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M I N U T E S
OF THE MEETING
OF THE
PUBLIC HEARING
INCORPORATED VILLAGE OF FLORAL PARK

April 2, 2024
8:00 p.m.

PRESENT:

- KEVIN M. FITZGERALD, MAYOR
- DR. LYNN POMBONYO, DEPUTY MAYOR/TRUSTEE
- FRANK J. CHIARA, TRUSTEE
- JENNIFER STEWART, TRUSTEE
- MICHAEL LONGOBARDI, TRUSTEE

ALSO PRESENT:

- GERARD BAMBRICK, Village Administrator
- RENEE MARCUS, Supt. Of Bldgs.
- JOHN RYAN, ESQ., Village Attorney
- SUSAN WALSH, Village Clerk
- KEVIN GINNANE, Supt. Of Public Works
- STEPHEN McALLISTER, Police Commissioner

APPLICATION OF BLU TAXI

1 MAYOR FITZGERALD: Good evening, and welcome to
2 the Village Hall for our first meeting in April.

3 If I could ask everyone to stand for the Pledge of
4 Allegiance.

5 (Whereupon, the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.)

6 MAYOR FITZGERALD: Thank you.

7 If I could ask you to remain standing for a moment
8 of silence for NYPD Detective Jonathan Diller who passed
9 away this week.

10 (Whereupon, there was a moment of silence.)

11 MAYOR FITZGERALD: Thank you.

12 Good evening, and once again welcome.

13 This evening we have a public hearing on a
14 potential new taxi company coming into Floral Park, then we
15 will go through the agenda, followed by Board reports and
16 then we'll open it up for questions and comments for anyone
17 here in the audience or on Zoom.

18 With that I would like to start the Public
19 Hearing, and if I could ask Miss Walsh to read the notice.

20 MS. WALSH: Thank you, Mayor Fitzgerald.

21 Legal Notice of Public Hearing, Incorporated
22 Village of Floral Park.

23 Notice is hereby given that pursuant to Chapter 85
24 of the Code of the Incorporated Village of Floral Park, the
25 Board of Trustees of the Incorporated Village of Floral

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1 Park, New York, will hold a public hearing at Village Hall,
2 1 Floral Boulevard, Floral Park, New York on Tuesday,
3 April 2, 2024 at 8:00 p.m. in relation to establishing a
4 Franchise Agreement with Blu Taxi for a term of three years
5 and its related entity, Blu Worldwide, Inc., for the
6 solicitation of commercial business for the transportation
7 of passengers for taxi service in Floral Park, New York.

8 A copy of the Blu Taxi application is on file in
9 the Office of the Village Clerk, 1 Floral Boulevard, Floral
10 Park, New York, and may be examined by any persons
11 interested therein during business hours Monday through
12 Friday, inclusive, except legal holidays, from 8:30 a.m. to
13 4:30 p.m.

14 Now take notice that all parties in interest and
15 citizens will be given an opportunity to be heard at the
16 aforesaid time and place.

17 By order of the Board of Trustees, Village of
18 Floral Park, Susan E. Walsh, Village Clerk, dated March 15,
19 2024.

20 And the legal notice was published in the official
21 paper of the Incorporated Village of Floral Park, New York
22 and posted according to law.

23 MAYOR FITZGERALD: Thank you.

24 I would like to place on the record that the
25 applicant had previously filed an affidavit of service

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1 indicating that all neighbors within a 200 foot radius of
2 the dwelling have been served with notice.

3 I would like to invite the applicant to come up.
4 And if you could first be sworn in by the stenographer and
5 then give us a quick overview of what you're proposing.

6 (Whereupon, Steven Posa was so duly sworn.)

7 MR. POSA: My name is Steven Posa, my address is
8 87-37 251st Street, Bellerose, New York 11426.

9 MAYOR FITZGERALD: Good evening, and welcome.

10 MR. POSA: Thank you.

11 MAYOR FITZGERALD: So I guess before we start,
12 obviously you put in an application to, I believe, take
13 over the prior taxi service that was here for many, many
14 years.

15 MR. POSA: Yes.

16 MAYOR FITZGERALD: Are you familiar with or did
17 you read the section of the Village Code, Section 85, that
18 describes how taxis operate or can operate within the
19 Village?

20 MR. POSA: I am very familiar with it, I used to
21 work in the Village about five, six years ago.

22 MAYOR FITZGERALD: I'm sorry?

23 MR. POSA: I used to work in the Village about
24 five or six years ago, so I'm pretty familiar with the
25 protocol.

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1 MAYOR FITZGERALD: I have a couple of questions
2 and then I will turn it over to my fellow colleagues.

