

**Mayor's Economic Recovery Task Force
October 16, 2020 - Meeting Minutes**

Subject:	MINUTES OF MAYOR'S ECONOMIC RECOVERY TASK FORCE MEETING 11
Attendees:	Mayor Dan Carter, Chair Tito-Dante Marimpietri, Scott Henderson, Debbie McKee-Demczyk, Jeff Robinson, Stacey Hawkins, Dustin Kellow, Roger Bouma, Nancy Shaw, Daniel Stober, Peter Stoett, Ivano Labricciosa
Staff:	Warren Munro, Kyle Benham
Regrets:	Peter Saturno, Lucy Stocco, Ihor Lysyk, Glen Posteraro, Kyle Douglas, Keith Cowley
Meeting location:	Cisco Webex Meeting
Date & time:	October 16, 2020, 11 AM – 12:30 PM

Agenda Item	Actions
1. Welcome	<p>Opening remarks by Chair Marimpietri and thanks to the participating members.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chair Marimpietri shared that Altus Group ranked City of Oshawa as number one in development approvals among 18 major markets in the Greater Toronto Area. Noted that development timelines have been a priority for the task force since March.
2. September 25 th Meeting Minutes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> September 25th meeting minutes amended to reflect member comments.
3. Review of the Agenda	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No changes to the existing agenda.
4. Economic Update	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Daniel Stober provided an economic update from TD. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The unemployment rate on a national level has now decreased from 10% to 9%. Canada has now recovered nearly three quarters of the jobs that were lost due to COVID. Most of the jobs were full-time. Retail sales in July were a modest increase, not as strong as June but is growing slowly. Losses are fairly contained and there is cautious optimism. Nearly 120 bankruptcies were filed in Oshawa this year in small to medium businesses, similar to

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	<p>figures in other municipalities. Year over year trend shows that bankruptcies has decreased. Important to note that not every business that is shut down has filed bankruptcy and that there is a govt. processing back log.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is a further expansion of the CEBA program for a higher loan, higher loan forgiveness and extended deadline. • Currently noticing a new wave of mortgage deferral requests, although there is no requests for an extension on the deferral period. • Also a higher rate of lending requests and clients utilizing existing lending credits. • Prepared to create a quarterly report on economics for the task force if approved by TD. • Currently working a lot more with new companies and an increased number of merger and acquisition inquiries. • Accounts receivables appear to be caught up now. • Daniel to confirm decrease in personal debt ratio since March.
5. Faces of Local Businesses	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kyle Benham provided an update on the shop local campaign. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Messages from Chair Marimpietri and Mayor Carter have been filmed and are being edited. • Shortlisted businesses to profile to start the campaign. • Expected to release week of October 26th.
6. Status of Action Items	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commissioner Munro provided an update on the delay of development charges action item. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • City Council recommended to engage the Durham School Boards and Region of Durham on the item. Region does not intend on participating. School Board has not officially responded but intend to follow suit with the Region. • Commissioner Munro will be reporting to finance committee and will be noting the comments from task force including the strong sales of homes in Oshawa. • Stacey Hawkins expressed support for the original request on behalf of smaller builders that had to delay projects due to COVID capacity regulations. Commissioner Munro to inform finance committee of the feedback.

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kyle Benham provided an update on action items <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Survey drafted for the culture industry. To be completed by October 19th and open for response for a month. • Cultural roundtable is being planned for the various sub sectors. • Project with Trent University is underway for a long term analysis on cultural recovery and current processes. • Digital Main Street is currently accepting application. Uptake amongst the community has not been significant. Requesting task force members to assist in sharing the program. • Laraib Arshad provided an update on filming productions. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Summer due to COVID halted film productions. Since September there has been a few productions in Oshawa and an increase in location inquiries for coming months. International productions are required to quarantine for 14 days which has delayed schedules. Toronto has begun to have more productions which will ripple throughout G.T.A.
7. Roundtable Update	<p>OPEN DISCUSSION</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nancy Shaw noted that there is not a lot of feedback from businesses currently. Businesses are waiting to see what will happen. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Restaurants are declining in revenue but thankful not to be in a stage two shutdown. • Retail will take some time to recover as customers are hesitant to enter. • Chamber is conducting calls and receiving mixed updates. • Currently making video and podcasts. Chamber will soon collaborate with the City on message. • Not receiving any feedback about issues with receivable but will inquire in follow up calls. • Mayor Carter shared that in conversations with Premier Ford and other mayors they are urging to provide transition time for restaurants if region is taken back a stage. It will allow restaurants to prepare and modify their business.

