

ORDINANCE NO. 420

AN ORDINANCE adopting provisions for regulating and licensing taxicabs and taxicab drivers.

WHEREAS, the Gig Harbor City Council repealed the original Ordinance No. 12 by Ordinance No. 419; and,

WHEREAS, the City Council determined it necessary to continue the regulation and licensing of taxicabs and taxicab drivers; NOW, THEREFORE,

The City Council of the City of Gig Harbor DO ORDAIN as follows:

Section 1. Definitions.

- A. "Taxicab" as used in this ordinance shall mean and include every motor vehicle with a seating capacity of seven persons or less (determined by manufacturer's rating) hired for the transportation of passengers over non-fixed routes.
- B. "Taxicab Driver" shall mean and include every person who drives a taxicab for hire.

Section 2. License required to operate taxicabs.

It shall be unlawful for any person to operate or permit to be operated on the public streets within the city limits of Gig Harbor any taxicabs owned or controlled by such person without securing a license from the City to do so.

Section 3. License fee.

For the issuance of a license to operate a taxicab service, a fee of twenty-five dollars (\$25.00) per annum for each taxicab operated by the applicant shall be collected by the Director of Administration. No license shall be issued until the total fee is collected.

Section 4. Insurance.

The holder of a license to operate taxicabs issued pursuant to this ordinance shall at all times maintain in full force and effect a policy of property damage insurance and public liability insurance, which complies with the state requirements (RCW 46.72.040) for commercial vehicles, on each taxicab operated by the holder. A copy of such policy covering the taxicab or taxicabs shall be filed with the Director of Administration with written endorsements thereon showing that the Director must be given written notice in the event of cancellation of said policy either by the company or the insured.

Section 5. Maintenance of taxicabs and equipment.

Every taxicab and the equipment thereon shall be maintained in a safe condition for use as such and in such manner as to comply with the requirements of the State of Washington Motor Vehicle Act. Evidence that such taxicabs and equipment are in a satisfactory condition shall be given to the Director on request.

Section 6. Taximeter.

Every taxicab shall have affixed thereto a taximeter of standard size and design. No person shall use or permit to be used upon any taxicab, a taximeter which shall be in such condition as to be more than five percent incorrect. The Chief of Police may inspect, at random, each taximeter for accuracy. A report of such inspection shall be forwarded to the taxicab company.

No license shall be issued for a taxicab and no taxicab shall be placed into service until the taximeter attached thereto shall have been inspected by the Chief of Police or his representative.

When a taximeter is taken from one car and placed into another, the receiving car and taximeter must be inspected prior to placing the car into service. A report of such inspection shall be forwarded to the business office of the taxicab company.

No driver of taxicab while carrying passengers or under employment shall display the signal affixed to the taximeter in such a position as to denote such vehicle as not employed or in such position as to denote that it is employed at a rate of fare different from that to which the driver is entitled under the provisions of this chapter.

It shall be the duty of the driver to call the attention of the passenger to the amount registered on the taximeter and the taxicab flag shall be placed in a nonrecording position until the fare is paid.

Each taximeter shall be so located in the taxicab that the meter and the fare shown thereon are clearly visible from the rear compartment of the taxicab.

It shall be unlawful for any person owning, operating or driving a taxicab to operate or drive such taxicab unless such taximeter is used in determining the fare to be charged, and no other or different fare shall be charged to the passenger than is recorded on the reading face of said taximeter for the trip. No other rates or methods of measuring the distance or time charges shall be allowed except as herein provided.

Section 7. Fares.

The following maximum tariffs are authorized:

- a. \$1.00 for the first 1/7 mile or fraction thereof for the use of the taxicab;
- b. \$.20 for each succeeding 1/7 mile or fraction thereof.
- c. For each additional person, \$.50 per trip;
- d. \$.30 for each 1 minute of waiting or fraction thereof.

Section 8. Maintenance of passenger log.

Every taxicab driver shall maintain or cause to be maintained on his behalf a log setting forth therein the point of origin and destination of each trip made, the time of starting and completing said trip, together with the number and sex of each of the passengers carried on said trip, said log to be open for inspection by the City.

Section 9. Receipts.

It shall be the right of every passenger to receive, upon demand, an accurate receipt for the charges demanded of him.

Section 10. Additional Passengers.

No additional passenger shall be accepted by the driver of a taxicab unless the first passenger shall consent thereto. In no event shall a taxicab, with or without the consent of the passengers, be loaded beyond its capacity.

Section 11. Identification of taxicab.

Every taxicab operated under the provisions of this ordinance shall be plainly marked on the exterior in letters not less than four inches high with the name under which the operator thereof is doing business.

Section 12. License to drive taxicabs.

No license to drive a taxicab for hire on any public street in the City of Gig Harbor shall be issued until:

- a. The applicant submits proof, of a valid driver's license as required by the laws of the State of Washington.
- b. The Chief of Police has conducted an investigation of the applicant and recommends approval or disapproval.

Section 13. License fee.

A fee of fifteen dollars (\$15.00) per annum shall be collected for the initial license to drive a taxicab. Thereafter a fee of five dollars (\$5.00) per annum shall be collected for renewals.

Section 14. Revocation of license to drive taxicab.

A license to drive a taxicab may be revoked by the City Council for any of the following reasons:

- a. Behavior that endangers passengers or the other users of the public street.
- b. Discourteous, abusive, or dishonest conduct toward passengers.
- c. Any violation of this ordinance.

Section 15. Penalty.

Any person, firm or corporation violating any of the provisions of this ordinance shall be guilty of a misdemeanor, punishable by a fine of up to \$1,000.00.

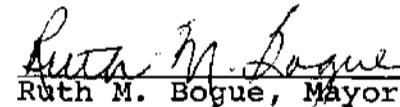
Section 16. Severability.

If any section, sentence, clause, or phrase of this ordinance should be invalid or unconstitutional by a court of competent jurisdiction, such invalidity or unconstitutionality shall not affect the validity or constitutionality of any other section, sentence, clause, or phrase of this ordinance.

Section 17. Effective Date.

This ordinance is effective and in full force five (5) days following its approval, passage, and publication by law.

PASSED by the City Council and APPROVED by the Mayor at a regular meeting this 14th day of March, 1983.


Ruth M. Bogue, Mayor

ATTEST:


Jeff Snider,
Administrator/Clerk