3 The hours are 24 hours?

4 MR. POSA: Well, we are going to start off
5 probably working till about 10:00 p.m., we will see how it
6 goes. And as we get more clients, and we will see what
7 hours they want to be picked up, especially the bars in the
8 Village area, we could push it to 24 hours, not a problem
9 for us.

10 MAYOR FITZGERALD: And where is the dispatcher's
11 office going to be?

12 MR. POSA: It's going to be here in the Landmark
13 building, we are going to start over there.

14 MAYOR FITZGERALD: How many cars will you have?

15 MR. POSA: We are going to start off with five
16 cars. We are going to see how it goes from there, and if
17 need be we can put on four, five more, it all depends.

18 MAYOR FITZGERALD: What color will they be?

19 MR. POSA: The cars are all marked, they are white
20 cars with blue lettering and they are all numbered.

21 MAYOR FITZGERALD: And what's the age of the
22 oldest car?

23 MR. POSA: These cars run about 2010, 2011, they
24 are all Ford Crown Victorias, they are police cars --
25 ex-police cars.

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1 MAYOR FITZGERALD: And are you familiar with the
2 past agreement we had with Triple A about parking under the
3 railroad?

4 MR. POSA: Yes, I am familiar with all the
5 protocol.

6 MAYOR FITZGERALD: And you would abide by similar?

7 MR. POSA: Of course.

8 MAYOR FITZGERALD: Will you be parking cars at the
9 Landmark building?

10 MR. POSA: No, I will not.

11 The way we run our business, the drivers take
12 their cars home. If there is any extra cars when we switch
13 shifts, things like that, we use the spots under the rail.

14 MAYOR FITZGERALD: I think there is five, right?

15 MR. POSA: I believe there is four, but I'm not
16 sure.

17 MAYOR FITZGERALD: Obviously parking is at a
18 premium in the Village.

19 MR. POSA: Of course.

20 MAYOR FITZGERALD: Its gotten, I don't know worse
21 or better recently with the restaurants coming in and a lot
22 of people coming here and using the restaurants and using
23 the parking spots under the railroad.

24 MR. POSA: We would abide by all the regulations.

25 MAYOR FITZGERALD: I will turn it over to our

1 Deputy Mayor.

2 DEPUTY MAYOR POMBONYO: Thank you.

3 Good evening. Thanks for coming in.

4 MR. POSA: Good evening.

5 DEPUTY MAYOR POMBONYO: My questions pertain to
6 the condition of your cars, how you maintain the condition,
7 how they look, cleanliness, where and how do you clean
8 them. I think the success of businesses in Floral Park is
9 largely returned by aesthetics and care and cleanliness.

10 And I think services that we have had in the past
11 may have started to fail because the vehicles were not
12 necessarily kept up. We would get in a vehicle and it
13 would be filled with cigarette smoke and supposed to be no
14 smoking in the vehicles and obviously had been, and a lot
15 of that on some of the cars was not mitigated or fixed.

16 How do you intend to keep your cars looking
17 beautiful so people want to use your service?

18 MR. POSA: Yeah, a hundred percent.

19 We already have an account with the car wash right
20 here on Jericho right next to the body shop and we have an
21 account with them, had a account with them for three or
22 four years, and that's where we bring our cars, we wash
23 them twice a week.

24 For service we have two or three different
25 mechanics we use, depending on the job.

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1 DEPUTY MAYOR POMBONYO: On the twice a week, are
2 they cleaned thoroughly on the interior, as well?

3 MR. POSA: We clean them -- whatever is needed.
4 Of course we can clean the interior as well, and we do.

5 DEPUTY MAYOR POMBONYO: What kind of guidelines do
6 you have for your drivers as far as their smoking in the
7 cars or eating in the cars or, God forbid, drinking in the
8 cars?

9 MR. POSA: We definitely do not allow smoking in
10 the car. As far as eating, I've been doing this now for
11 five years with Blu Taxi and I haven't had one complaint as
12 far as eating in the cars.

13 And we wash the cars, so if there is an issue
14 there, you know, we wash it.

15 DEPUTY MAYOR POMBONYO: That includes all types of
16 smoking completely prohibited with the drivers?

17 MR. POSA: There is no smokers in our operation,
18 as far as I know. No one has ever complained about it.

19 DEPUTY MAYOR POMBONYO: Have your drivers had any
20 difficulty following up with their passengers on no smoking
21 in the vehicles?

