

**Amherst Town Council
Special Meeting
Minutes**

Date: October 22, 2019
Time: 4:00 pm
Location: Council Chambers, Town Hall

Members Present Mayor David Kogon
 Councillor Jason Blanch
 Councillor Vince Byrne
 Councillor Darrell Jones
 Councillor Terry Rhindress

Members Absent Deputy Mayor Sheila Christie
 Councillor Wayne MacKenzie

Staff Present Greg Herrett, CAO
 Dwayne Pike, Police Chief
 Kim Jones, Municipal Clerk
 Natalie LeBlanc, Deputy Clerk

The following does not represent a verbatim record of the proceedings of this meeting.

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Kogon called the appeal hearing to order at 4:13 PM.

2. APPEAL HEARING - GILROY TAXI DRIVER'S LICENSE

Mayor Kogon confirmed the appellant was in attendance, and asked her to give her name and address for the record. She stated her name to be Carol Gilroy and that she resides at 9 Hickman Street in Amherst, NS.

2.1 Staff Presentation

Chief Pike provided an overview of his staff report, included in the agenda package, explaining how and why the decision was made to deny Mrs. Gilroy a taxi driver's license, particularly due to a charge of impaired operation of a motor vehicle in 2015, at which time her license had expired leading to another charge of operating a motor vehicle without a valid driver's license. Mrs. Gilroy also has a charge of operating at speeds that exceed posted speed limit from January 2010. He added that although four years have passed since the conviction for impaired driving, the Taxi Authority also took into consideration that in order to apply for a pardon for criminal convictions, a waiting period of five years after the conviction date is required for a summary conviction offense.

2.1.1 Committee Questions

Councillor Blanch confirmed that when someone is granted a pardon that it is cleared from their criminal record, and that impaired driving would be included in this, to which Chief Pike confirmed yes.

2.2 Appellant Presentation

Mrs. Gilroy was given an opportunity to present on why she should be permitted to obtain a taxi driver's license. She explained that she was convicted of this offence the day after she had consumed alcohol, and at the time she was unaware she was still impaired, however she took full responsibility for her actions. She also stated that she did not know her driver's license had expired, that this was just stupidity on her part. She has since been educated on how long alcohol stays in your system and takes measures to avoid this happening again. She indicated that she has her shuttle license and is employed part-time driving shuttle for Baker's Shuttle; however, she is limited in what she can do without her taxi driver's license which if she could obtain could lead to full-time employment.

2.2.1 Committee Questions

Councillor Blanch asked how long she had been driving for Baker's Shuttle. Mrs. Gilroy replied she drove for him before her conviction, and has driven for him for the past two years since getting her driver's license back.

Councillor Jones asked Mrs. Gilroy to explain her shuttle license. She replied that it is one step up from a regular driver's license, and that she is required to take a medical each time she renews it.

Mayor Kogon asked for clarification on the date and time of conviction. Chief Pike replied the incident happened on May 15, 2015 at approximately 6:00 P.M.

Councillor Blanch asked if she drinks every day. Mrs. Gilroy replied no, and gave an example that she might if she goes to play cards, but not now if she has to work the next day because she is now educated. He also confirmed that she would like to only drive taxi, and not open her own taxi stand, which she replied was correct.

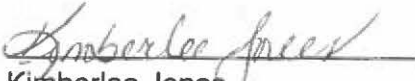
3. SET MEETING DATE TO RENDER A DECISION

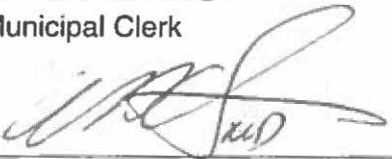
A meeting to render a decision was scheduled for Wednesday, October 30, 2019 at 4:00 P.M. Mrs. Gilroy was advised that her attendance was welcome at this meeting but was not necessary to which she replied she was unavailable. The Clerk will advise Mrs. Gilroy of the decision.

4. ADJOURNMENT

Moved By Councillor Blanch
Seconded By Councillor Jones
To adjourn the meeting at 4:33 P.M.

Motion Carried


 Kimberlee Jones
 Municipal Clerk


 David Kogon, MD
 Mayor