



City of Hamilton
MAYOR'S TASK FORCE ON ECONOMIC RECOVERY
AGENDA

Meeting #: 21-001
Date: February 12, 2021
Time: 9:30 a.m.
Location: Due to the COVID-19 and the Closure of City Hall - ROOM 264

All electronic meetings can be viewed at:

City of Hamilton's Website:
<https://www.hamilton.ca/council-committee/council-committee-meetings/meetings-and-agendas>

City's Youtube Channel:
<https://www.youtube.com/user/InsideCityofHamilton>

Loren Kolar, Legislative Coordinator (905) 546-2424 ext. 2604

1. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

(Added Items, if applicable, will be noted with *)

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

3.1. November 26, 2020

4. COMMUNICATIONS

4.1. Presentations and Motions from the General Issues Committee meeting of December of December 9, 2020 respecting the Mayor's Task Force on Economic Recovery

Recommendation: Be received

4.2. Correspondence respecting Economic Recovery Initiatives for the City of Hamilton

Recommendation: Be received.

5. **CONSENT ITEMS**

6. **STAFF PRESENTATIONS**

7. **DISCUSSION ITEMS**

8. **MOTIONS**

9. **NOTICES OF MOTION**

10. **GENERAL INFORMATION / OTHER BUSINESS**

10.1. Mayor's Task Force on Economic Recovery Member Update (no copy)

11. **PRIVATE AND CONFIDENTIAL**

12. **ADJOURNMENT**



Hamilton

MAYOR'S TASK FORCE ON ECONOMIC RECOVERY

MINUTES 20-006

Thursday, November 26, 2020

8:30 a.m.

Council Chamber

Hamilton City Hall

71 Main Street West

Present: Councillors J. P. Danko and N. Nann
 R. McKerlie, President of Mohawk College (Chair)
 R. Brown, Manager, Westfield Heritage Village
 K. Duffin, President and CEO, Amity Goodwill
 P. Hall, Executive Director, Stoney Creek Chamber of Commerce
 K. Jarvi, Executive Director, Downtown Hamilton BIA
 T. Johns, Board Member, West End Home Builders' Association (Vice-Chair)
 L. La Rocca, Director of Operations, Sonic Unyon Records
 K. Loomis, President & CEO, Hamilton Chamber of Commerce
 B. Lubbers, General Manager, Courtyard by Marriott
 A. Marco, President, Hamilton & District Labour Council
 R. McCann, Founder, Clearcable Networks
 B. Munroe, Blacktop Recess
 M. Patricelli, Executive Director, Flamborough Chamber of Commerce
 C. Puckering, President and CEO, Hamilton International Airport
 D. Spoelstra, Chair of Agriculture & Rural Affairs Committee
 J. Travis, Executive Director Workforce Planning Hamilton
 H. Wegiel, Director of Government and Trade Relations ArcelorMittal Dofasco
 G. Yuyitung, Executive Director of the McMaster Industry Liaison Office

Absent with

Regrets: Mayor F. Eisenberger – City Business
 Councillor T. Whitehead – Personal
 M. Afinec, President & COO of Business Operations, Hamilton Tiger-Cats & Forge FC
 F. Bernstein, Executive Director, Workers Art & Heritage Centre
 E. Dunham, Owner, The Other Bird
 M. Ellerker, Business Manager, Hamilton-Brantford Building & Construction Trades Council (Building/Skilled Trades Sector)
 T. Shattuck, Chair, Synapse Life Science Consortium, McMaster Innovation Park

FOR INFORMATION:

(a) CHANGES TO THE AGENDA (Item 2)

The Clerk advised the Task Force that there were no changes to the agenda.

(Marco/Nann)

That the agenda for the November 26, 2020 meeting of the Mayor's Task Force on Economic Recovery, be approved, as presented.

CARRIED

(b) DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST (Item 2)

There were no declarations of interest.

