

**Mayor's Economic Recovery Task Force
February 19, 2021 - Meeting Minutes**

Subject:	MINUTES OF MAYOR'S ECONOMIC RECOVERY TASK FORCE MEETING 18
Attendees:	Mayor Dan Carter, Chair Tito-Dante Marimpietri, Scott Henderson, Ivano Labricciosa, Keith Cowley, Jeff Robinson, Roger Bouma, Stacey Hawkins, Daniel Stober, Dustin Kellow, Debbie McKee-Demczyk, Kyle Douglas
Staff:	Warren Munro, Paul Ralph
Regrets:	Peter Saturno, Ihor Lysyk, Glen Posteraro, Nancy Shaw, Peter Stoett, Lucy Stocco
Meeting location:	Cisco Webex Meeting
Date & time:	February 19, 2021, 11:00 AM – 12:30 PM

Agenda Item	Actions
1. Welcome	<p>Opening remarks by Chair Marimpietri</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Durham Region moved into red zone this week, which is a relief to a lot of businesses. <p>Opening remarks by Mayor Carter</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mayor Carter provided an update from the Ontario Big City Mayors meeting. • Province is aiming to have the first dose be rolled out to health care workers, front line workers and individuals over the age of 80 by April. Roll out is expected to increase dramatically after the first phase. Expected to roll out 2.6 million vaccines per month. • Municipalities continue to be ready to support roll out. • Two reports going forward to Council on Monday. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Downtown restaurant patio season will begin on April 1st • Extended the deadline for the Community Improvement Plan grant to April 31st. • City of Hamilton is offering a one-stop service for local businesses through their Chamber of Commerce. Mayor requests the Chamber review the model and assess the feasibility of undertaking a similar project.

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mayor's Task Force for Community Safety, Security, and Well-Being will be hosting a business town hall regarding safety and security in Oshawa. • There are 61 7-Eleven stores looking at setting up small self-service bar within their convenience stores. Caucus advocated to the province that this initiative is not supported by the municipalities.
2. February 4th Meeting Minutes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No changes to the February 4th meeting minutes.
3. Review of the Agenda	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No changes to the existing agenda.
4. Deputation – Chris Keillor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chris Keillor <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • General Manager at Oshawa Centre and work with Cambridge Ivanhoe properties in Ontario and Nova Scotia. • Retail had a lot of unique challenges this past year. Planning and adapting have been key with the new frameworks and zones. Lockdown during the busiest time of year for retail was a big setback. Businesses are happy to now reopen in red zone. • Oshawa Centre saw a decrease in foot traffic as a result of limited operating hours which in turn affects sales and employment. Also, an increased cost for safety protocols. Health and safety is the biggest focus and priority for Oshawa Centre. • Working closely and in collaboration with tenants to open as many as possible when the regulations permit. While closed during the lockdown there was curbside pick-up and in-mall pick up to keep businesses open. During lockdown Oshawa Centre was open in some capacity and adapted with the new regulations. Security level was maintained throughout. • Ivanhoe Cambridge is offering free space for vaccination roll out sites including to Durham Region Public Health. • Kyle Douglas inquired about the messaging required from the task force members to assist the Oshawa Centre <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Health and safety protocols would be the main priority. The mall is continuously taking on additional sanitary protocol and adding security guards on site for screening.

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chair Marimpietri inquired how many businesses were able to remain open with regulations and about short term leasing. Additionally, inquired about empty locations including former Sears location. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nearly 35-40 tenants (Office, Food and Beverage, Medical) were able to remain open during the lockdown. • Majority of the retail component is now open. Additional 16 more will open in the next couple of weeks out of the total 210. • Short term leasing is a great program that offers businesses to test the waters before committing to long-term especially for smaller businesses. • The focus is on operation given COVID. No redevelopment plan can be shared right now.
5. Roundtable Update	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kyle Douglas <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Slight decrease in job during the initial lockdown because individuals were nervous about going into homes (both employees and customers). The reopening last year resulted a huge uptick, hopeful same will happen now. • From a chamber perspective, pre-budget consultation with the Minister of Finance and advocated for Highway 412 and 418 links to 407 to eliminate tolls, Go Train extension, Lakeridge Healthcare campus, and high-speed internet connectivity. • Daniel Stober <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase in new credit requests. Mid-size businesses are looking for financing, as they want to take advantage of the low interest rates. • New program is being launched called Highly Affected Sectors Credit Availability Program (HASCAP). It is a BDC guarantee program that ranges from \$25,000 to \$1 million. Businesses can take advantage of this even if they have applied for C.E.B.A. and BDC co-lending program. • The program has not been formally launched yet but members will be emailed any information available when it is public. • No update on bankruptcy but will update the task force with a follow up email.

