

**City Council of the City of Carbondale, Illinois**  
**Public Hearing on Proposed Taxicab Rate Increase**  
**December 4, 2007**

The City Council of the City of Carbondale, Illinois, held a public hearing on Tuesday, December 4, 2007, in the Civic Center, 200 South Illinois Avenue, for the purpose of soliciting comments on a proposed taxicab rate increase. Mayor Brad Cole called the public hearing to order at 7:10 p.m. with the following-named members of the City Council present/absent:

Present: Councilwoman Mary Pohlmann, Councilman Chris Wissmann, Councilman Steven Haynes, Councilman Lance Jack, Councilman Joel Fritzler, Councilwoman Corene McDaniel and Mayor Brad Cole

Absent: None

Also present were City Clerk Janet M. Vaught, City Manager Jeff Doherty and various members of the City's administrative staff.

City Manager Jeff Doherty noted that the City is in receipt of a request from Robert J. Taylor d/b/a Moonlight Taxi to change the taxicab rates of fare. Mr. Taylor has proposed that taxicab fares be increased by \$1.00 to compensate for increases in oil prices, gas prices and cost-of-living increases. A copy of Mr. Taylor's letter has been provided. The City Code provides that a holder of a City Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity, a taxicab license, may propose a rate change by submitting written notice to the City Clerk at least thirty days in advance of the proposed effective date. Mr. Taylor did not include in his letter the proposed effective date. However, Mr. Taylor's letter proposing the change in taxicab rates of fare was received by the City Clerk on November 16, 2007, so the earliest the rate change could go into effect would be December 16, 2007. The City Code further provides that once a proposal for a rate change is received, the City Manager shall review the proposal and prepare a report for City Council consideration. This report was completed and has been provided. Once a request for a rate change is received, a public hearing is to be conducted by the City Council. Notice of the public hearing was published in the Southern Illinoisan on November 29th which announced that the public hearing would be conducted at this City Council meeting. The Notice of Public Hearing also invited written comments through Monday, December 3rd. In addition, the Notice of Public Hearing was mailed to Yellow Cab which also holds a City Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity. City Manager Doherty noted that a Resolution approving the change in taxicab rates of fare will be considered by the City Council later in this agenda. The proposed rate change may be approved, denied or modified by the City Council. The City Council is requested to conduct the public hearing.

Mayor Cole invited comments or questions from the public.

Rob Taylor, 601 South Dixon, identified himself as the owner/operator of Carbondale Moonlight Taxi. Taylor said his request is self-explanatory but offered to answer any questions. Mayor Cole noted that the City Council will have the opportunity to ask questions when the resolution is discussed but asked if anyone from the audience had any questions.

Dr. M Stalls, 407 North Robert A. Stalls Avenue, asked if the increase is going to have anything connected to it, for instance, if she takes a taxi from her home it may stop at two or three different places before it takes her to her destination. She said she would not have any say on that. She wondered if the rate increase is going to have anything, any "strings", on it. She also noted that some of the taxis do not have seatbelts and

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the seats are in poor condition. She asked if they are asking for \$1 increase, how is it going to improve the ride for the customers and the time they have to wait for a cab to arrive. She noted that she was at the post office a few nights ago and she saw a student that she works with who had been waiting for a taxi for thirty minutes. It was after 5:00 p.m. and it was dark but the woman had been waiting for thirty minutes trying to get back to campus. Dr. Stalls said she also knows of a situation that a parent of an SIU student was trying to get her son to the early-morning Amtrak train but she was unable to get a taxi who would make a commitment of a time to pick up the student at Thompson Point. She added that the student has some special needs and that is why the parent was trying to arrange a time for the taxi to go to Thompson Point to pick up the student. Dr. Stalls asked again if there are going to be any “strings” on the rate increase, if any. She said if not, the Council needs to look at how the service can be improved for persons using taxis. She added that she does not know if any Council members have used a taxie lately but she has and she knows there are a large number of people that use them. Dr. Stalls said these are things she would encourage the Council to keep in mind.

City Manager Doherty said in terms of any “strings” attached specifically to this rate increase, there is nothing proposed. Mr. Doherty added that the current City Code does not have any performance requirements such as the amount of wait one has to go through, adding that since the City has more than one taxicab service, it is more of a competitive situation. Mr. Doherty said that in terms of the condition of the vehicles, the City does require that the vehicles be inspected once a year in the month of January when the taxicab companies are re-licensed. They have to pass an inspection performed by the City Garage and everything has to be in working order at that time.

Mayor Cole twice repeated his invitation for comments or questions. There being no one else who wished to speak during this public hearing, the Mayor declared the hearing closed at 7:17 p.m..

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Janet M. Vaught, City Clerk

Approved by the City Council on:

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