(c) APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING (Item 3)

(i) September 25, 2020 (Item 3.1)

(Jarvi/Loomis)

That the Minutes of the September 25, 2020 meeting of the Mayor's Task Force on Economic Recovery, be approved, as presented.

CARRIED

(d) DISCUSSION ITEM (Item 7)

(i) Final Draft Report of the Mayor's Task Force on Economic Recovery (Item 7.1)

(Loomis/Hall)

That the Final Draft Report of the Mayor's Task Force on Economic Recovery be amended by including the following:

- (a) Establishment of a Small Business Tax Class Status as permitted by the Province of Ontario that will target support for small businesses in the City of Hamilton,
- (b) Addition of Rural Boundary Protection and Environmental Support within Climate Action Priority Areas of Action; and
- (c) Revise the information regarding affordable housing units to reflect current Council approval.

CARRIED

(Loomis/Hall)

That the Final Draft Report of the Mayor's Task Force on Economic Recovery be approved as amended and referred to the December 9, 2020 General Issues Committee meeting for consideration.

CARRIED

R. McCann requested to be marked as OPPOSED to the approval of the report.

(e) ADJOURNMENT (Item 11)

(Brown/McCann)

There being no further business, the Mayor's Task Force on Economic Recovery be adjourned at 10:09 a.m.

CARRIED

Respectfully submitted,

Ron McKerlie, Chair
Mayor's Task Force on Economic
Recovery

Loren Kolar
Legislative Coordinator
Office of the City Clerk

REPORT OF THE
Mayor's Task Force on
**ECONOMIC
RECOVERY**

Mission & Mandate

The Mayor's Task Force on Economic Recovery provided multi-sectoral leadership and direction to guide Hamilton's economic recovery with a mandate to:

- Develop an action driven plan to position the City of Hamilton now, for long-term, sustainable and equitable economic recovery.
- Establish defined outcomes with specific deliverables to address the priority economic impacts.
- Identify issues and opportunities to convey to other levels of government.
- Provide advice and assistance in the implementation of the Task Force's plan for economic recovery.
- Provide advice and suggestions to the Mayor, Council and senior staff for specific City of Hamilton actions and responses.

7 Working Groups

Seven Working Groups were identified and selected to represent the broad range of industry sectors impacted by COVID-19 and included:

- 1. SMALL BUSINESS, RESTAURANTS, MAIN STREET AREAS
& NON-PROFIT**
- 2. MANUFACTURING & LIFE SCIENCES**
- 3 AGRICULTURE & CIRCULAR ECONOMY**
- 4. ARTS & CULTURE**
- 5. TOURISM & HOSPITALITY**
- 6. WORKPLACE & OFFICE**
- 7. TRANSPORTATION, BUILDING & INFRASTRUCTURE**

