

Minutes

Tuesday, July 28, 2009



PUBLIC SERVICES 4:00 p.m.
COMMITTEE RE: Carnegie Town Hall
TRANSPORT 235 West Tenth Street
REGULATION

Members Present: Kenny Anderson Jr., and Kermit Staggers (at 4:06 p.m.)
Members Absent: De Knudson and Vernon Brown
Staff Present: City Clerk Debra Owen and Assistant City Clerk Tamara Jorgensen
Guests: Public Health Director Judy Buseman; Transit Planner Debra Gaikowski; Assistant City Attorney Gail Eiesland; Licensing Specialist Lorie Hogstad; Steve and Aaron Haddorff from Wheelchair Express, Inc.; Dave Kadinger from Sioux Falls Wheelchair Services; Karen Walton from Sioux Falls Transit; citizen Sue Aguilar; and citizen Mark Weber.

1. Call To Order

Council Member Anderson Jr. called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.

2. Transport Regulation

Council Member Anderson Jr. opened the discussion by stating that the purpose of the meeting is to review the needs and requests of the wheelchair companies and to discuss the processes needed to make the proposed changes.

The following discussions were held:

- Sioux Falls Wheelchair and Wheelchair Express distributed one page documents which illustrated their rate schedules; facilities visited daily and list of services. Discussion was held regarding the number of passengers that are handled by these two businesses as compared to the number of passengers handled by Paratransit.
- The existing rates were discussed and a request was made for the changes illustrated in the table below. Paratransit rates are available online. Discussion was held regarding the timeline of the most recent rate increases and the fact that customers do 'comparison shop' for services before they make transport arrangements. Fuel surcharges were also discussed and the group agreed that the wheelchair companies should be allowed the same fuel surcharge rates as the taxi companies.

Type of Service	Current	Requested
Wheelchair (One Way / Roundtrip)	\$20.00 / \$35.00	\$30.00 / \$50.00
Stretcher (One Way / Roundtrip)	\$35.00 / \$60.00	\$50.00 / \$100.00 - WCE \$75.00 / \$125.00 - SFW

- Gaikowski requested information from both of the wheelchair companies that would illustrate their profit margins and expenses. In order to facilitate an ordinance amendment, this information will be helpful in justifying the rate changes to the City Council, who sometimes ask for this type of specific information prior to voting.
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- Owen distributed a copy of ordinance section shown below. The wheelchair companies would prefer to be 'deregulated' with the only sentence remaining in Section 43-11 as 'A schedule of these rates shall be posted at all times in each wheelchair or stretcher transport'. Staggers stated that he would like the city to deregulate and allow the wheelchair companies to set their own prices and handle their own businesses.

Sec. 43-11. Wheelchair and stretcher transport rates.

The maximum rates of fare for transporting passengers by wheelchair transport shall be \$20.00 for a one-way trip within the city and \$35.00 for a round trip within the city. The maximum rate of fare for a one-way trip within the city by wheelchair transport for transporting passengers being dismissed from a hospital shall be \$30.00. Maximum rates of the fare for transporting passengers by stretcher transport shall be \$35.00 for a one-way trip within the city and \$60.00 for a round trip within the city. A schedule of these rates shall be posted at all times in each wheelchair or stretcher transport.

(Ord. No. 42-74, § 2, 8-5-74; Ord. No. 46-77, § 1, 6-20-77; Ord. No. 84-82, § 1, 8-9-82; Ord. No. 147-84, 12-3-84; Ord. No. 137-98, § 2, 12-21-98; Ord. No. 48-99, § 1, 4-19-99)

- Council Member Anderson Jr. stated he would prefer to include Committee Members Brown and Knudson in the discussion regarding deregulation. For now, the two wheelchair companies should work with Debra Gaikowski to come up with two proposals for the Public Services Committee to review at the next meeting and to make a recommendation to the city council.
- As the regularly scheduled Public Services Committee Meeting for Monday, August 10th has been cancelled due to the Budget Hearings; a revised date in August will be determined and communicated to all those present to continue discussion on this topic.

3. Open Discussion

There was none.

4. Adjournment

Council Member Anderson Jr. adjourned the meeting at 4:30 p.m.

Tamara Jorgensen, CMC
Assistant City Clerk