

Public & Safety Committee Meeting
January 10, 2008
4:00 p.m. – City Hall

080)57
Comms/H
2/14/08

Points of Interest:

- I am concerned that I have to pay the same amount of fees as the businesses that are permanently located in the City of Gainesville.
 - o Since inception, my business has been located in the City of Alachua.
 - o I pay local occupational business taxes to the City of Alachua and the City of Gainesville.

- I have concerns that the City's business fees have increased so high. I understand that the City has to create ways to reduce its budget deficit, but it should not be placed on the small businesses in such a large way. As a matter of fact, in talking with other Cities, some of the fees are not every year, they are due every two years, or every five years.

- Since my business is not located in Gainesville, and only about 30% of my business is done in Gainesville (mostly Prom time) I would like to negotiate the following fees.
 - o The annual Franchise Fee: This is a fee that should be placed on businesses that are permanently located in Gainesville. It is unfair that I have to pay a franchise fee to the City that my business is located in a also to a City that I do some of my business in. Of course, other Cities does not require this that I have done business in (with the exception of Orlando).
 - o The annual Application/Investigation Fee: This fee is acceptable since it includes an investigation fee. In the case that there is a problem, the City has the right to investigate.
 - o Late Fee: Acceptable
 - o Medallions Fee: This is a fee that is unacceptable to me as an owner of a Limousine Company. I do know that medallions are placed on Taxicabs but my business is different. Also, it is unacceptable to have stickers on limousines. Clients do not want us to have writing or signs on the

limousines, now the City is requiring that we put stickers on the limousines.

- o Vehicle Inspections by City Staff: One of the requirements of the application is to have a certified mechanic to inspect the vehicles. As a matter of fact, the City has provided an list of things the Certified Mechanic have to inspect. Why then is it required that we pay for a City Staff to inspect our vehicles and they are not mechanics?

I do understand certain fees and safety regulations are required, but with the increase so high, one would ask, Is the City trying to drive small business our of business. With the old required fees the cost was only \$250.00. With the new required fees, the cost to my business has increase 300% ($1,079.55 - 250 = 829.55$ divided by $250 = 332\%$). I only have three (3) vehicles. The cost of living has not gone up that much in one year. This increase is just too much, and my business is not located in Gainesville.

<i>Description of Fee</i>	<i>Old Fee</i>	<i>New Fee</i>	<i>Old Fee Amount</i>	<i>New Fees Required</i>	<i>Variance</i>	<i>Total Increase</i>
Annual Franchise Fee	X		\$ 250.00	\$ 275.00	\$ 25.00	\$ 275.00
Application /Investigation Fee		X	\$.00	\$ 55.25	\$ 55.25	\$ 55.25
Late Fee	X		\$ 50.00	\$ 55.25	\$ 5.25	\$ 55.25
Medallion Fee (Per Vehicle=3)		X	\$.00	\$ 82.75	\$ 82.75	\$ 248.25
Vehicle Inspection Fee (Per Vehicle =) By City Staff		X	\$.00	\$ 27.50	\$ 27.50	\$ 82.50
Driver's Permit Fee (Per Driver = 3)		X	.00	\$ 27.50	\$ 27.50	\$ 82.50
Drivers' Licenses Record (Per Driver = 3)		X	\$.00	\$ 2.50	\$ 2.50	\$ 7.50
Drivers' Driving Record (Per Driver = 3)		X	\$.00	\$ 3.10	\$ 3.10	\$ 9.30
FDLE Criminal History (Per Driver = 3)		X	\$.00	\$ 23.00	\$ 23.00	\$ 69.00
Vehicle Inspection – Certified Mechanic (Per Vehicle = 3)	X		\$ 65.00	\$ 65.00	\$.00	\$ 195.00
Totals			\$250 / \$ 365.00*	**	\$ 251.85	\$ 1,079.55

*Late fee of \$50.00 NOW \$55.25 is the Company's choice – need to pay on time

* Mechanic charges vary.

**Increase is \$231.55 per vehicle. In my case, I have three vehicles, the total increase of \$694.65 will be added to the other fees.

#080157

Com m n s/H

7/14/08

File #070726



POLICE DEPARTMENT
Inter-Office Communication

To: Public Safety Committee

Date: March 20, 2008

From: Captain Willie Washington

Subject: Vehicle for Hire Fee Recommendations

At the January 10, 2008 Public Safety Committee Meeting, staff was asked to look into 1) the possibility of a multi-year function; 2) recommendations on what the City can reduce; and 3) what to include in the franchise fee. GPD staff met with Finance Department staff and the following is their recommendations.

Explanation: Staff Report

After a re-evaluation of the fees, GPD staff is proposing the following recommendation, in addition to proposing that the Finance Dept. maintains the fiscal responsibility for collection and monitoring of fees associated with this ordinance. Fees have been evaluated with a fair and objective overview in an effort not to create a financial strain on the vehicle for hire industry.

Recommendation: Reduce the existing fees and the City Commission adopts the proposed recommendations and fee changes.

Captain Washington & Lieutenant Backhaus (2/20/08 meeting) / met with Finance staff on 3/3/08

<u>Current fee(s)</u>		<u>New fee(s) proposal</u>
Application fee (new)	\$ 55.25	Eliminate
Annual franchise fee	\$275.00	(annually)
Driver's Permit fee (new)	\$ 27.50	reduce to \$20.00 (comes in duplicates)
Medallion/sticker fee (new)	\$ 82.75	\$ 25.00 (per vehicle /annually)*
Vehicle inspection fee (new) per veh	\$ 27.50	Eliminate
Late fee (new <u>amount</u>)	\$ 55.25	\$ 25.00 (per month - 30 days)
	\$468.00	
	<u>- 320.00</u>	
	\$168.00 savings	

1. Elimination of the (new) application fee of \$55.00 – this fee appears to be a duplicate of the Franchise Fee
2. Reduce the Driver's (duplicate) permit fee to \$20.00 The new fee is consistent with the tow driver permit fee
3. Reduce the medallion fee to \$20.00
4. Eliminate the annual vehicle inspection fee

080157

Comms H

7/14/08

Vehicle - For - Hire Comparison Chart

Description of Fee	City of			City of Ocala	Tallahassee	City of Orlando
	Gainesville	Jacksonville	Jacksonville			
Franchise Fee	\$ 275.75	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 100.00	\$ -
Franchise Renewal Fee	\$ 275.75	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 100.00	\$ -	\$ -
Application Fee	\$ 55.25	\$ 50.00	\$ 125.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 300.00
Application Renewal Fee	\$ 55.25	\$ 50.00	\$ 125.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 200.00
Late Fee (Per Month)	\$ 55.25	\$ 10.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Medallions Cost (Per Vehicle)	\$ 82.75	\$ 100.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Vehicle Inspection By City Staff	\$ 27.50	\$ 25.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Driver's Permit Fee	\$ 27.50	\$ 25.00	\$ 45.00	\$ 42.50	\$ -	\$ -
	\$ 524.00	\$ 210.00	\$ 170.00	\$ 142.50	\$ -	\$ 300.00

Additional: First Vehicle = \$25.00/ All other Vehicle =\$10.00