

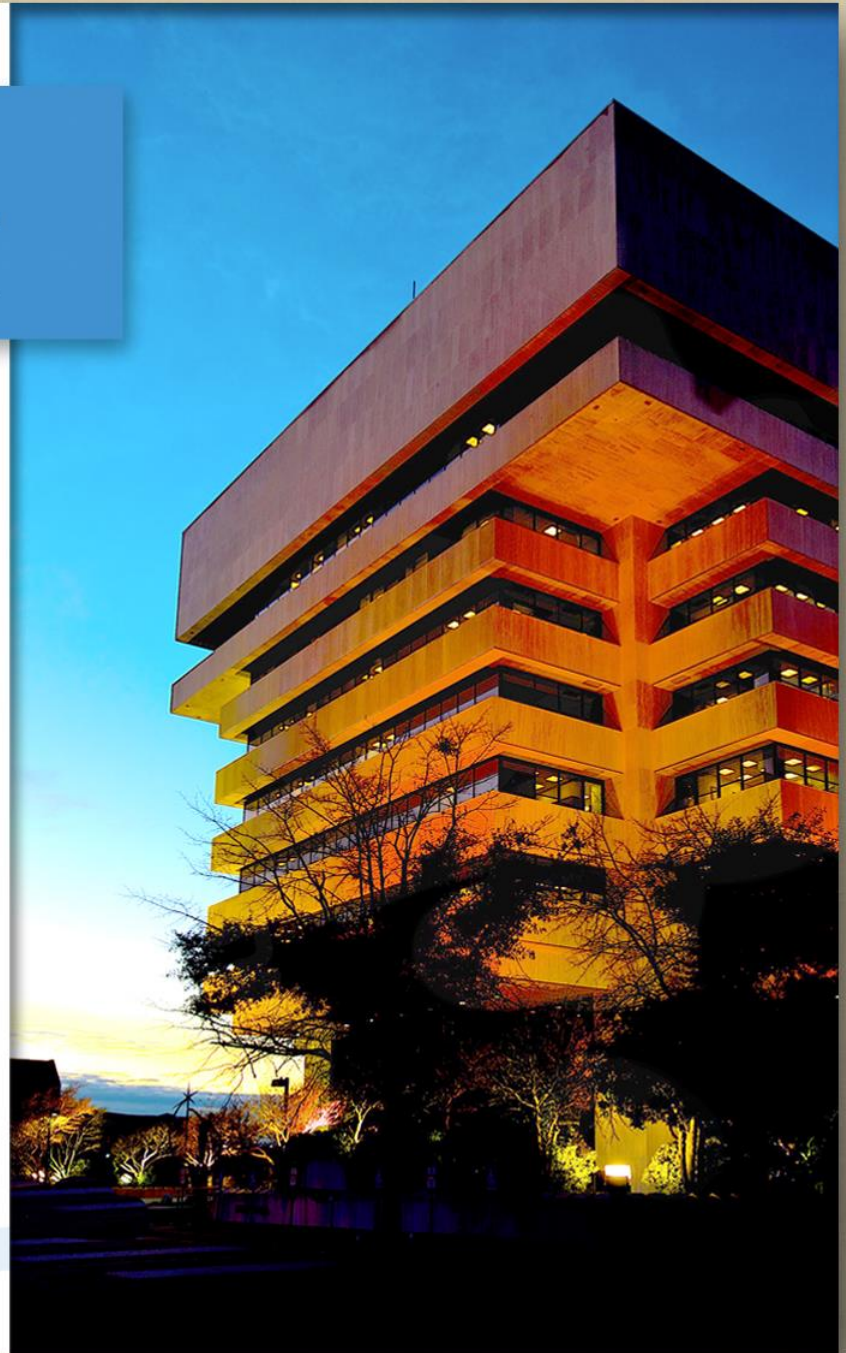
HAMPTON VA

Taxicab Ordinance

City Council Work Session

May 11, 2022

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TAXICAB ORDINANCE

- I. Proposed Amendments
- II. Recommendation

AGE OF TAXICAB

- Hampton Sec. 38-19: “Every taxicab for which a certificate is issued . . . under this article shall be no more than seven (7) model years of age.”
- **Staff recommendation: Increase to 10 model years.**
- Other localities:
 - Portsmouth: 7
 - Norfolk: 8
 - Newport News: 10*
 - Virginia Beach, Suffolk, Chesapeake: No age limit.

