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**2022-24 (1<sup>st</sup> READING): TO AMEND CHAPTER 23 VEHICLES FOR HIRE, ARTICLE II, TAXICABS, TO DELETE SECTION 23-32 (a) AND ADJUST FARES IN SECTION 23-34.1 TO BE EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY UPON ADOPTION.**

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**Applicant/Purpose:** Taxi drivers / to delete a section in conflict with another code section and to adjust cab fares

**Brief:**

- Proposed ordinance deletes Section 23-32 (a), *Charges by taximeter*. ~~No person owning, operating or controlling any taxicab upon the streets of the city shall charge for the use of such taxicab to exceed the current rates to be determined by the taximeter. These rates shall be set from time to time by the city manager and a schedule of such fees is on file in the city clerk's office.~~
- This Section is in conflict with Section 23-34.1 which sets fares by Code, and the Code can only be changed by a majority vote of City Council
- Proposed ordinance sets the following fares:
  - (1) For the first one-eighth mile ~~..\$3.50~~ ..\$3.50
  - (2) For each additional one-eighth mile ~~..0.35~~ \$0.45
  - (3) For each 55 seconds of waiting ~~..0.35~~ \$0.45
  - (4) Passengers in excess of one person per trip above the age of 15 ~~..\$1.00~~

**Issues:**

- Cab companies feel the need to increase fares due to market conditions, and inflationary pressures.

**Public Notification:** Normal meeting notification.

**Alternatives:** Amend the ordinance. Deny the ordinance.

**Financial Impact:**

- Fares have not increased since 2016.
- Minimal financial impact to the City. Cab passengers will be impacted by the increase.

**Manager's Recommendations:**

- I recommend 1<sup>st</sup> reading (4.26.22).

**Attachments:** Ordinance.

CITY OF MYRTLE BEACH  
COUNTY OF HORRY  
STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

TO AMEND CHAPTER 23, VEHICLES FOR  
HIRE, ARTICLE II, TAXICABS, TO DELETE  
SECTION 23-32 (a) AND ADJUST FARES IN  
SECTION 23-34.1 TO BE EFFECTIVE  
IMMEDIATELY UPON ADOPTION

NOW THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY ORDAINED that Chapter 23, Article II is amended by showing repealed sections as stricken through, enacted sections as underlined and unchanged sections shown in context.

**Sec. 23-32. Taximeters.**

- (a) ~~Charges by taximeter. No person owning, operating or controlling any taxicab upon the streets of the city shall charge for the use of such taxicab to exceed the current rates to be determined by the taximeter. These rates shall be set from time to time by the city manager and a schedule of such fees is on file in the city clerk's office.~~
- (b) *Taximeter required; definition; specifications.* Every taxicab shall have affixed thereto and must use a taximeter of a size and design approved by the police department and conform substantially to the following specifications:
- (1) A taximeter is a mechanical instrument or device by which the charge for hire of a taxicab is mechanically calculated either for distance traveled or for waiting time or both and upon which such charge shall be indicated by means of legible figures which are electrically lighted each time the taximeter flag is thrown from nonearning to earning position.
  - (2) Such taximeters must register upon visual counters the following items:
    - a. Total miles;
    - b. Paid miles;
  - (3) Each taximeter must have a "dead-clock."
- (c) *Taximeter flag.* The taximeter flag shall not be changed to vacant position until the fare is paid.
- (d) *Inspection and sealing required; retesting upon change from one taxicab to another.* No person shall drive a taxicab to which is attached a taximeter that has not been inspected and approved by the police department. The pinion gear shall be sealed so that it cannot be removed or changed without breaking or otherwise damaging the seal. It shall be unlawful to change the gears operating the taximeter, remove the gear seal, or change a taximeter from one taxicab to another unless the taximeter is inspected, retested, and approved by the police department, prior to use.
- (e) *Unlawful to operate without.* It shall be unlawful for any taxicab to be operated for public hire unless it is equipped with a taximeter which must be used as provided in this section.

1 Sec. 23-34.1. - Fares.

2 The schedule of maximum rates to be charged for the use of any taxicab within the city  
3 shall read as follows:

4 (1) For the first one-eighth mile .....\$3.50

5 (2) For each additional one-eighth mile .....~~0.35~~ 0.45

6 (3) For each 55 seconds of waiting .....~~0.35~~ 0.45

7 (4) Passengers in excess of one person per trip above the age of 15 .....\$1.00

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9 The fare or rate changes of this ordinance shall become effective upon adoption;

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15 BRENDA BETHUNE, MAYOR

16  
17 ATTEST:

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20  
21 JENNIFER ADKINS, CITY CLERK

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23 1<sup>st</sup> Reading: 4-26-2022

24 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading: