

**CITY OF DEADWOOD
PARKING AND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE**

March 23, 2023

1. ROLL CALL:

The City of Deadwood Parking and Transportation Committee met Thursday, March 23, 2023, in the Century Room in City Hall. Justin Lux called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. Present were Justin Lux, Cory Shafer, Tom Riley, Lornie Stalder, Misty Trehwella and Andy Goodwin. Commissioner Mike Johnson was present.

Absent were Lee Harstad, Kevin Kuchenbecker, Trent Mohr, Bill Burleson and John Rystrom.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: March 9, 2023

Minutes for the meetings on Thursday, March 9, 2023, were approved unanimously by a motion from Mr. Stalder and a second by Ms. Trehwella.

3. ITEMS FROM CITIZENS ON AGENDA:

- a. **Reserved Parking in the Broadway Ramp during Main Street Closures and Concerts:** Mr. Goodwin indicated that St Patrick's Day weekend went really well and the ramp was pretty full; people would drive through and see how full the ramp was and drive back out. The restrictions are working well. The Badlands Security people were advising oversized vehicles where else they could park. No issues and no pinch points. Lots of good comments. When we have reserved spaces such as during Kool Deadwood Nites we will have those on the first floor and they will be labeled with signs. This would include the Chamber and Mustang Sally's. With the size restrictions, everything should run smoothly.

4. NOTICE TO CONTEST PARKING TICKETS: None

5. NEW BUSINESS:

- a. **South Dakota Commission on Gaming Parking Lease in the Miller Street Parking Lot:** SD Commission on Gaming has expressed interest in going to a month to month lease. Attached is the lease done in the past. This would be two leased spaces for the Gaming Commission vehicles and then for their employees the commission will buy monthly passes; they would not have guaranteed spots, they would be like any other Deadwood employee. Signage would come down except for the two leased spaces. Move to approve two leased spaces for the Gaming Commission vehicles for 2023 in the Miller Street lot by Mr. Stalder, second by Mr. Riley; motion carried. Mr. Lux will reach out to the Commission regarding employee parking passes for their employees.

6. OLD BUSINESS:

- a. Taxi Cab licenses. Continued from the March 9 meeting. There have been complaints about availability of taxi cabs in Deadwood. City's Ordinance Title 5, Chapter 48, Section 40 limits licenses to 5 companies. It allows for 20 licenses and total of each business can have a maximum of 5 licenses. These are the only services allowed to provide intra Deadwood fares other than the trolley. Concerns have been raised over ride availability and wait times. This was continued to allow the taxi companies to be present to help explain why we are having these issues and to discuss ideas, as a team, between the taxi cabs, the City and our trolley system to improve those services and ultimately provide better services to the people who visit, as well as the people who live here. These problems are both weekends and during events.

Present were: Brad and Kym Reis – Grab-A-Cab
 Clint Millard - _____ Taxi
 Derrick Lehto – Canyon Cab
 Lacey Goeringer – Black Hills Taxi, Dakota Shuttle
 Crystal Adams & Don Alexander – Dakota Taxi

Don Alexander – Dakota Taxi: On weekends there isn't much of a problem with the taxis. During events it has to do with out-of-town cabin rentals instead of doing in town houses.

Derrick Lehto - Canyon Cab: His biggest concern, and this is nationwide, is he can't find help. Allowed 5 vehicles and he has 5 vehicles for cab purposes but he can only find one (or no) drivers for Deadwood as he works Spearfish, as well. Sometimes it's hard to find someone with a valid license or who can get through the background check. On event weekends, cell service gets clogged up.

Part of the problem is that during events it can be hard to navigate from the Saloon 10 to the Silverado where everyone gets picked up; the lay outs for events are horrible. Everything gets clogged up in there and there is nowhere to pick up people. They get stuck in the Wells Fargo parking lot.

Lacy Goeringer - Black Hills Taxi: Only have 3 cab licenses which means they only have 3 units that are allowed to do Deadwood to Deadwood. I can get vehicles and drivers but have had to turn down people because they are limited. Trying to get drunk people to go to a specific place to get picked up is impossible.

If the Gold Dust/Midnight Star block could be kept open – come in on Lee Street, go back out Deadwood Street and have the trolleys do the same thing it would be a lot more accessible. That would be helpful. Or get the barricades down sooner.