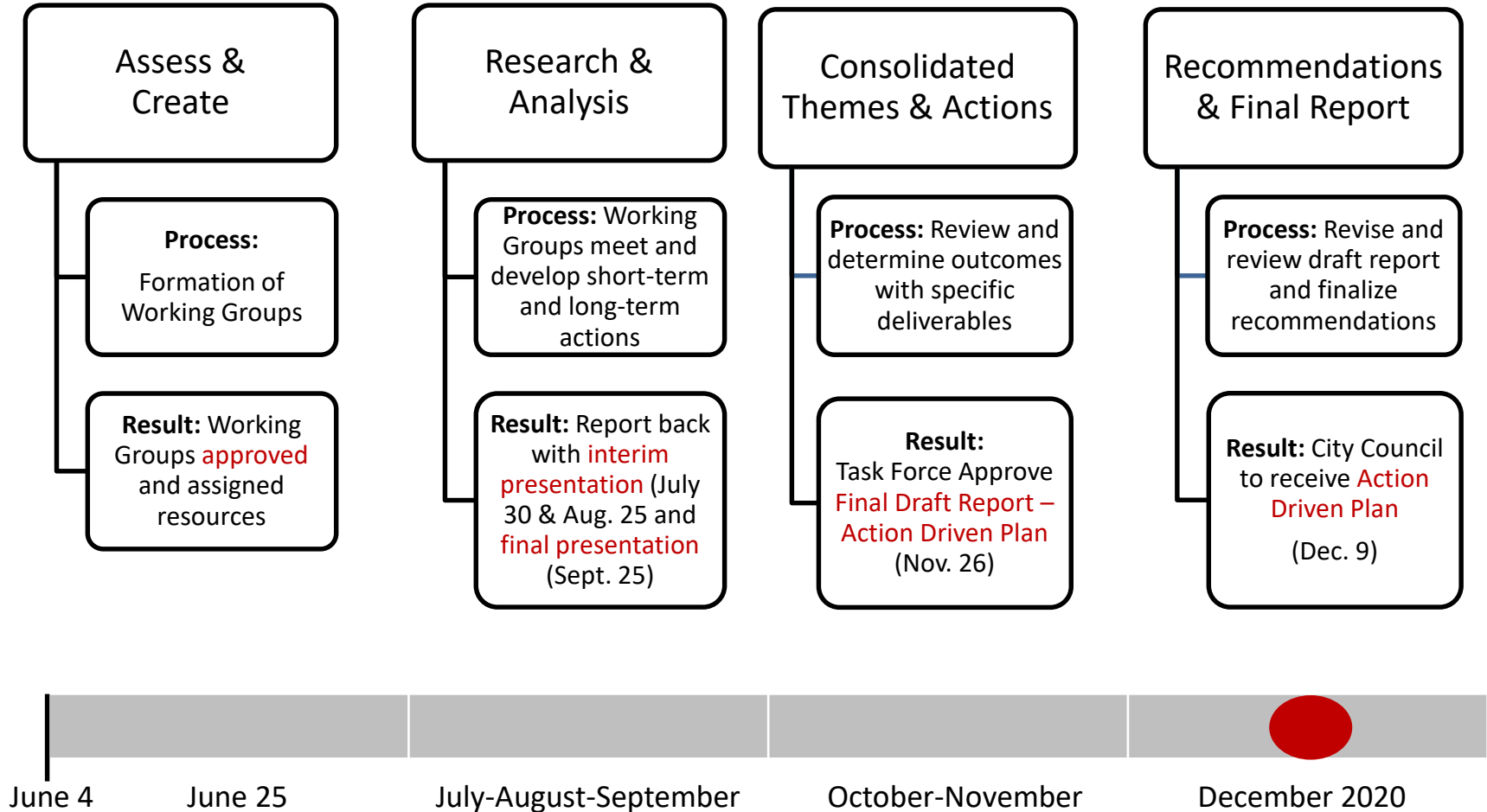
Three Guiding Principles

Moving Forward – A Multi-Sectoral Lens

The Task Force was encouraged to consider the following three guiding principles – *Equity Diversity and Inclusion, Climate Action and Labour* – in their deliberations.

The image shows the cover of a presentation titled "Supporting a Resilient Recovery through Climate Action". At the top, it features the logos for the Hamilton Musicians' Guild (Local 293, AFM / CFM) and the American Federation of Musicians of the United States and Canada. Below these is the logo for the Hamilton Mayor's Taskforce on Economic Recovery. A central banner reads "CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19)". The main title "Supporting a Resilient Recovery through Climate Action" is set against a blue background. Below the title, it says "Presentation to the Mayor's Taskforce on Economic Recovery August 31, 2020 at 12 p.m.". The cover also includes logos for the Centre for Climate Change Management at McMaster University and the Bay Area Climate Change Council. The bottom section of the cover features the text "Appreciating Individual, Systemic, and Structural Inequities in Local, Current and Historical Contexts for Change" and the name "Amel J. Joseph MSW, RSW, Ph.D., Associate Professor, School of Social Work, McMaster University".

