

**Mayor's Economic Recovery Task Force
February 5, 2021 - Meeting Minutes**

Subject:	MINUTES OF MAYOR'S ECONOMIC RECOVERY TASK FORCE MEETING 17
Attendees:	Mayor Dan Carter, Chair Tito-Dante Marimpietri, Scott Henderson, Nancy Shaw, Peter Stoett, Ivano Labricciosa, Keith Cowley, Lucy Stocco, Jeff Robinson, Roger Bouma, Stacey Hawkins, Daniel Stober, Dustin Kellow, Debbie McKee-Demczyk
Staff:	Warren Munro, Paul Ralph
Regrets:	Peter Saturno, Ihor Lysyk, Glen Posteraro, Kyle Douglas
Meeting location:	Cisco Webex Meeting
Date & time:	February 5, 2021, 11:00 AM – 12:30 PM

Agenda Item	Actions
1. Welcome	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Opening remarks by Chair Marimpietri and Mayor Carter. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chair Marimpietri shared that former Councilor John Aker passed away yesterday. Memorial donations are to be made to Asthma Canada. •
2. January 22 nd Meeting Minutes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No changes to the January 22nd meeting minutes.
3. Review of the Agenda	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No changes to the existing agenda.
4. Deputation – Tom England	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tom England <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In support of City and Council pushing for businesses to be open. • Neb's Fun World is now third generation business. • Oshawa must position themselves to have the most competitive City taxes in Ontario to attract businesses not just residents. • Nearly all employees had to be laid off during the pandemic. The venue does not fit the normal categories for capacity. In red zone, Nebs was only allowed 10 patrons despite having 100,000 square feet of space. During the pandemic experienced a 90% drop in income.

Agenda Item	Actions
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Currently dealing with an issue in a matter related to corporate taxes with federal and provincial government. • Implemented many changes during the closure that will allow patrons to safely experience the venue. Added handwashing stations throughout the establishment to make it easier for parents to sanitize children. Also inputted intercom-based ordering stations that allow employees to be behind a glass and process orders. Additionally, kiosks will be in place for patrons to make purchases for merchandise stored in the back. • Lack of clarity around the regulation for mixed-use buildings. • Neb’s Fun World was undertaking a large expansion prior to the pandemic. Local contractors were creative to continue the work in the same timeline. However, due to effects on certain materials there was a slowdown. • Nearly 25% of staff has stated they will not be returning due to other opportunities and not confident in Neb’s ability to rebound. • All interactions with City staff and agencies have been helpful and made an effort to work with businesses during this time. • Buy Local has softened resident’s opinion about the business and made them more sensitive when choosing where to shop. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mayor Carter noted that a Council resolution passed to request the provincial government to consider using a percentage of Building and Fire Code capacity for maximum occupancy. • Mayor Carter also shared that allowing only big box stores to remain open is a health and economic issue. Small businesses are taking extraordinary steps to meet COVID-19 regulations but forced to close.
5. Deputation – Danny Kallinteris	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Danny Kallinteris <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wedding venue and restaurant are severely impacted. • All weddings scheduled from March 13 were cancelled. In September, when regulations permitted, hosted four weddings with 40-50 guests each.

Agenda Item	Actions
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Surviving on the two months of revenue from pub and patio in the summer. • The biggest concern is the unknown. Business does not know how long to budget for and when reopening will be allowed. • Laid off all staff as well and down to one employees. Many staff moved on to other industries because the restaurant industry was hit so hard. • Weddings scheduled for this year are postponed to next year. • Survival will be dependent on the summer season and use of restaurant and patio. • Local restaurants are taking many precautions to document employees and patrons and socially distancing. • Organized the food truck event in October to help fellow restaurant owners. • Shop Local campaign is a great initiative and response has been great by residents. • Need to know about reopening within the next few weeks in order to accommodate wedding season for May and beyond. • Currently noticing a decline for booking because people are scared to confirm and put deposits. • Noted that all City staff were very accessible and willing to assist. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chair Marimpietri discussed the possibility of being featured in the Buy Local campaign to remind residents about their location in the south. • Chair Marimpietri also urged to have local suppliers get in touch to be highlighted through the initiative. • Mayor Carter shared that the campaign has been great in highlighting local businesses that have been around for years. Businesses such as Buckingham Meats have seen a huge impact. • Members of task force offered specialized assistance through their expertise. • Mayor Carter suggested a “We Are Back” initiative when reopening is permitted to display Oshawa businesses.
6. Economic Update	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Keith Cowley <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shared links for economic updates with all members.

