

Code Ordinance

By: Mayor Verne E. Rupright

Introduced: June 9, 2014

Public Hearing: June 23, 2014

Amended: June 23, 2014

Adopted: June 23, 2014

Vote: Buswell, Harris, O'Barr, Sullivan-Leonard, Wall and Wilson in favor

**City of Wasilla
Ordinance Serial No. 14-28(AM)**

An ordinance of the Wasilla City Council adopting Wasilla Municipal Code Chapter 6.20, in regard to the operation of Taxicabs.

Section 1. Classification. This ordinance is of a general and permanent nature and shall become part of the city code.

Section 2. Adoption of chapter. WMC 6.20, Taxicabs, is hereby adopted to read as follows:

Chapter 6.20 TAXICABS.

6.20.010 Definitions.

When used in the chapter, the following words and phrases shall have the meanings set forth in this section:

Operator. A person who operates a taxicab by employment or contract with a taxicab business owner.

Taxicab or Vehicle. Any motor vehicle designed and constructed to transport passengers not more than 15 in number, not including the operator, which is used to transport passengers for pay, which is not operated over any definite and designated route within the city limits, and the destination of which is designated by the passenger at the time of transportation.

Taxicab business. The owner of a vehicle that operates as a taxicab or a dispatch service provider to a vehicle that operates as a taxicab within city limits.

6.20.020 Operation of Taxicab Business.

No person may engage in the operation of a taxicab business within the city without first obtaining a city business license.

6.12.030 Application for Vehicle Permit.

(A) Each taxicab business must obtain an application for permit for each vehicle to be operated in connection with a taxicab business from the

Wasilla Police Department on an annual basis. A vehicle permit application must be accompanied by the following information:

- (1) The name and business identification number of the business that is applying for the taxicab permit;
- (2) The make, model, serial number, license plate number, and current registration record of each vehicle to be permitted;
- (3) A copy of the state of Alaska vehicle registration of each vehicle to be operated;
- (4) Proof of common carrier liability insurance for each vehicle;
- (5) A \$75.00 vehicle permit fee for each vehicle to be operated; and
- (6) A copy of a report by a licensed mechanic stating that each vehicle to be operated is good mechanical condition.

6.20.040 Vehicle Permit.

(A) Upon approval of the application by the police chief, or his or her designee, a vehicle permit shall be issued to each vehicle to be operated. A taxicab permit shall be non-transferable, non-assignable, and non-refundable. The taxicab permit shall contain:

- (1) The name of the business that the vehicle permit is issued;
and
- (2) Present a certificate of insurance liability insurance in accordance with A.S. 28.22, mandatory motor vehicle insurance the make, model, serial number, and license plate number.

(B) Once issued, the vehicle permit shall be posted in the designated vehicle at a place designated by the police chief.

(C) A vehicle permit shall be valid from January 1st through December 31st of each year. A vehicle permit issued after December 1st of each year will be issued for the following calendar year. Application for renewal of a vehicle permit shall be made before February 1st of each year. The same information and fee as required for the issuance of an original permit shall accompany an application for renewal.

(D) A vehicle permit will not be renewed unless the permit holder is in compliance with the city sales tax ordinance, and has collected, reported, and fully paid the sales taxes due.

6.20.050 Insurance Requirement.

(A) A vehicle permit may not be issued unless the business files a certificate of liability insurance from an insurance company authorized to do business in the State of Alaska.

(B) Each vehicle shall be insured in the minimum amounts:

(1) Liability coverage with limits of not less than \$100,000 per person and \$300,000.00 per accident for bodily injury, and not less than \$50,000 per accident for property damage; and

(2) Uninsured or underinsured motorist coverage with limits of not less than \$100,000 per person and \$300,000 per accident for bodily injury, and \$50,000 per accident for property damage.

(C) Every insurance policy or certificate of insurance shall contain a clause obligating the insurer or surety to give the police chief written notice no less than 20 days before the cancellation, expiration, nonrenewal, lapse or other termination of such insurance.

(D) A lapse, cancellation, expiration, non-renewal, or termination of insurance coverage shall be a violation of this chapter and shall constitute an automatic suspension of a taxicab permit until the policy is reinstated.

6.20.060 Vehicle Inspections.

(A) At the time of application for a taxicab permit, and annually thereafter, a vehicle licensed under this chapter must be inspected. The police chief shall designate the inspection schedule. The permit holder shall be responsible for scheduling the inspection and any expenses incurred. The police chief, or his or her designee, shall have authority to perform spot checks on all vehicles holding a permit to determine compliance with the requirements of this chapter and the safety of the vehicle.

(B) The permit holder shall notify the police chief, or his or her designee, immediately of any damage of a vehicle licensed under this chapter when damage exceeds \$2,000.

(C) Taxicabs must be equipped with a light or other recognizable emblem, mounted on the roof and side-door decals or emblems on each side of the vehicle, identifying the vehicle as a taxicab, distinguishable from the other vehicles using public roadways.

6.20.070 Operator Permit.

(A) Each operator of a taxicab must meet the following qualifications and have proof of the following information on file with the taxicab business owner:

- (1) Possess a valid Alaska driver's license;
- (2) Be at least 19 years of age; and
- (3) Obtain a current criminal background check from the Wasilla Police Department.

(B) An operator of a taxicab must not have been convicted of sexual assault or sexual abuse in any degree, or have been convicted of a felony for driving under the influence of alcohol.

(3) Upon approval by the police chief, or his or her designee, a permit shall be issued to the operator. Once issued each operator shall carry the permit at any time of driving a taxicab vehicle.

6.20.080 Alcoholic beverages and controlled substances.

An operator of a taxicab operating within city limits shall not have alcoholic beverages or a controlled substance in their possession at any time while on duty. An operator shall not purchase to transport, or deliver alcohol or any other controlled substance at the request of any individual or passenger. Any transportation of alcohol in a vehicle must be by a passenger as baggage. Such alcoholic beverages shall be sealed and unopened as required by state law.

6.20.090 Audit, suspension and revocation – Remedies and penalties.

(A) A taxicab business shall maintain the following records which may be audited by the city to ensure compliance with the requirements of this code:

- (1) Records of business transactions conducted within the city;
- and
- (2) Record of operators driving for the taxicab business.

(B) The operation of a taxicab business may be suspended or revoked to do business within the city by the police chief, if there is a finding that the taxicab business owner has:

- (1) Willfully done or permitted to be done an act in violation of a statute, borough or city law relating to the business, profession or occupation licensed;

(2) Conducted the permitted business, profession or occupation in such a manner as to constitute a threat to public health, safety or general welfare.

(C) Remedies and penalties for violations of this chapter are as provided in Chapter 1.20.

Section 3. Amendment of subsection. WMC 1.20.030, Disposition of Scheduled Offenses—Fine Schedule, is hereby amended to add a fine for Taxicab violations as follows:

Code Section	Description of Offense	Fine
6.20.030 - .080	Taxicab Violations	\$100

Section 4. Effective date. This ordinance shall take effect upon adoption by the Wasilla City Council.

ADOPTED by the Wasilla City Council on 23rd June, 2014.


VERNE E. RUPRIGHT, Mayor

ATTEST:


KRISTIE SMITHERS, MMC, City Clerk

[SEAL]