Process



Common Themes

- Advocacy for Hamilton Businesses and Workers
- Financial relief for local businesses
- Property Tax relief for local businesses
- Supporting “Shop Local”
- Expanding connectivity across the city
- Transportation and Childcare critical areas in pandemic planning

Areas of Consensus

- Centralized communications contact point for businesses
- Training and funding for workers and job-seekers
- Advance and build the digital capacity of local businesses
- Well-being supports for employees and training for employers
- Champion placemaking projects
- Advance major infrastructure projects or shovel-ready projects

Next Steps

Task Force will meet in early 2021 to discuss City Council's direction and response to the report of the Mayor's Task Force on Economic Recovery.

Thank you

Task Force Members:

Project Sponsor

Janette Smith, City Manager

Mayor
City Councillors

Mayor Fred Eisenberger
John-Paul Danko, Ward 8, Nringer Nann, Ward 3
Terry Whitehead, Ward 14

Chair
Vice-Chair

Ron McKerlie, President, Mohawk College
Terri Johns, Board Member, West End Home Builders Association

Resource to the Working Groups:

Judy Travis, Executive Director, Workforce Planning Hamilton
Anthony Marco, President, Hamilton District Labour Council
Ron McKerlie, President, Mohawk College

Small Business, Restaurants, Main Street Areas & Non-Profits

Chair

Patti Hall, Executive Director, The Stoney Creek Chamber of
Commerce
Kerry Jarvi, Executive Director, Downtown Hamilton BIA
Erin Dunham, Owner, The Other Bird
Kelly Duffin, President and CEO, Amity Goodwill

Manufacturing & Life Sciences

Chair

Gay Yuyitung, Executive Director of the McMaster Industry Liaison
Office (MILO), McMaster University
Ty Shattuck, Chair, Synapse Life Science Consortium
Henry Wegiel, AMD's Director of Government and Trade Relations

Thank you

Agriculture & Circular Economy

Co-Chairs

Drew Spoelstra, Chair of Agriculture & Rural Affairs Committee
Matteo Patricelli, Executive Director, Flamborough Chamber of Commerce

Arts & Culture

Chair

Florencia Berinstein, Executive Director, Workers Art & Heritage Centre
Lisa La Rocca, Director of Operations, Sonic Unyon Records
Bob Munroe

Tourism & Hospitality

Chair

Brian Lubbers, General Manager, Courtyard by Marriott
Rondalyn Brown, Manager, Westfield Heritage Village
Matt Afinec, President & COO of Business Operations, Hamilton Tiger-Cats & Forge FC

Workplace & Office

Chair

Rob McCann, Founder, Clearcable Networks
Kim Martin, Executive Director, Social Planning and Research Council of Hamilton
Keanin Loomis, President & CEO, Hamilton Chamber of Commerce

Transportation, Building & Infrastructure

Chair

Mark Ellerker, Business Manager, Hamilton-Brantford Building and Construction Trades Council
Terri Johns, Board Member, West End Home Builders' Association
Cathie Puckering, President and CEO, Hamilton International Airport

CITY OF HAMILTON MOTION

General Issues Committee: December 9, 2020

MOVED BY COUNCILLOR B. CLARK.....

SECONDED BY COUNCILLOR M. PEARSON.....

COVID-19 Support for Local Businesses

WHEREAS, the Report of the Mayor’s Task Force on Economic Recovery includes a number of recommendations related to supporting economic recovery by providing easy access for local businesses to information and resources related to financial support programs and public health best practices;

WHEREAS, the City’s three Chambers of Commerce have undertaken significant efforts to support their members through COVID-19; and,

WHEREAS, the City has been partnering with the Chambers of Commerce to ensure that local businesses have the resources they need to navigate the new COVID-19 rules and regulations, including collaborating to develop and launch the COVID-19 Business Continuity and Economic Recovery website as well as the COVID Business Impact Survey;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED

That the City’s Economic Development Division collaborate with the Hamilton, Flamborough and Stoney Creek Chambers of Commerce to **establish a COVID-Concierge service through the Hamilton Business Centre**, including the creation of information materials, phone line, and on-line one-stop resource centre for COVID-19 related information for local businesses, to be funded to an upset limit of \$150,000 from the Economic Development Initiatives capital account (3621708900).