22 MR. POSA: They don't allow smoking in the car.

23 DEPUTY MAYOR POMBONYO: Okay, I'm just saying if
24 we run into a problem.

25 MR. POSA: Yeah, no, we don't allow it. None of

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1 us smoke. The group I have are non-smokers.

2 DEPUTY MAYOR POMBONYO: So it's prohibited amongst
3 your passengers?

4 MR. POSA: Absolutely.

5 DEPUTY MAYOR POMBONYO: And there is a follow
6 through?

7 MR. POSA: Absolutely.

8 DEPUTY MAYOR POMBONYO: Thank you.

9 MR. POSA: You are welcome.

10 MAYOR FITZGERALD: Trustee Chiara.

11 TRUSTEE CHIARA: Yes, thank you.

12 I'm just curious as to what kind of radius does
13 your company encompass besides Floral Park, how far do you
14 go out?

15 MR. POSA: Our main work is between Melville and
16 Manhattan. We handle the Bronx, we handle Brooklyn, but
17 we've gone to Jersey, you know, we've gone Upstate, New
18 York. We will go anywhere within a few hundred miles. But
19 mainly really we are locally here in Nassau County, in
20 Queens and Manhattan, that's where most of our business is.

21 And at the hospitals, we do quite a bit with the
22 hospitals; we do a lot with senior citizens; we are
23 probably the biggest taxi service with North Shore Towers,
24 we have a lot of clientele in there.

25 TRUSTEE CHIARA: How long have you been in

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1 business?

2 MR. POSA: Five years.

3 TRUSTEE CHIARA: Five years. Thank you.

4 MAYOR FITZGERALD: Trustee Stewart.

5 TRUSTEE STEWART: Hi, thanks for coming in.

6 I'm not sure about the right sort of vocabulary.

7 Where is your current taxi stand or dispatcher located?

8 MR. POSA: We kind of operate a lot like Uber and
9 Lyft, we have virtual phones, we have texting; in other
10 words, you can call for a pickup, you can also text for a
11 pickup.

12 Our cars are domiciled at the drivers' homes right
13 now, and that's what we prefer to do. And we do that so,
14 you know, we are out 4:30 in the morning, don't have to
15 come to an office, don't have to see anybody, drivers know
16 who they have to pick up from the evening before and they
17 do what they can do.

18 TRUSTEE STEWART: Are residents calling the
19 dispatch office or are they calling the driver directly or
20 are they texting the driver directly?

21 MR. POSA: They are calling a dispatcher that is
22 texting to the drivers.

23 TRUSTEE STEWART: That's interesting.

24 MR. POSA: That's the way we operate right now, it
25 seems to be very quick for us, we move the cars pretty

1 fast.

2 TRUSTEE STEWART: Will customers be able to
3 reserve in advance?

4 MR. POSA: They do it all the time. That's where
5 the texting comes in. Our number is virtual, so not only
6 can you call, but you can text, so they text every day.

7 TRUSTEE STEWART: And Triple A had an inside the
8 Village price. Anywhere in the Village was, the last time
9 I took it, it was \$6 anywhere in the Village. You know,
10 will you have some sort of pricing like that for residents
11 going from point A to point B?

12 MR. POSA: I will have pricing like that. A
13 minimum up north in the hospitals and locally is \$9
14 presently. I mean for the Village I don't think I can do
15 \$6, but maybe I can add another dollar, I mean we will
16 figure it out.

17 TRUSTEE STEWART: Okay. That's really all I have.
18 Thank you.

19 MAYOR FITZGERALD: Trustee Longobardi?

20 TRUSTEE LONGOBARDI: Good evening.

21 MR. POSA: Good evening.

22 TRUSTEE LONGOBARDI: Just a question, will the
23 drivers be going in and out of the office on the Landmark?

24 MR. POSA: No, absolutely not.

25 TRUSTEE LONGOBARDI: We won't have cars out there?

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1 MR. POSA: There will be one dispatcher in there
2 and that's it.

3 TRUSTEE LONGOBARDI: Okay. So if there's some
4 concern that they would be parking, running in and parking
5 in the no parking zone.

6 MR. POSA: There will be no cars there. You will
7 not see a car there.

8 MR. FRIMET: If I may?

9 MAYOR FITZGERALD: Can you be sworn in? You have
10 to be sworn in by the stenographer.

11 (Whereupon, Louis Frimet was so duly sworn.)

12 MR. FRIMET: My name is Louis Frimet, F-R-I-M-E-T,
13 I live in New Hyde Park, 45 Windsor Gate Drive, New Hyde
14 Park, and I have an office in the City at 275 Madison.

