



City Council
City of Mount Vernon
Mount Vernon, OH 43050

Scheduled

ORDINANCE 2026-9

Meeting 4/13/2026 7:30 PM
Utilities
Ruckman, Miller
Category: Ordinance
Prepared By: Zac Sherman, City
Clerk
Doc ID: 2026-112

**AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHAPTERS 763 AND 773 OF THE CODIFIED
ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF MOUNT VERNON REGARDING TAXI CABS;
AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.**

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the Council of the City of Mount Vernon, State of Ohio:

Section 1. That Chapter 763 of the Codified Ordinances be amended to read as follows:

CHAPTER 763 - TAXICABS

763.01 LICENSE REQUIRED.

No person shall operate for hire, upon the streets of the City, a taxicab or automobile for hire without first having obtained a license for the taxicab from the City Inspector.

763.02 LICENSE FEE; EXPIRATION; TRANSFERABILITY.

(a) Each taxicab or automobile kept for hire in the City shall be licensed and the owner thereof shall pay to the City Inspector, a license fee set by the Board of Control, annually for each taxicab or automobile kept for hire. The term "taxicab or automobile kept for hire" shall not be held to include motor busses, nor shall such terms be held to include any automobile leased or rented for private use without the services of a driver.

(b) All such licenses shall expire on midnight of the date shown on the license.

(c) Upon the application of the owner of a taxicab or automobile kept for hire, already licensed, the City Inspector may authorize the transfer of the license to another taxicab or automobile kept for hire, owned by the same person, firm or corporation for a fee to be set by the Board of Control

763.03 INSURANCE REQUIRED.

No license to operate any taxicab or automobile kept for hire shall be issued or renewed by the City Inspector, and no person shall operate or permit the operation of such unless and until the owner of same shall deposit and maintain on deposit with the City Inspector, a certificate of insurance of an insurance company and/or companies duly licensed to transact such business in the State, certifying that it is insuring the owner of such taxicab or automobile kept for hire and any chauffeur or driver operating the same, against loss from liability imposed by law for damages on account of bodily injuries or death with limits of not less than one hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000) to any one person, and three hundred thousand dollars (\$300,000) for any one accident, and with a limit of one hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000) for damages to property resulting from such ownership, maintenance or use of such taxicab or automobile so kept for passenger hire in the City, and agreeing to pay to any judgment creditor, to the extent of the

respective amounts specified in such policy, any final judgment rendered against the assured or such operated by reason of such liability.

763.04 CAB MARKING AND TYPES.

All cabs shall be plainly marked on rear with the name of person, firm or corporation owning same and number of the cab in letters and numerals of not less than three inches each. All cabs shall have four passenger doors and be of or a sedan, station wagon or SUV body type.

763.05 SOLICITATIONS.

No chauffeur or driver of any taxicab, automobile kept for hire, or any other person while on the public streets or highways, or any other public place shall solicit patrons or passengers for such vehicle in any other way than in an ordinary tone or voice or by the display of a sign attached to his vehicle, such sign not to be more than eight inches square in size; and no chauffeur or driver of any taxicab or automobile kept for hire, or other persons, shall solicit patrons or passengers for such vehicle when more than three feet distant therefrom.

763.06 CAB STANDS.

(a) The Safety-Service Director is herewith authorized and directed to designate locations on the public streets as cab stands. Each cab stand shall be appropriately marked by signs erected under the supervision of the Safety-Service Director. It shall be unlawful to park any vehicle other than a licensed taxicab in a cab stand.

(b) A licensed taxicab may be parked in any cab stand while such taxicab is in charge of its driver on duty awaiting a fare.

763.07 DUTIES OF THE UTILITIES COMMISSION.

(a) The Utilities Commission is authorized and empowered to establish and adopt such rules and regulations governing its procedure and duties as are reasonable, necessary and not inconsistent with the terms of any other City Ordinances regulating taxicabs or their operation. The Utilities Commission

(b) Decisions of the City Inspector regarding chapters 763 and 773 of these codified ordinances may be appealed to the Utilities Commission within thirty (30) days of the decision. Only the subject of the decision of the City Inspector may appeal the decision to the Utilities Commission. Any appeal must pay the appellate fee set by the Control Board.

763.08 TAXICAB INSPECTIONS.

(a) Every taxicab shall be kept in a safe and sanitary operating condition at all times that it is being used as a taxicab.

