

**Mayor's Economic Recovery Task Force  
January 22, 2021 - Meeting Minutes**

<b>Subject:</b>	<b>MINUTES OF MAYOR'S ECONOMIC RECOVERY TASK FORCE MEETING 16</b>
<b>Attendees:</b>	Mayor Dan Carter, Chair Tito-Dante Marimpietri, Scott Henderson, Nancy Shaw, Peter Stoett, Ivano Labricciosa, Keith Cowley, Lucy Stocco, Jeff Robinson, Kyle Douglas, Roger Bouma
<b>Staff:</b>	Warren Munro, Paul Ralph
<b>Regrets:</b>	Peter Saturno, Ihor Lysyk, Glen Posteraro, Dustin Kellow, Debbie McKee-Demczyk, Stacey Hawkins, Daniel Stober
<b>Meeting location:</b>	Cisco Webex Meeting
<b>Date &amp; time:</b>	<b>January 22, 2021, 11:00 AM – 12:30 PM</b>

<b>Agenda Item</b>	<b>Actions</b>
1. Welcome	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Opening remarks by Chair Marimpietri.               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Thanks to Task Force member's participation and continued efforts.</li> <li>• Nine building permit records were set in 2020 with nearly half a billion dollars of construction.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Opening remarks by Mayor Carter               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mayor's Task Force on Safety, Security, and Well Being will hold their first meeting on January 29<sup>th</sup>.                   <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ This Task Force will feed into that if members want to bring forward issues.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Motion passed in Development Services Committee to request province to consider building code or liquor license when assessing capacity for restaurants.                   <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Full support from Ontario's Big City Mayor's Caucus.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Met with Premier Ford for the new isolation centre in Oshawa at Holiday Inn, which is close to the hospital.                   <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Reiterated that small businesses will continue to seek financial support during this time.</li> <li>▪ Discussed task force items and ideas to support local businesses.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> </ul>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Committing to the Go Train extension for when Canadians are ready to go back to work.</li> <li>▪ Advocated that the new Healthcare campus should be located in Oshawa near the University and College.</li> <li>▪ Discussed being part of the vaccine roll out. There has been discussions with General Motors on how they can participate and drive-thru vaccine centres. City offered the utilization of staff from Community Services to assist with the rollout.</li> </ul>
2. January 8 <sup>th</sup> Meeting Minutes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No changes to the January 8<sup>th</sup> meeting minutes.</li> </ul>
3. Review of the Agenda	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No changes to the existing agenda.</li> </ul>
6. Economic Update	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Keith Cowley <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Challenge is getting current economic data on a micro level such as Oshawa</li> <li>• Daniel Stober and Keith Cowley work with larger businesses. Their industries are not impacted as much.</li> <li>• Domenic Albis' Deputation was invaluable and provided a lot of insight into the restaurant industry.</li> <li>• Interested in hearing more from small business owners and their challenges in various fields.</li> <li>• Economic data reports can be shared after the fact to allow for deputations.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Mayor Carter requested members to provide suggestions for delegations from different industries regarding the economy.</li> </ul>
7. Roundtable	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Nancy Shaw <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Recently met with Lakeridge Health board members. It was revealed that the volunteers are not able to go into the hospitals. Individuals are not able to have the hands-on experience of being in a hospital. Revenue is significantly down.</li> <li>• Small businesses are still significantly concerned about their future because the second shutdown is having severe impact.</li> <li>• Chamber proactively is in contact with members via phone calls and emails.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Suggested a Town Hall with Mayor Carter to discuss best methods to assist local businesses.</li>   <li>• Ivano Labricciosa <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Temporary pick up zones are now available and running very well for downtown businesses.</li> <li>• Retail continues to be a concern since they are not allowed to be open.</li> <li>• City should focus on initiatives to bring people back into downtown when stay at home orders are lifted. There should also be discussion on how to incorporate the regulations into the re-opening. An example is dividers in the sidewalk.</li> <li>• Safety and security in downtown were a huge concern during the first shutdown but conditions are better during this phase.</li> <li>• In support of the City being involved with vaccination rollout in the downtown or at General Motors.</li> <li>• In support of Holiday Inn being occupied but there is concern about more COVID cases being downtown. City should communicate more clearly the rules around the isolation centre. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Appreciate the messaging around proximity to hospital and multiplier effect for downtown restaurants. However, residents and businesses want clarity around safety.</li> <li>▪ Mayor Carter clarified anyone in the isolation centre will not be stepping outside of their rooms while they recover.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li>   <li>• Mayor Carter suggested building on the Shop Local initiative with “There is a Reason to Return” for phasing back into the reopening.</li>   <li>• Kyle Douglas <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• During the government relations meeting there was a concern about language on the website that mentioned shopping with small businesses and not national chains. Some Oshawa franchises are owned by local individuals and should be promoted equally.</li> <li>• Mayor Carter noted that all his communications are specific to mentioning local businesses and not small or large companies.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mayor Carter shared that the website is updated to remove any language that does not reference local.