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dustin Kellow <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • After January was one of the strongest months for recruiting, the demand has begun to now reflect more average figures. • There is currently a rise on debt and that coupled with a potential third wave and the wage subsidy expected to end in June is a real concern. • Manufacturing concern is the direction President Biden's will take on America First initiative. Manufacturing has slowed down because sales have halted because of the uncertainty. • Ivano Labricciosa <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Durham Police are continuing to patrol in the downtown hot spots. • Healthy amount of parking in downtown and the free parking is helping. Businesses are in support of continuing free parking as it is bringing more people downtown. • Recovery is now the focus. Small businesses are even now constrained in terms of resources and capacity. They need help navigating all the support grants and loans. They also need assistance in bringing more people downtown. • OPUC receivables have grown and almost double the average rate. Consumption is increasing but OPUC does not profit from consumption. OPUC collects on behalf of other agencies so collection volume has increased but OPUC's portion remains flat. • Launched high speed internet provision called Durham Broadband. Leveraging existing assets in terms of network leasing. It is currently geared towards businesses but not residential. Making applications to the ICON fund with the Region, which is connected to the Provincial fund and matching fund by the federal government. • Roger Bouma <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase in listing inventory, approximately 175 active listings in Oshawa today. Sold 208 homes so far this month in Oshawa. Selling an average of 11 ½ homes a day in the City which is double from January because of inventory availability.

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Small shift in multiple offers. Properties that were getting 10-20 offers are getting just a couple because of the bigger supply available. • January over January increase of 37% or approximately \$100,000 increase from December to January then it is a concern in terms of sustainability. • Reports are saying that homes will have a higher value at the end of the year then the start but not at the same escalation as 2020. • A key indicator is seniors moving from owning to renting because of maintenance. The lack of rental availability is a concern for that demographic. Retirees are now moving out of the area to Belleville, Lindsay, and Peterborough. • Average selling price in January was \$830,991 in Oshawa for a detached home. • Stacey Hawkins <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Good news that the provincial government lifted the restrictions on the residential construction industry. • D.H.B.A. is a little concerned about the increasing development charges, Oshawa is a slight increase but Whitby is almost double. • Durham Region's new directive is to implement new green standards on residential construction. Hosting a seminar with the Ontario Home Builders Association on building green and repercussions of fast-forwarding the requirements. • Received Mayor's letter about promoting Shop Local and will be connecting with the Chamber of Commerce. • Jeff Robinson <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deputations are very helpful and allow member to see the challenges by local businesses. • No impact in the last few months from COVID-19, except for mental health concerns. No outbreaks on job sites as well. • Continue to notice material shortages and increase in prices, especially for structural steel. Lumber continues to increase in price and difficult to obtain. Logistics issue with procuring materials from the U.S.

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • General Motors is almost completed \$10 million in 2021 and have a remaining \$8 million on the project. On track for the rest of it but just experiencing delays in design. Test track is now officially open. • All job sites and tendering is going strong. • Scott Henderson <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trent is now in reading week, which allows for an adjustment period for new protocols in red zone. • Students can now come back into campus to study with social distancing • Trent will be hosting their first in person class on new campus with a reduced class size • Pushing to be on campus for next year, although it will be dependent on various factors. Increase in mental health concerns for students with no in person connection. • Short-term rentals will be an issue because there is change ownership for student housing and health concerns for property owners. There will be a housing shortage when student return to campus. • Roger Bouma shared that former student rentals are now sold or leased by individuals seeking housing alternatives. • Keith Cowley <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shut downs are mainly in the hospitality sector. • Small businesses continue to be affected the most and are in survival mode. Industrial sector is performing well. • Shop Local campaign continues to be well received in and out of the hospitality sector. There is frustration about changing regulations and vaccine rollout. • H.A.S.C.A.P. is a working capital loan for highly affected sectors. Designed for businesses with revenue decreased by more than 50% for three months out of the last eight months. It is still being rolled out at bank retail level. Businesses apply through the primary institutions. There are specific qualification criteria businesses need to meet and will be the same regardless of the institution. It is 4% rate that is amortized over ten years.

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mayor Carter shared that City and Chamber will communicate out the program information. • Debbie McKee-Demczyk <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • International students were previously permitted to complete 50% from their home country but now the federal government has changed it to 100%. It is good news for enrolment but there is a challenge for integration for the students if they come late into their studies or arriving in the community after their studies are complete. • Red zone allows more students to return for face-to-face sessions and opening amenities around campus. • Ongoing concern about student mental health. Currently taking a survey about how students are doing with online studied and COVID-19. • Hopeful to have students back on campus when it is safe to do so.
7. Closing Remarks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Closing remarks by Mayor Carter and Chair Marimpietri. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mayor Carter shared that Panattoni's first building is now mostly occupied by new tenants from outside of the community, nearly 600,000 square feet. There is also significant interest in their second building, nearly 400,000 square feet. • City is working with the Region of Durham to move forward on the Northwood Business Park. • Receiving a lot of great feedback from the news stories about Oshawa's increasing population. • Next meeting will March 5 at 11:00 am.