

CHAPTER 124

TAXICABS

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124.01 DEFINITIONS. For use in this chapter, the following terms are defined:

1. “Operator” means any person, whether or not the owner of a taxi, that will profit financially by the operation of a taxi, but does not include a person hired to drive a taxi.
2. “Taxi” means any motor vehicle that is used on the streets of the City for the purpose of carrying passengers for hire.

124.02 LICENSE REQUIRED. It is unlawful to operate a taxi in the City of Spirit Lake without a valid taxi license issued under this chapter. A taxi is defined as any motor vehicle with a seating capacity of fifteen (15) passengers or less that is used to provide transportation of persons in exchange for any form of compensation or payment. This section does not apply to taxis that have valid taxicab licenses from another jurisdiction outside of Dickinson County and are operated in the City on only a temporary basis of no more than one trip per day. *(Ord. 08-09 – Mar. 10 Supp.)*

124.03 APPLICATION FOR LICENSE. A taxi operator shall apply in writing to the Council for a license for the first taxi operated. The application shall include the name and residential and business addresses of the operator, and the make, model, serial number, motor number and State license plate number of the taxi.

124.04 FEES. The application shall be accompanied by a license fee in such amount as determined by the Council from time to time.

124.05 LIABILITY INSURANCE. Before beginning operation of any taxi, the operator shall file with the Clerk evidence of financial responsibility covering liability in the sum of five hundred thousand dollars (\$500,000) combined single limit for bodily injury and property damage liability arising out of the operation of each licensed taxi. *(Ord. 14-2010 – Apr. 16 Supp.)*

124.06 ISSUANCE OF LICENSE. The Council shall review the first application from a taxi operator for a license required by this chapter and shall issue a license if it finds that such issuance will be consistent with public convenience, health, safety and welfare.

124.07 CONTENTS. The license issued under this chapter shall contain the signatures of the Mayor and Clerk, the date of issuance, the period for which the license is valid, the passenger seating capacity of the taxi and the information contained in the application.

124.08 DURATION. Licenses shall be issued annually on or after April 1. Each license issued shall be valid for a period of up to one year and all licenses shall expire on March 31. Application for licenses after April 1 shall have a prorated fee applied. *(Ord. 08-09 – Mar. 10 Supp.)*

124.09 TRANSFER OF LICENSE PROHIBITED. Each taxi license shall be issued for one specific taxi only and shall not be transferable from taxi to taxi or to a different operator. The operator shall notify the Council when a licensed taxi is withdrawn from service and the Treasurer shall refund a pro rata share of the license fee when a license is surrendered.

124.10 REVOCATION OF LICENSE. The Council may revoke or suspend any license issued under this chapter for the following reasons:

1. **Fraudulent Statements.** The operator has made fraudulent statements in the application for the license or in the conduct of the business.
2. **Violation of Law.** The operator has substantially violated the requirements of this chapter or of the State motor vehicle laws.
3. **Endangered Public Welfare, Health or Safety.** The operator has conducted the business in such manner as to endanger the public health, welfare or safety.

Prior to revocation or suspension of a taxi license, the Mayor or Council shall conduct a hearing at which time the operator may appear and show cause why the said license should not be revoked or suspended. The operator shall be given notice of the hearing at least five (5) and not more than thirty (30) days before the date of the hearing. Notice shall be in writing and shall be served personally or as required for personal service by the State rules of civil procedure. Notice shall state the time and place of the hearing, that it is proposed that the license to operate the said taxi shall be revoked or suspended, as the case may be, and the reasons for said revocation or suspension.

124.11 DRIVERS' QUALIFICATIONS. Every driver of a licensed taxi shall be at least nineteen (19) years of age and shall possess a valid State chauffeur's license.

124.12 ADDITIONAL LICENSES. After the Council has approved the initial license for a taxi operator, the taxi operator may make application to the Clerk for additional licenses for different vehicles. The application shall include the same information as required for the initial license. Each taxi driver must be registered with the City and the operator must provide evidence of valid drivers licenses for each taxi driver. If the Clerk finds that the application for additional licenses meets the requirements of this chapter, the Clerk shall issue a license. *(Ord. 08-09 – Mar. 10 Supp.)*

124.13 VISIBLE TAG. The Clerk shall provide for the issuance of a separate license and tag for each vehicle to be operated within the City by the taxi operator. The tag shall be in a form that may be affixed to the window. Each taxi vehicle shall affix the tag to the passenger side of the front window. *(Ord. 08-09 – Mar. 10 Supp.)*