

ORDINANCE #16-331

AN ORDINANCE BY THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF MASON ESTABLISHING RULES AND REGULATIONS FOR TAXIS AND VEHICLES FOR HIRE.

WHEREAS, the City Commission desires to protect the public health, safety and welfare of the Citizens of Mason, and

WHEREAS, the regulation and permitting of Vehicles for Hire and Taxicabs is set forth in Chapter XI of the Charter of the City of Mason dated March 19, 1946, and in Section 215.004 of the Local Government Code; and

WHEREAS, an Ordinance is needed to establish procedures and regulations, including requirements of liability insurance, vehicle inspection schedule, and signage as authorized by the Local Government Code;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF MASON, TEXAS:

SECTION 1. APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

The following information shall be provided when an applicant requests a permit for the operation of a taxi or vehicle for hire service:

1. Name, place of residence, age, customary occupation of the owner and drivers, and identifying any other person, firm or corporation owning any interest in the business.
2. The number of vehicles proposed to be operated under the permit, and the make, model and year of each vehicle.
3. Binder or policy for liability insurance as set forth below.
4. The experience of the applicant in the Taxi service business.

SECTION 2. LIABILITY INSURANCE

Insurance coverage, protecting against liabilities to passengers and the public, shall provide a personal injury protection of at least \$100,000 for each person with a limit of coverage equal to that amount for each potential passenger carried in the largest capacity vehicle in service. The Insurance shall be in the form of a Texas Commercial Auto policy, shall name each driver working for the taxi service, and shall state that it will provide coverage specifically for injuries to passengers who use the taxi or vehicle for hire.

SECTION 3. SIGNAGE ON VEHICLES

Every vehicle used by the permit holder to transport the public shall have lettered in some area of the exterior of the vehicle in permanent, contrasting color, with lettering at least two inches in height, the City permit identification of the business or taxi service. Additional magnetic signs may be used to provide greater detail of information, and it would be recommended that each side of each vehicle be so identified. If magnetic signage is utilized it shall remain attached at all times when the vehicle is transporting passengers who have hired the taxi or other vehicle.

SECTION 4. INSPECTION OF VEHICLE

Every vehicle used by the permit holder to transport the public shall be inspected annually.

SECTION 5. NO LIABILITY TO CITY

The City shall not be liable to any person for damages arising from the operation or ownership of any taxi or vehicle for hire, or arising out of the enforcement, or lack of enforcement, of this Ordinance. The owner or operator of every taxi or vehicle for hire service operated on the streets of this City shall indemnify and save the City harmless from any liabilities arising out of the ownership or operations of any such vehicles. This provision is a part of every permit, whether stated therein or not.

SECTION 6. SEVERABILITY AND CONFLICT WITH EXISTING REGULATIONS

If any section, subsection, sentence, clause, phrase, or portion of this Ordinance is held invalid or unconstitutional by any court of competent jurisdiction, such portion shall be deemed a separate and independent provision, and such holding shall not affect the validity of the remaining portions thereof. This Ordinance is specifically intended as a supplement to the existing Chapter XI, "Taxicabs" as contained in the Charter of the City of Mason, and shall not be considered as in conflict with any provisions of the Charter except as set out herein. All ordinances and resolutions or parts of ordinances and resolutions in conflict with this ordinance are repealed.

PASSED AND APPROVED this the 12th day of December, 2016.

APPROVED:



Brent Hinckley, Mayor

ATTEST:



Pattie Grote, City Secretary