CITY OF HAMILTON MOTION

General Issues Committee: December 9, 2020

MOVED BY COUNCILLOR T. JACKSON.....

SECONDED BY MAYOR F. EISENBERGER.....

Financial Relief for Local Businesses

WHEREAS, the Report of the Mayor’s Task Force on Economic Recovery includes a number of recommendations related to supporting economic recovery through temporary financial relief for businesses; and,

WHEREAS, the City currently regulates 44 categories of businesses through its Business Licensing Program, comprising a total of 8,320 businesses;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:

That all General Business License Fees, Trade License Fees, Taxi and Personal Transportation Providers (PTP) Fees, and Film Permit Fees be frozen at 2020 levels for 2021, with the loss in budgeted revenues in 2021 of an estimated \$275,000 to be funded from the Economic Development Initiatives capital account (3621708900).

CITY OF HAMILTON MOTION

General Issues Committee: December 9, 2020

MOVED BY COUNCILLOR J. FARR.....

SECONDED BY COUNCILLOR C. COLLINS.....

Stimulating Local Development - Affordable Housing Projects - Cash-in-lieu Parking Policy – Downtown Secondary Plan Area -Temporary Period

WHEREAS the Report of the Mayor’s Task Force on Economic Recovery includes a number of recommendations related to supporting economic recovery by stimulating local development, and particularly construction of new affordable housing;

Parking Requirements

WHEREAS, the City previously used a temporary reduction in parking requirements to stimulate downtown development, through a Temporary Use By-law for the period November 1, 1996 to September 1, 1999;

WHEREAS, Section 40(1) and 40(2) of the *Planning Act* allows municipalities to enter into an agreement with an owner or occupant of a building that effectively allows for the payment of cash-in-lieu of any parking requirement and the City of Hamilton has such a policy in place in its Official Plan that authorizes the City to consider a cash-in-lieu payment for all or part of the parking required under the applicable in-force Zoning By-law requirements;

WHEREAS, the City of Hamilton Official Plan directs that cash-in-lieu of parking payments are to be used for the acquisition of lands and/or the provision of off-street parking as deemed appropriate by the City;

WHEREAS, the former City of Hamilton has operational guidelines in place on how cash-in-lieu of parking payments are to be calculated which currently state that “payments made by proponents will not be less than 50% of the total cost of the parking not provided” and set out a formula for calculating the cost of parking based on both land and construction costs;

WHEREAS, the most recent use of the cash-in-lieu of parking policy was in 2017 for 8 parking spaces for a project in downtown Hamilton and which resulted in the payment of \$140,400 (approximately \$17,550 per parking space);

WHEREAS, a temporary amendment to the cash-in-lieu of parking policy to reduce the cash-in-lieu rate could be used to reduce the overall cost of development;

Building Permit Fees for Affordable Housing

WHEREAS, since 2018 the City of Hamilton has waived various application fees for planning approvals (e.g. zoning, minor variances, site plan applications) for affordable housing projects, which has resulted in tens of thousands of dollars in savings for new affordable housing projects, but has not waived Building Permit fees which, for recent affordable housing projects, have cost affordable housing developers thousands of dollars per project, such as the Parkdale Landing (\$46k), North End Landing (\$118k); Ken Soble Tower (\$129k); and, Good Shephard (\$56k);

WHEREAS, the City of Hamilton currently maintains a Building Permit Revenue Stabilization Reserve, which is forecast to have a balance of approximately \$22 million as of December 2020, but the use of these funds is regulated provincially under the *Ontario Building Code Act*, which limits their use to the administration of the Building Code Act;

WHEREAS, if the Province were to allow it, the City could use a small portion of its Building Permit Revenue Stabilization Reserve funds to offset the cost of waiving Building Permit fees for affordable housing;