If the taxis had a designated area for pick up and drop off it would be so much easier.

Mr. Stalder indicated the City is working on getting additional small cells for better cell services. This should be in place in June. The problem is that it is line of sight so it can't shoot clear down to the parking ramp, but it should help significantly. There should be one at Outlaw Square and one at the parking ramp.

The issue with the trolley stops are statutes regulating competition with government entities and that is by state statute. If someone flags you down from a trolley stop, it's not allowed to stop and pick them up but you could roll down your window and tell them to meet 30 feet down the sidewalk. Or maybe alleviate the issue by having trolley stands and taxi stands.

Tom Riley, Trolley Superintendent: The trolley drivers don't feel like the taxis are playing by the rules.

When it comes to people going to the Comfort Inn, the Gulch, Miners, Cadillac Jacks, any of those the advice the taxi drivers give is that you are better off to wait and catch the trolley.

Brad Reis - Grab-A-Cab: With the trolley stops, he tells them to pull ahead a couple of car lengths. People will walk up to the cab. But he sees the trolley picking up and dropping off anywhere they want so that's also not playing by the rules; it goes both ways. They stop where they want. As long as everyone gets home safely, that's the ultimate goal.

The biggest issues is the licensing, the Deadwood to Deadwood thing. At this point in time, you have 5 companies as the max and only allowed to have 5 cabs. Instead of switching vehicles out or changing the license because a vehicle is out of commission.

Mr. Lux said part of the reason of bringing this up for discussion is the ordinance. The suggestion was to eliminate having only this many that can do Deadwood to Deadwood but put a cap on maybe how many cabs you can run period, at least for those companies that are established. Or have a specialty license for events that allows you to be in Deadwood from Friday to Sunday for an additional fee.

There are shuttles that come into town – these businesses should have to jump through hoops and provide information such as insurance. There is currently a suburban going around right now that doesn't have commercial plates that is a campground shuttle – all the campgrounds are closed so he is just driving around picking up people. There needs to be a little more enforcement.

One of the comments was that with different police chiefs come different rules. Chief Fuller was on it and told you where to be and how it is; but with Chief Mertens he's totally hands off. He let the taxis run amuck. The dynamic has changed. Chief Schafer spoke that nothing will change overnight but he indicated he thought everyone could work together and make some headway before summer.

One suggestion was that the taxi licensing stickers should be placed all on the same spot so that it is easy to spot for officers to enforce.

Shafer indicated maybe better signage could be utilized. Enforcement has to follow standard operating procedures. He assured the operators that his department will be available if suspicions are called in. Also, if there is a break down in a vehicle and a license transfer is necessary, the CSOs may be available to help in that regard. There is nothing specific in ordinance for this issue but as long as the chain of command can be consistent and there is a process this could be a possible solution.

Mr. Lux asked if there was an increase to 25 licenses, maybe 5 per company – would everyone be able to staff? The consensus was yes. If the ability to flag is allowed, it's a lot easier getting drivers instead of telling them they have to sit in one spot and hope to get fares. Mr. Lux asked about opinions on ride shares. The problems with Uber/Lyft is that they need a credit card to go and the bartenders can't pay to put people into a car. Also Ubers/Lyfts are not going to be available at 2:00 am. The taxis are basically 24-hour service. It's not a good fit for Deadwood. Locals make up a large part of the business and a lot of that is cash business.

Mr. Lux asked what they thought of the requirement that if you have a license that license has to be operated a certain amount of days each year otherwise you would lose it so that licenses aren't bought just to take competition away from the market. This would be hard to enforce and keep track of.

Much discussion and idea exchanges. This was a very production discussion and a good start to see if changes/updates can be made. Motion to continue by Ms. Trehwella, second by Mr. Stalder; motion carried.

- b. Update on the Deadwood Hill Trailhead:** Trailer parking just below the Lodge. Currently working to figure out how to fund that project. There is a grant that will be applied for.

7. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS NOT ON AGENDA: None

8. ADJOURNMENT:

With no further business for the committee to consider, Mr. Stalder moved to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Riley; motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,
Rhonda McGrath, Recording Secretary

The next City of Deadwood Parking and Transportation Committee meeting will be held in the Century Room/Commission Room at City Hall on **Thursday, April 13, 2023, at 9:00 a.m.**

**** Audio from the meeting is posted on the "S" drive.