsor.
- Increase average 5km trip from \$10.50 to \$11.00.
- Adjust the flag from \$3.50 to \$3.75 and the additional \$0.25 built into the distance of the 5km.
- The Veteran Cab Company is recommending Option 3 in the report of the Supervisor of Licensing and Deputy Licence Commissioner as follows "*That an independent consultant be retained to conduct a full comprehensive review of the current taxicab tariffs to be funded from the Budget Stabilization Reserve Fund utilizing the municipality's taxicab cost index comprising the statistics since the last meter tariff increase was implemented in 2008*".

Haidar Aouli, Unifor Local 195, John Toth, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President, Unifor Local 195 provide the following comments:

- Local 195 is requesting that, in addition to a review of the bylaw to consider the implementation of the HST on meter rates, the city also begin the process study regarding the increased costs associated with operating a taxi based on the Taxi Cab Index.
- When the HST was implemented, rates remained the same, meaning drivers and not riders were being assessed the tax. This inequity led to a substantial loss to drivers who do not collect the tax on fares but are required to submit it. Drivers have been forced to pay the HST on their leases, insurance, fuel and on maintenance and repairs. This issue should be corrected immediately to ensure fairness to drivers and to implement the intent of the tax which was to tax the service being purchased, not the person providing the service.

John Toth provides the document entitled "Comparison of Municipal Taxicab Tariffs", attached as Appendix "A".

Javanshir Abdoulrahmanpour, Canadian Checker Cab indicates he is in favour of recommendation Option 2 in the report of the Supervisor of Licensing and Deputy Licence Commissioner as follows: "*That the current taxicab meter tariffs be increased by 8% resulting from the implementation of the Harmonized Sales Tax (HST) to the following:*

*Drop Rate: \$380*

*Distance increment \$0.10 cents/64 meters*

*Waiting time: \$27.00 and further, that section 24.4 Appendix "A" to Schedule 5 of By-law No. 137-2007 be amended accordingly".*

Councillor Borrelli advises it is unfair for drivers to have to absorb the 8% HST and that a study is not required.

In response to a question asked by G. Conte regarding what triggers the rate increases, C. Robertson responds the rate increases are prompted by the industry requesting a review.

G. Conte questions if a review of the fares can be undertaken every two to three years. C. Robertson reiterates that rate increases are prompted by the taxi industry, and that City imposed reviews would not be fair to the industry and ridership. C. Robertson advises that this is a consistent process across the province.

Moved by Councillor Borrelli, seconded by G. Conte,

That City Council **APPROVE** the following as it relates to taxicab meter tariffs:

That the current taxicab meter tariffs **BE INCREASED** by 8% resulting from the implementation of the Harmonized Sales Tax (HST) to the following:

Drop Rate \$3.80

Distance increment \$0.10 cents/64 meters

Waiting Time \$27.00

And further, that section 24.4 Appendix "A" to Schedule 5 of By-law No. 137-2007 **BE AMENDED** accordingly.

Carried.

J. Fathers voting nay.

(b) **Expired Application(s) for Business Licence**

Moved by Councillor Borrelli, seconded by Councillor Elliott,

That the report of the Supervisor of Licensing dated May 11, 2015 entitled "Expired Application(s) for Business Licence" **BE RECEIVED**.

Carried.

9. **IN CAMERA AGENDA**

No In Camera session is held.

10. **NEW BUSINESS**

None.

11. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held on June 24, 2015 at 9:30 o'clock a.m. in the Council Chambers, 3<sup>rd</sup> floor, City Hall.

12. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting is adjourned at 10:22 o'clock a.m.

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CHAIR

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SECRETARY