Surety Bonds

WHEREAS, the Report of the Mayor's Task Force on Economic Recovery specifically recommends that the City of Hamilton permit surety bonds as a means of securing various financial obligations to the City on the part of developers;

WHEREAS, surety bonds can potentially reduce the cost of development by providing developers with a lower-cost option for financial securities, compared to current City practice which largely require Letters of Credit; and,

WHEREAS, there are potential risks to the City with respect to surety bonds, for example, related to the ease of accessing to the funds should the City have to draw upon them;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED

- (a) That Planning staff be directed to report back to Planning Committee with options for modifying the City's existing cash-in-lieu of parking policy to provide for a temporary, reduced cash-in-lieu of parking fee within the Downtown Secondary Plan Area for a temporary period;
- (b) That the Mayor be authorized and directed to write to the Premier of Ontario, the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, and the local MPPs to request that the

Province amend the *Ontario Building Code Act* to permit municipalities to utilize Building Permit Reserve funds to offset the cost of waiving Building Permit fees for affordable housing projects;

- (c) That, if the amendments are made to the *Ontario Building Code Act* to permit municipalities to utilize Building Permit Reserve funds to offset the cost of waiving Building Permit fees for affordable housing projects, staff be directed to report back to the Planning Committee on a recommended program for waiving Building Permit fees for affordable housing projects, to be funded by the Building Permit Revenue Stabilization Reserve (Reserve Number 104050); and,
- (d) That Finance and Legal staff be directed to report back to the Audit, Finance and Administration Committee on the potential for the use of surety bonds as financial security for development projects to secure municipal agreements.

CITY OF HAMILTON MOTION

General Issues Committee: December 9, 2020

MOVED BY COUNCILLOR E. PAULS

SECONDED BY COUNCILLOR A. VANDERBEEK.....

Supporting “Shop Local”

WHEREAS, the Report of the Mayor’s Task Force on Economic Recovery includes a number of recommendations related to supporting economic recovery by encouraging people to shop local, explore local, visit local business areas, and support local businesses;

WHEREAS, the City of Hamilton is committed to supporting local businesses as one component of its broader economic recovery planning;

WHEREAS, there are currently 13 Business Improvement Areas (BIAs) in the City of Hamilton;

WHEREAS, the BIAs are established through the coordination and request of the local business community, legislated through the *Ontario Municipal Act*, 2001, as amended, and are governed through a Board of Management, which is a Local Board;

WHEREAS, the BIAs are primarily funded through a levy placed on each commercial property owner;

WHEREAS, the City currently supports the 13 BIAs with funding enhancements by providing an annual Contribution to Operating Grant Program (\$89,100 per year total), a share of parking revenues (10% of Hamilton Municipal Parking System operating surplus to a maximum of \$167,280 per year), and an annual grant for holiday programming (\$1,000 per BIA); and,

WHEREAS, the City’s annual Winterfest festival, which has a 2021 budget of approximately \$65,000 to curate outdoor activities primarily in parks across the City, presents an opportunity for an immediate impact by extending its scope to include outdoor activities in the City’s BIA areas;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:

- (a) That each of the City's existing thirteen Business Improvement Areas be provided a one-time enhancement grant of \$10,000 each to support special programming in 2021 to help to support local businesses, subject to the submission and approval of a plan and budget to the City's Economic Development Division, to be funded from the Economic Development Initiatives capital account (3621708900);
- (b) That the budget for the February 2021 Hamilton Winterfest be increased by \$25,000, to add additional programming in each of the City's 13 Business Improvement Areas, to be funded from the Economic Development Initiatives capital account (3621708900); and,
- (c) That the Commercial Districts and Small Business Section of the Economic Development Division and Tourism Hamilton be directed to include an enhanced focus on supporting local tourism and support for local businesses in their 2021 programming, using their existing budgets.