</li> <li>• DKI Services nationally are all echoing that there is a fear of being in people's homes.</li> <li>• Kyle Douglas and his brother will be riding their bikes for 8 hours to raise money for the hospital and the mental health/wellness at the Oshawa location. Currently raised \$20,489 since the launched the initiative.</li>   <li>• Jeff Robinson <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• New lockdown has not had any impact on their construction sites.</li> <li>• Noticing a slowdown in the number of projects being tendered due to seasonal effects.</li> <li>• No projects have been shut down and COVID cases are contained.</li> <li>• Mental health in the workplace is the biggest concern.</li> <li>• Noticing more outreach from local charities. Just a reminder to the members to support our grassroots charities that need help with the vulnerable population.</li> <li>• Inability to receive materials remains an issue. Prices of structural steel has increased 26% - 46% depending on the steel. Lumber continues to steadily increase and currently is 300% higher than it was about a year ago.</li> </ul> </li>   <li>• Lucy Stocco <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tribute Communities had a good sales year especially in the last six months.</li> <li>• Since the new lockdown, appointments are now virtual.</li> <li>• Currently working with development services staff on the most recent projects.</li> <li>• Material costs are now coming into play because while they are setting prices for new projects they also need to project costs.</li> <li>• Only one project shut down due to the new regulations, however, it was not in Oshawa.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mayor Carter shared that Oshawa’s population grew by 2.1%, fastest in Canada. Oshawa was also named top five cities to relocate to near Toronto by Huffington Post. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Staff have been preparing for this population increase and assessing infrastructure needs such as fire hall, community centre, COD, etc.</li> </ul> </li>   <li>• Roger Bouma <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Industries continues to perform well.</li> <li>• Real estate prices in Durham in December were up 22% compared to the previous year. Residential transactions were up 21% in 2020 compared to 2019.</li> <li>• In January, thus far, Oshawa had 102 MLS sales. The challenge is that there is only 82 listings in Oshawa currently. Low supply will continue to drive prices up. Average prices are 16% over-asking in the last 21 days.</li> <li>• Sellers are offering 30-minute appointments between 8 AM to 8 PM and there is a 3-day wait for many listings.</li> </ul> </li>   <li>• Peter Stoett <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Looking forward to the return of our international student but there is uncertainty regarding their potential decisions.</li> <li>• Hoping to offer face-to-face classes in the fall but with reduced capacity.</li> <li>• Always cautioned against relying on foreign student as a source of revenue due to the unreliability.</li> <li>• Noticing a decrease in applications from Ontario high school students. Overall, average decrease is approximately 10%.</li> <li>• Increase in applications from mature students.</li> <li>• Returning to normalcy for foreign student applications.</li> <li>• Supportive of the discussion around downtown revitalization. Potentially can look into offering an Ontario Tech site for vaccination.</li> <li>• Student body is looking to build their resume and they are forced inside for all classes. There is a high interest in volunteerism from students.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increase in applications for the Health Science faculty.</li> <li>• Scott Henderson <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• International students are beneficial to communities because they shop and reside local.</li> <li>• Trent Durham is navigating creative ways to attract international students.</li> <li>• Offering new certificate programs and more cohort options for Master of Management program.</li> <li>• Trent Durham applications increased by 29% compared to last year.</li> <li>• On-board to be a vaccination site for Oshawa.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Mayor Carter shared that Port of Oshawa announced their best shipping season ever with 78 vessels visiting the port in 2020. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In discussions with H.O.P.A. to see how City of Oshawa can support their initiatives and plans.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Mayor Carter noted that discussions continue for the transformation of Oshawa Executive airport from a flight school airport to a business class.</li> </ul>
8. Update on Faces of Local Businesses	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Brett Murphy provided an update on faces of local businesses campaign <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• #OshawaLovesLocal campaign continues on social media. All content combined have reached 75,000 impressions and 5,000 engagements.</li> <li>• Curbside signage is placed throughout the City.</li> <li>• Number of advertisements have been placed in newspapers.</li> <li>• Next step is to further promote the series of videos.</li> <li>• Buckingham Meats video had a considerable amount of engagement and views.</li> <li>• Oshawa was featured in a publication from the province for foreign direct investment.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Chair Marimpietri shared Spark Centre magazine feature the Region and City of Oshawa investment opportunities.</li> </ul>
9. Status of Action Items	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Commissioner Munro provided an update on the Foreign Trade Zone Point action item. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Economic Development staff has completed preliminary research to report back to council in the first quarter.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

<b>Agenda Item</b>	<b>Actions</b>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Met with Provincial Economic Development, Hamilton Economic Development, and H.O.P.A. to determine the next steps and road map. They advised it is a lengthy process and could take up to 1.5 years to complete.</li></ul>
10. Closing Remarks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Closing remarks by Mayor Carter and Chair Marimpietri.</li><li>• Next meeting will February 5 at 11:00 am.</li></ul>