

**Mayor's Economic Recovery Task Force  
September 11, 2020 - Meeting Minutes**

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

<b>Agenda Item</b>	<b>Actions</b>
1. Welcome	<p>Opening remarks by Chair Marimpietri and thanks to the participating members.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Chair Marimpietri acknowledged the announcement out of Ajax welcoming Amazon to Durham Region and recognized the early efforts of Oshawa to bring major industrial developers to the east end.</li> <li>• Chair Marimpietri noted that Metrolinx and Government of Ontario continue to work out the details regarding the GO Train expansion.</li> <li>• Commissioner Munro highlighted that Building Services reporting excellent building permit values. In the first six months of the year, the City already exceeded the previous year figures.</li> </ul>
2. August 28th Meeting Minutes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The August 28<sup>th</sup> meeting minutes were endorsed as amended.</li> </ul>
3. Review of the Agenda	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No changes to the existing agenda.</li> </ul>
4. Impact on Commercial and Industrial Leasing and Investment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Kyle Benham provided an overview of vacancy in Oshawa's industrial and commercial sectors. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Throughout Durham Region there is low industrial vacancy rate. Oshawa has nearly 1.3 million square feet of space that will be completed soon.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Oshawa conducts an annual vacancy survey of the downtown. It is expected to be complete in a few weeks. Commercial within downtown is affected.</li> <li>• Daniel Stober noted that TD Bank is continuously monitoring unemployment and consumer spending to see the COVID effect on the economy. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Nationally we have recovered nearly 2 out of the 3 jobs that were lost. Unemployment continues to be high and will take some time to recover.</li> <li>• Within household spending, auto and housing market are leading the recovery. This is expected to slow down in the coming months.</li> <li>• Benefit will be ending soon and it is expected it will bring forward more issues within the economy.</li> <li>• Will bring information regarding bankruptcy to the next meeting. Currently courts are backed up so the data could be flawed.</li> <li>• Mayor Carter stated that almost 30% of commuters are expected to remain in Oshawa this year. Will this have a major impact on the local economy? Daniel Stober mentioned that migration from Toronto is expected and since employees do not want to use public transport, it is expected the offices might relocate to suburbs. Daniel noted that prior to COVID, TD was shifting the shared space but now it may move towards more personal space.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Dustin Kellow shared that there is a decent amount of employees living in Durham that are senior management in Toronto firms. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Past few clients have been Toronto employees looking to relocate to Durham Region.</li> <li>• Reminding clients that a job in Durham may be a pay cut but there will be less commute cost and time.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Mayor Carter inquired whether the local economy should be preparing for anything in the event of migration. Over 400,000 people commute to Toronto daily. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mayor Carter suggested themes for marketing such as “It pay to work local” and “talent lives here.”</li> <li>• Also highlighted that Oshawa is one of 18 cities across Canada that will be having 5G.</li> <li>• Marketing should include average cost and time spent commuting.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Dustin shared a tool on Durham Recruiting's website that allows you to calculate the time and cost of commuting.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Jeff Robinson shared that in his experience employees are not willing to take wage reduction for saving commute time.</li> <li>• Lucy Stocco shared that in her experience if a both spouses are able to secure jobs in Durham then they look for houses further east in Oshawa/ Clarington. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tribute Communities sales continue to be strong.</li> <li>• Lucy will provide a summary of the types of buyers entering Durham at the next meeting.</li> <li>• Lucy will also share if there is any demand due to Amazon's announcement.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Stacey Hawkins noted that there is an upcoming board meeting for the Home Builders' Association. Stacey will report back in regards to any trends and feedback on serviced and zoned lands. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lumber pricing and shortage continue.</li> <li>• Mainly involved in residential projects.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Ivano Labricciosa noted that O.P.U.C. has not experienced an effect on material sourcing. Currently utilizing Canadian suppliers. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Outstanding collections stand at almost double the normal rate.</li> <li>• Almost 20% decline in commercial and industrial. Substantial increase in residential is not enough to positively effect on the net figures.</li> <li>• Increasing concern over second wave.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Jeff Robinson shared that all J.J. Maguire employees are now back in the office and all job sites are open. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continues to be more projects but finding it difficult to find more talent to take on the project.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Scott Henderson shared that Trent University's new building is open. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The new residence has about 40 students as of now and still receiving inquiries from interested parents.</li> <li>• Trent University will be offering a capstone project with City Idea Lab on local culture and shop local</li> <li>• Trent is looking to offer a logistics and supply chain course to fill local needs. Trent is open to further developing programs that assist in filling the gaps of the talent pool in Durham Region.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

Agenda Item	Actions
5. Status of Action Items	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Kyle Benham provided an update on action items. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Ontario Tech Teaching City project on re-animating the Downtown is complete. A link will be forwarded when the final report is up-loaded.</li> <li>• Digital Main Street is live and accepting applications.</li> <li>• Faces of Shop Local Initiative has been drafted and shared with members for feedback. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Initiative is to support local businesses and increase consumer confidence.</li> <li>• Initiative will have a web presence, videos, testimonials, and print ads to share with partners.</li> <li>• Initially will run for six months and then assessed for renewal.</li> <li>• Mayor Carter proposed running a three part campaign about Shop Local, Talent Lives Here, and It Pays to Work Local.</li> <li>• Jeff Robinson offered to put signage on job sites and push it out to suppliers and clients.</li> <li>• Dustin Kellow will assist in marketing and ask his network to also feature it. Dustin can also request testimonials from recent clients that are new to working in Durham Region.</li> <li>• Keith Cowley offered to also push it out through 100 Men of Oshawa organization.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> </ul>
6. Closing Remarks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Closing remarks by Chair Marimpietri.</li> <li>• Next meeting will be September 25<sup>th</sup> at 11 AM.</li> </ul>