*Considering amending to 15 years.

Rates

- **HAMPTON Sec. 38-127:** (b) The rates to be charged and collected for services by taxicabs within the corporate limits of the city shall be as follows:
 - (1) For the first 1/7 mile\$2.75
 - (2) For each additional 1/7 mile or fraction thereof\$.30 ea. (\$2.10/mi.)**Newport News is the same***
- **VA BEACH:** \$3.25 pickup and \$.30 ea. 1/8 of a mile after (\$2.40/mi.)
- **NORFOLK:** \$6.00 pickup and \$.30 ea. 1/7 of a mile after (\$2.10/mi.)
- **CHESAPEAKE:** \$3.00 pickup fee and \$.40 ea. 1/6 of a mile after (\$2.40/mi.)
- **PORTSMOUTH:** \$2.15 pickup fee and \$.40 ea. 1/6 of a mile after (\$2.40/mi.)

*NN is considering amending to \$5.00 pickup and \$.35 each 1/7 of a mile.

Rates: Staff Recommendation

Incrementally increased pickup fee

- Increase allowable pickup fee (first 1/7 of a mile) to \$3.00 immediately, then \$4.00 July 1st 2023, and \$5.00 July 1st 2024.

Increased rate

- Increase allowable rate immediately to \$.35 for each 1/7 of a mile thereafter (\$2.45/mi.)

Rate Comparison

Hampton City Hall to Hampton Coliseum
(2.6 miles) at 1:00 p.m.:

By Taxi (current rate): \$7.91

By Taxi (proposed rate): \$9.02

By Uber: \$11.81

By Lyft: \$12.40

Rate Exception

- **Staff Recommendation:**
- **Amend our ordinance to provide:**
 - Notwithstanding the above provisions of this section, a certificate holder may enter into written contracts with organizations and companies to provide service on a negotiated basis upon a fare schedule agreed upon in the contract.
- Suffolk, Norfolk and Chesapeake all provide exceptions.
- Newport News proposed amendments provide for rate exceptions.

Reciprocity

- **Hampton Sec. 38-46**: Taxicabs operating under a lawful certificate of public convenience and necessity issued by the City of Newport News and obtaining the approval of the Chief of Police for the City of Hampton of compliance with the minimum requirements of this chapter may pick up and deliver passengers within the City of Hampton, but only under the express conditions that such pickup is under contract or has been prearranged.
- **Newport News**: Taxicab companies which do not have a certificate from Newport News and which maintain a business location in another locality in Virginia may drop off passengers in Newport News, if those passengers were picked up at a location in such other locality.
- **Staff Recommendation**: Adopt Newport News language in addition to current language.

Dispatching Service

- **Hampton**: Requires taxi companies to have a 24-hour dispatching service located within city limits.
- **Other Localities**:
 - Newport News requires 24-hour dispatch and a business location in the City.*
 - Norfolk requires 24-hour dispatching and “Norfolk telephone numbers.”
 - Chesapeake provides that “[a]dequate and efficient public service shall at all times be maintained,” and requires a Chesapeake business address.
 - Virginia Beach, Suffolk and Portsmouth have no requirement for 24-hour dispatching.
- **Staff Recommendation: Allow a dispatching location within five miles of the Hampton City limits.**

*considering an amendment which clarifies that dispatch service can be located in another city.

Summary of Recommendations

- Raise age limit of vehicles to 10 model years.
- Increase allowable pickup fee (first 1/7 of a mile) to \$3.00 immediately, then \$4.00 July 1st 2023, and \$5.00 July 1st 2024.
- Increase allowable rate immediately to \$.35 for each 1/7 of a mile thereafter (\$2.45/mi.)
- Provide exception to the rate for companies that have a contract with the taxi business.
- Expand reciprocity to allow companies with a certificate in another locality to drop off a customer in Hampton if they picked the person up in another City.
- Allow a dispatching location within five miles of the City limits.

Conclusion / Questions