15 I think it was very, very important what he said
16 that the drivers keep the cars. They take the cars home
17 so, therefore, there is access 24 hours a day because the
18 car is right in front of their homes. So if there is a
19 call at 3:00 in the morning, the dispatcher will issue it
20 and they just take the car right out of the driveway. It's
21 very, very important because they don't have to go to a
22 location with their personal car to pick up the cab, they
23 are available all the time. Very important.

24 And, again, we have been operating in New Hyde
25 Park for years, and in Mineola, so it's not like we are

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1 just coming into business. And so far so good.

2 I don't want to say anything bad about Triple A,
3 you know more than I do about the company, so let's leave
4 it as such.

5 MAYOR FITZGERALD: Just if you could remind the
6 drivers though if they live in Floral Park, you are not
7 allowed to park a commercial vehicle in a driveway.

8 MR. FRIMET: Exactly. They don't live in Floral
9 Park, none of them. They live on the outskirts, Bellerose,
10 New Hyde Park, Stewart Manor, they don't live in Floral
11 Park.

12 MAYOR FITZGERALD: I have one more question, and
13 sorry I just have to ask this, it may seem crazy. But can
14 you remind your drivers that if they are waiting around not
15 to feed the pigeons, definitely was an issue that we had
16 with the former company. And since the former company is
17 not there, seems to be a lot better under the railroad, so
18 if you could.

19 MR. POSA: You want to know something, up by Glen
20 Oaks they feed the pigeons there. When I go back there I
21 tell the manager, please don't do that, it's all over the
22 supermarket and everything in that area. We won't have
23 that problem.

24 MAYOR FITZGERALD: Been a difference the last
25 couple of months.

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1 If you don't mind taking a seat I will just ask if
2 there is anyone here in Village Hall or on Zoom that has
3 questions for these gentlemen?

4 AUDIENCE MEMBER: What is the address of the
5 Landmark building?

6 MR. FRIMET: 99 Tulip.

7 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Thank you.

8 MAYOR FITZGERALD: And have you seen the agreement
9 we had with Triple A?

10 MR. POSA: That I have not seen, no.

11 MAYOR FITZGERALD: If I could ask the Village
12 secretary to give them a copy of it.

13 MS. WALSH: Sure.

14 MAYOR FITZGERALD: Will probably look similar to
15 what we had with Triple A, but if you have questions or
16 comments, let us know.

17 We pretty much covered everything.

18 And, Darlene, is someone on Zoom?

19 MS. LANZA: Yes, Jackie O'Donoghue.

20 Asked if the drivers will be driving the cars
21 outside of business hours?

22 MAYOR FITZGERALD: So the question is, will the
23 drivers be driving the vehicles outside of business hours?

24 MR. POSA: Well, they will be on-call 24/7, I
25 don't know how to answer that question. They don't use it

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1 for personal use if that was the question.

2 MAYOR FITZGERALD: We are good.

3 TRUSTEE STEWART: They might have to go get a meal
4 or something.

5 MR. POSA: Of course. But they have other cars,
6 those cars are not used for personal use.

7 MAYOR FITZGERALD: Any other questions?

8 (Whereupon, there was no response.)

9 MAYOR FITZGERALD: If I could therefore ask for a
10 motion to close the public hearing and reserve decision?

11 DEPUTY MAYOR POMBONYO: So moved.

12 TRUSTEE CHIARA: Second.

13 MAYOR FITZGERALD: Miss Walsh?

14 MS. WALSH: Deputy Mayor Pombonyo?

15 DEPUTY MAYOR POMBONYO: Aye.

16 MS. WALSH: Trustee Chiara?

17 TRUSTEE CHIARA: Aye.

18 MS. WALSH: Trustee Stewart?

19 TRUSTEE STEWART: Aye.

20 MS. WALSH: Trustee Longobardi?

21 TRUSTEE LONGOBARDI: Aye.

22 MS. WALSH: And, Mayor Fitzgerald?

23 MAYOR FITZGERALD: Aye.

24 We will be in touch in a couple of days. And Miss
25 Walsh will get you a copy of the existing agreement that we

1 have with Triple A.

2 And thank you for choosing Floral Park.

3 MR. POSA: Thank you.

4 MR. FRIMET: Thank you.

5 (Whereupon, the Public Hearing was concluded and
6 stood adjourned.)

7 *****

8 CERTIFIED TO BE A TRUE AND ACCURATE TRANSCRIPT OF THE ORIGINAL
9 STENOGRAPHIC MINUTES TAKEN OF THIS PROCEEDING.

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MARY KATE WALDRON
COURT REPORTER