

Council Business Meeting

December 4, 2018

Agenda Item	Ordinance No. 3163 Related to Vehicles For Hire, Amending Ashland Municipal Code 6.28.170	
From	Tighe O'Meara	Police Chief
Contact	tighe.omeara@ashland.or.us	

SUMMARY

Ordinance No. 3163 would amend one section of the recently adopted Ashland Municipal Code (AMC) Chapter 6.28 related to vehicles for hire. The amendment would adjust the expiration date for certificates and permits that were issued prior to the enactment of new AMC Chapter 6.28, allowing those certificates and permits to remain valid for their entire one-year term.

POLICIES, PLANS & GOALS SUPPORTED

N/A

PREVIOUS COUNCIL ACTION

On September 18, 2018, Council adopted new AMC Chapter 6.28 to allow Transportation Network Companies to operate within the City of Ashland. Ordinance No. 3163 does not impact that direction but rather addresses a perceived inequity leveled against taxi drivers and taxi companies that were already licensed to operate within the City.

BACKGROUND AND ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Prior to the adoption of the new AMC Chapter 6.28, there were six taxi companies that were licensed by the City to operate within Ashland. Each of these companies paid \$250 for its initial license and \$100 annually for a renewal, at various times throughout the year. Each one of these companies expected, at the time of payment, that its license to operate would last for a full 12 months. Similarly, prior to the new language being adopted there were 13 people licensed to drive a taxi cab within the City. Each of these drivers paid \$42 at various times throughout the year, with the expectation that the license to drive a taxi would be valid for one year. As currently written, the newly-adopted AMC Chapter 6.28 dictates that each company's/driver's license to operate/drive will expire on December 31, 2018. Each taxi company and taxi driver must renew its certificate or permit after December 31, 2018, in order to legally operate within the City.

The proposed amendment allows for each company and driver to operate until the previously-acquired certificate or permit expires, allowing each company and driver to enjoy the full one-year term for which the company or driver paid. As the previously-acquired certificates and permits expire, the companies and drivers will be required to follow the new regulations related to vehicles for hire.

TNC Business Operations Update

With the approval of Ordinance No. 3160 which became effective October 18, 2018, and allows the operation of Transportation Network Companies, questions have come up regarding the timing for TNC's such as Uber and Lyft beginning to operate within Ashland. As of this meeting date, no TNC's have registered to operate in Ashland. Staff contacted representatives of both Uber and Lyft to better understand their intent and possible concerns with

operating in Ashland. As stated in previous Council meetings, both TNC businesses desire a consistent regional regulatory environment and cite three primary issues with the City of Ashland's regulations. These issues are:

- 1) Individual license/registration requirement for drivers (required in both Ashland and Medford)
- 2) Vehicle safety inspection requirement (Ashland only)
- 3) Wheelchair Accessible Vehicle (WAV) requirement (Ashland only)

FISCAL IMPACTS

The fiscal impact to the City is minimal.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that Council approve First Reading of Ordinance No. 3163 and advance it to Second Reading for enactment.

ACTIONS, OPTIONS & POTENTIAL MOTIONS

I move to approve First Reading of Ordinance No. 3163 and advance it to Second Reading for enactment.

REFERENCES & ATTACHMENTS

Ordinance No. 3163

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SIGNED and APPROVED this _____ day of _____, 2018.

John Stromberg, Mayor

Reviewed as to form:

David H. Lohman, City Attorney