(b) An owner or operator of any taxicab licensed, or in the process of being licensed, shall make such vehicle available for inspection upon the request of law enforcement of the City Inspector or his designee.

(c) Results of any inspections shall be forwarded to the Utilities Commission

763.09 LICENSE REVOCATION OR SUSPENSION.

The Utilities Commission is authorized and empowered to revoke or suspend the taxicab license of any person, partnership or corporation, or any agent or employee thereof that has violated any provisions of this Chapter or Chapter 773, or any of the other provisions of this Code, or when by

reason of incompetency, negligence or gross misconduct, the Board is of the opinion that in the interest of the Public the license should be revoked or suspended.

763.10 PUBLIC SERVICE STREET REPAIR FUND.

All moneys paid as fees, or fines, as a result of compliance with this Chapter shall be paid into a fund known as the "Public Service Street Repair Fund". All moneys and receipts credited to such fund shall be for the sole purpose of repairing streets, avenues, alleys and lanes within the City.

763.99 PENALTY.

Whoever violates any of the provisions of this Chapter shall be guilty of a minor misdemeanor on a first offense; on each subsequent offense, such person is guilty of a misdemeanor of the fourth degree.

Section 2. That Chapter 773 of the Codified Ordinances be amended to read as follows:

CHAPTER 773 – TAXICAB DRIVERS

773.01 DRIVER'S LICENSE REQUIRED.

(a) Each driver of a taxicab or automobile for hire in the City shall be required to maintain a current and valid driver's license issued by the State of Ohio.

(b) The Ohio driver's license requirement is in addition to the requirement of a current and valid license, issued by the City Inspector, to operate a taxicab or automobile for hire within the City.

(c) No owner of a taxicab or automobile for hire shall employ a driver who has not received, and maintained, proper licensing from the City.

773.02 LICENSE APPLICATION, QUALIFICATIONS.

(a) The application for license for each driver, of any taxicab or automobile for hire, will be available from the City Inspector or found on the City's website.

(b) Every application submitted will be reviewed by the City Inspector, or his designee, for consideration and can be denied for any of the following reasons:

(1) Applicant is under eighteen (18) years of age.

(2) Application is incomplete, inaccurate or is not legible.

(3) Applicant is deemed a risk to public safety and convenience due to criminal record, driving record, current criminal investigations or any unacceptable behavior during the application process.

773.03 LICENSE FEE; REVOCATION.

(a) Upon satisfactory fulfillment of the foregoing requirements and payment to the City of the annual fee set by the Board of Control, the City shall issue a license.

(b) All licenses issued remain the property of the City of Mount Vernon and may be suspended or revoked as provided for in this Code.

(c) Any lost, stolen or severely damaged license shall be reported to the City Inspector or his designee who may charge for the replacement license.

(d) All such licenses shall expire on midnight of the date shown on the license.

773.04 DISPLAY OF LICENSE.

(a) Every driver licensed under this Chapter shall have his license displayed in his taxicab or motor vehicle for hire so it is clearly visible to passengers.

(b) Every driver licensed under this Chapter shall provide his driver’s license, taxicab license, or other documentation at the request of any law enforcement officer.

773.05 DENIAL OF LICENSE, APPEAL PROCESS.

If, for any reason, the City Inspector denies or rejects any application for a taxicab license, a written appeal may be submitted to the Utilities Commission.

773.06 PUBLIC SERVICE STREET REPAIR FUND.

All moneys paid as fees, or fines, as a result of compliance of this Chapter shall be paid into the “Public Service Street Repair Fund.”

773.99 PENALTY.

Whoever violates any of the provisions of this Chapter shall be guilty of a minor misdemeanor on a first offense; on each subsequent offense, such person is guilty of a misdemeanor of the fourth degree.

Section 3. This Ordinance is hereby declared to be an emergency measure necessary for the immediate preservation of the public, peace, health and safety by properly regulating the operation of taxi cabs within the City, and said Ordinance shall, therefore, become effective upon its date of passage and approval by the Mayor, provided that it receives the affirmative vote of two-thirds (2/3) of the members elected to the Council of the City of Mount Vernon; otherwise, it shall take effect and be in force from and after the earliest period allowed by law.

Bruce E. Hawkins, Presidents of Council

PASSED: _____, 2026

ATTEST: _____
Zachary Sherman, Clerk of Council

APPROVED: _____, 2026

Matthew T. Starr, Mayor