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ivano Labricciosa shared for OPUC that currently there is double the amount of outstanding receivables. Currently not a concern because businesses will catch up eventually. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase in residential usage, however, since it is based on fixed price there is no benefit. • Suggested combining stats from utility providers, real estate agents, developers and City to demonstrate a unified quick turnaround. • Ivano Labricciosa shared that in the BIA they are conducting a survey. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Business community supports moving forward to help the unsheltered and support food distribution with careful planning and control. • Some businesses are making 15% to 45% of their normal sales. • A few restaurants have exceeded sales compared to last year due to delivery and pick-up. • Recently held a town hall with DRPS and are aware of some major arrests in Memorial Park. • Highlighted that Durham continues to have low COVID cases unlike the rest of the GTA. Interested to know if we there are indicators to watch to know if second wave is coming to Durham. • Mayor Carter provided the following updates. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shared that the Bond and Mary development is ahead of schedule. The same developer is actively seeking more opportunities in Oshawa. • Noted that businesses are following regulations with masks, social distancing, traffic flow, sanitization, etc. The greater concern is private events and migration from west end. Will confirm with Durham Region Public Health if there is any key markers that can indicate an outbreak. • Food distribution services are being encouraged to distribute food across the city and not just in the downtown area. • Interested to know from the members if there is anything the City can assist with in terms of safety and cleanliness in the downtown.

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jeff Robinson shared that the G.M. test track should be in operation in a few weeks. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Construction industry remains strong. J.J. Maguire is hiring more employees as a result. • Receivables are not at a tremendous rate, higher than usual but not of concern. • Industrial projects for tender are now increasing • In addition to lumber other material prices are now increasing by 10% - 20%. Working with some clients to push constructions until cost and timeline could be better planned. A few active projects are delayed slightly due to materials. There is a shortage of concrete in Toronto due major projects that are underway. • Mayor Carter recently spoke with Minister of Infrastructure and assured they understand the constraints. Province is pushing to find solutions and work with federal government for assistance. There will be investment in moving infrastructure projects forward. • Roger Bouma shared that the market is performing well. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trend of multiple offers on homes at the bottom end of market. • Homes are selling in an average of 12 days. • 1,492 residential transactions in September • Average price of a home in Durham in September was \$734,000 which is 20% increase from last year. • Similar market performance in the Greater Toronto Area. Downtown Toronto currently has high number of condominiums for sale. • Peter Stoett shared that Ontario Tech University will be playing a leading role in Project Arrow. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • University continues to adjust and classes for winter semester will be available online with exception on labs. • Ontario Tech University's new building will be open in 2021. • Anticipating the return of students to campus in spring and fall. They will maintain their online presence as they made big investments in online platforms. • University continues to work with the City on many projects through Teaching Cities. Also, developing a

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	<p>few programs such as police leadership and creative arts program.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • University is seeking new way to interact with international students and high school students. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dustin Kellow shared that a number of companies they are working with are currently performing really well. Their clients are strategizing on best method to move forward investing in training. They are not delaying their operations to see the effects of the second wave. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Front line operations are looking at ways to optimize production and efficiency. Analyzing which roles can be automated or cut if non-essential. Industrial projects are moving forward but some continue to be delayed. • Noticing a trend of investment in HR. Increase in employee hiring from their clients. • Accounts receivable is now back to normal.
8. Closing Remarks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mayor Carter shared that they continue to strongly advocate for Oshawa to be the new site for the Lakeridge Hospital • Chair Marimpietri noted that Oshawa continues to play a strong role in the national economy. Council and staff are continuously working to advance Oshawa's position in various fronts. • Closing remarks by Chair Marimpietri. • Next meeting will be October 30th at 11 AM.