Agenda Item	Actions
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Difficulty in received micro data relating to Oshawa. • Economic recovery is still dependent on the course of the pandemic and distribution of vaccine. • Service industries such as restaurant and hospitality are going to experience a second difficult year and expected to return to normal next year. • Economists are recognizing the Buy Local mindset are becoming popular. • Ontario had the strongest health restriction in 2020 and could experience the strongest growth. It includes the strong investment from the automotive sector. • BDC continuing to fund any growth projects with enough information about current conditions and projections. • Daniel Stober <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Economist predictions are open ended to account for the uncertainty. • Improvement in rates showing that there is a better future ahead. Long-term rates are climbing but short-term rates are still very low. • Clients have shut down but continuing businesses remotely. • Similar trends to Keith's forecasts at BDC • New jobs reports shows the severe impact on Canada due to the lockdown. • Banks are now asking for more updated financial documents and projections when processing requests but continuing to honor previous commitments.
7. Roundtable Update	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lucy Stocco <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Industry continues to perform well. Last year was good sales year and preliminary indications are that for the near future it will be a good year. • Stacey Hawkins <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Focus is collecting information to advocate with the provincial government to lift the restrictions on constructions. • Roger Bouma

Agenda Item	Actions
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Industry is continuing growth. Unofficial numbers indicate sale of 135 detached homes in Oshawa in January. This is an increase from December 2020 and January 2020. Notwithstanding the fact that there is almost no inventory. • Prices year over year are up about \$216,000 on an average detached home. Average detached home in Oshawa sold for \$829,000. • Most buyers are coming from downtown Toronto because the entertainment is now closed and there is remote working. • Nancy Shaw <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sent a letter with Durham Region, Whitby Chamber of Commerce, and Ajax-Pickering Board of Trade regarding broadband. • Budget submission today with Minister of Finance and will be advocating for Go Train Expansion, Task Force for Homeless Strategy, and new Healthcare Campus. • Businesses are now increasingly saying they are closing their doors forever. • Chamber is continuing to attract new members, which might be related to the few industries that are performing well. • Occupancy is the number one concern from businesses. • Ivano Labricciosa <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encouraging businesses to invest right now especially in patios for restaurants. • Offering to assist businesses in any way possible. • Huge parity between industries. Some are experiencing record-breaking growth while others are closing forever. • Dustin Kellow <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In terms of hiring, spring is usually the busiest time of year. Due to COVID, there is the opposite effect. Company is three times busier in January than they have ever been. Noticed a lag effect during the summer. • Businesses that are allowed to operate and under low regulations are booming right now.

Agenda Item	Actions
	<p>Manufacturing, for example, is performing very well and some clients are doing better than pre-COVID.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Debbie McKee-Demczyk <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enrolment remains steady at Durham College with small declines. • Delivery continues to be online. Institutions are now announcing plans for spring and summer semester. • International enrolment is a little uncertain given the recent announcements of quarantine requirement and the associated expense. It is a little concerning and may be a deterrent to international students. • Durham College announced their new academic plan. There is going to be a continued investment in online learning tools. • Teaching City is providing great opportunities for students to engage and solve problems. • Scott Henderson <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Planning to offer summer semester remotely. • Looking to relaunch the course in collaboration with Ontario Tech University that analyzes recovery for the City. • Fall semester planned for mainly in-person delivery but it is uncertain if it will be actualized. • Jeff Robinson <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continuing construction at General Motors. Almost 300 construction workers on that site to move forward.
8. Action Items	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chair Marimpietri requested consensus on extending the Urban Growth Community Improvement Plan deadline from March 1 to April 30. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No members opposed. • Moved to Development Services Committee. • Chair Marimpietri requested consensus on pushing up patio season from May 1 to April 1. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No members opposed. • Moved to Development Services Committee.

Agenda Item	Actions
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mayor Carter met with Premier Ford to advocate for local businesses and continued support required. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Additionally, shared that Oshawa wants to be a part of the efforts for vaccine rollout. • Mayor Carter had a positive meeting with Go Transit and the project continues to move forward. • Chair Marimpietri shared that for industrial space, various tenants have been able to secure nearly 400,000 square feet of space. Announcement will follow soon.
9. Closing Remarks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Closing remarks by Mayor Carter and Chair Marimpietri. • Next meeting will February 5 at 11:00 am.