

CHAPTER 5.60: TAXICABS

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*ARTICLE I. GENERAL PROVISIONS***5.60.010 Definitions.**

For the purpose of this chapter, the following definitions shall apply unless the context clearly indicates or requires a different meaning.

A. **DRIVER.** One who actually engages in the driving of a taxicab.

B. **OPERATOR.** A person engaged in operating a taxicab business.

C. **SEATING CAPACITY.** The number of persons, not including the driver, who can be conveniently seated in a taxicab without crowding.

D. **TAXICAB.** A motor vehicle for carrying passengers, with a seating capacity for 7 persons or less, not including the driver, not traveling any definite or prescribed route, operated by a driver, and carrying or accepting passengers for hire. The term taxicab shall not include funeral cars or ambulances.

E. **WHEELCHAIR TRANSPORT.** A motor vehicle for carrying passengers using a wheelchair and their accompanying guests, with a seating capacity for 7 persons or less, not including the driver, not traveling any definite or prescribed route, operated by a driver, and carrying or accepting passengers using a wheelchair and their accompanying guests for hire, but shall not include funeral cars or ambulances. Except as otherwise provided, wheelchair transports shall be subject to the same rules and regulations as taxicabs.

(Ord. 3005, 1993: prior code § 27-1)

Rapid City - Business Regulations and Licenses**5.60.020 Transporting intoxicating liquor prohibited.**

All licenses issued under this chapter shall be subject to revocation at any time by the Common Council, if any taxicab operated or used by the licensee shall be used for the delivery or transportation of intoxicating liquor or for any other unlawful purpose. Upon the revocation, the license fee paid shall be retained by the city.

(Prior code § 27-4)

5.60.030 License–Application–False statements.

Any license issued under the provisions of this chapter shall be revoked by the Chief of Police upon discovery of any false material statement made in the application for the license.

(Prior code § 27-5)

ARTICLE II. BUSINESS LICENSE**5.60.040 Required.**

No person shall engage in the business of operating a taxicab upon the streets, without a license as provided by this article.

(Prior code § 27-16)

5.60.050 Application.

Every person desiring a license to operate a taxicab business in the city shall make application in writing to the Finance Office in the general form required for all applications for licenses and shall also give the following additional information:

A. Previous experience in the business, if the applicant has not been licensed before; and

B. Number of taxicabs to be operated.
(Ord. 5443 (part), 2009: Prior code § 27-17)

5.60.060 Issuance–Required findings.

The Finance Officer or his or her designee shall approve the issuance of a license applied for under this article, if it is satisfied that the applicant has met the following requirements:

A. That he or she is a fit person to engage in the business; and

B. That his or her vehicles and equipment are such as are consistent with the safety of the public.
(Ord. 5443 (part), 2009: Prior code § 27-19)

5.60.070 Fee.

The fee for a license under this article shall be as follows:

A. Initial fee: \$150; and

B. Renewal fee: \$100.
(Prior code § 27-18)

5.60.080 License number to be displayed on vehicle.

Every operator of any taxicab licensed under this article shall carry on each vehicle, on the rear of same and in a conspicuous place, a license plate showing his or her license number as provided by the city at the time of issuing the license.

(Prior code § 27-20)

ARTICLE III. DRIVER'S LICENSES**5.60.090 Required.**

No person shall drive, or be engaged or employed in the business of driving, upon the public streets of the city, any taxicab, without first having procured a license therefor from the City Finance Office.

(Ord. 5443 (part), 2009: Prior code § 27-31)

5.60.100 Qualifications of applicant.

Each applicant for a driver's license must comply with the following:

- A. Be of the age of 18 years or over;
- B. Be free from any impairment that would affect applicant's ability to properly operate a taxicab;
- C. Be able to read and write the English language;

D. Make a sworn statement giving full name, residence, length of time applicant has resided in the city, previous employment history, whether applicant has ever been convicted of a felony or a misdemeanor, and whether applicant has been previously licensed as a driver, and if so, where and when, and whether applicant's license has ever been revoked, and for what cause.

(Ord. 3380, 1997: Ord. 2933 (part), 1992: prior code § 27-32 (a))

5.60.110 Applicant to be fingerprinted.

Each applicant for a license under this article shall be fingerprinted by the Police Department. (Prior code § 27-33)

5.60.120 Application–Investigation–Issuance.

The application for a taxicab driver's license shall be investigated by the Chief of Police who shall approve or deny the application based on the results of the investigation and applicant's submitted information. Any denial is subject to appeal to the Common Council as set forth in § 5.60.130.

(Ord. 3106, 1994: Ord. 2933 (part), 1992: prior code § 27-32 (b))

5.60.130 Application–Denial–Appeals.

If the application is rejected, the applicant may request a personal appearance before the Common Council to offer evidence why the application should be reconsidered. If, upon consideration, a majority of the Council votes for authorization of the license, the city's Finance Office shall issue a license pursuant to the provisions of this chapter.

(Ord. 2933 (part), 1992: prior code § 27-32 (c))

5.60.140 Fee.

A. The fee for a license under this article shall be as follows:

1. Initial fee: \$50;
2. Renewal fee: \$25; and
3. Holder of an individual merchant security/private security license for the same period: \$10.

B. If any taxicab driver license application is withdrawn, recommended for denial by the Police Department, or denied by the Council, no portion of the fee shall be refunded.

(Ord. 2796, 1990: prior code § 27-34)

5.60.150 Term.

Any license issued under this article shall expire on December 31 next following its issuance; provided, however, any license applied for after October 1 of any calendar year shall remain in effect until December 31 of the succeeding calendar year, unless sooner revoked, canceled or otherwise terminated.

(Prior code § 27-36)

5.60.160 To be carried on person and exhibited upon request.

Each person licensed under this article shall have such license in his or her possession whenever he or she is engaged in driving a taxicab, and shall exhibit the same for inspection whenever he or she is requested to do so by a police officer.

(Prior code § 27-35)

5.60.170 Suspension–Revocation.

Any license issued under this chapter may be revoked, for cause, by the Council, after notice to the holder of the license and an opportunity for hearing before the Council. The Chief of Police shall have the authority to suspend any license issued under this chapter for good cause pending a hearing before the Council. The power to suspend the license shall be exercised only if it shall appear to the Chief of Police that there is probable cause to believe that the holder of the license has committed a crime involving moral turpitude. The holder of any license suspended by the Chief of Police shall have a right to a hearing before the Chief of Police within 48 hours of a written request therefor. As used herein the term Chief of Police shall include the Chief of Police and any subordinate officer temporarily acting as the officer in charge of the Police Department.

(Ord. 3319, 1996: prior code § 27-37)