CITY OF HAMILTON MOTION

General Issues Committee: December 9, 2020

MOVED BY COUNCILLOR J.P. DANKO.....

SECONDED BY COUNCILLOR N. NANN

Creative Enterprise Facilities Property Tax Sub-class

WHEREAS, the Report of the Mayor’s Task Force on Economic Recovery includes a number of recommendations related to property tax relief for small businesses and businesses in the arts and culture sector;

WHEREAS, on November 10, 2020, the Province of Ontario announced that it would be enabling municipalities to provide property tax relief for small businesses by giving municipalities the ability to create a new "Small Business" Tax Sub-Class in 2021; and,

WHEREAS, in 2018 the City of Toronto was successful in having the Province create a special Creative Enterprise Facilities Property Tax Sub-Class, which the City of Toronto has used to provide a reduction in property tax for eligible creative enterprises and live music venues, but this authority does not yet exist in the City of Hamilton;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED

- (a) That staff be directed to report back to the General Issues Committee with options for the creation of a Small Business Tax Sub-class;
- (b) That the Mayor be authorized and directed to write to the Premier of Ontario, the Minister of Finance, with a copy to the local MPPs to request that the Province extend the eligibility for the Creative Enterprise Facilities Property Tax Sub-class to the City of Hamilton;
- (c) That, should the Province support extending the Creative Enterprise Facilities Property Tax Sub-class to the City of Hamilton, Finance staff be directed to report back to the General Issues Committee with options for creating such a sub-class.

CITY OF HAMILTON

MOTION

General Issues Committee: December 9, 2020

MOVED BY MAYOR F. EISENBERGER

SECONDED BY COUNCILLOR

Federal and Provincial Assistance with COVID-19 Economic Recovery Initiatives

WHEREAS, the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020 has resulted in widespread economic hardship across multiple sectors in Hamilton;

WHEREAS, the Mayor’s Task Force on Economic Recovery has recognized that a successful economic recovery will require involvement and collaboration from all levels of government;

WHEREAS, the Mayor’s Task Force on Economic Recovery has identified specific recommendations that are beyond the authority of a municipality and require action from upper levels of government;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:

- (a) That staff directed to prepare correspondence from the Mayor, on behalf of Council, to the Prime Minister of Canada and the Premier of Ontario, copying all local MPs and MPPs, in support of the following:
 - (i) establishing trade policies that support the manufacturing and auto sectors;
 - (ii) continuing transfers to municipalities to cover municipal budget shortfalls due to COVID impacts;
 - (iii) instituting Universal Paid Emergency Leave;
 - (iv) extending the Commercial Rent Assistance Program beyond 2020;
 - (v) extending the Extension of Termination and Severance Protection beyond Jan 2, 2021;
 - (vi) extending the CERB/CEWS wage subsidy programs and committing to study the potential for a Universal Basic Income program;

- (vii) establishing a national universal childcare program;
 - (viii) allowing for the extension of Corporate Tax deferral programs;
 - (ix) providing funding for non-governmental organizations that provide well-being supports, such as services for people with mental health and addictions)
 - (x) establishing a centralized contact point for businesses for information on pandemic-related provincial restrictions and guidelines;
 - (xi) ensuring fair wages/consistent policy for workers WSIB claims to align with COVID-19 impacts;
 - (xii) advancing investments for major infrastructure projects as a catalyst for job creation and economic stimulus;
 - (xiii) investing in skills development, employment supports and employer incentives for marginalized groups; and,
 - (xiv) support a home renovation tax credit; and,
- (b) That staff be directed to devise work plans for follow-up on the task force recommendations with their federal and provincial counterparts such as deputy ministers, directors and policy staff.

December 17, 2020

The Honourable Doug Ford
Premier of Ontario
Legislative Building Queen's Park
Toronto, ON M7A 1A1

Honourable Steve Clark
Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing
17th Floor, 777 Bay Street
Toronto, ON MSG 2E5

Dear Premier Ford and Honourable Steve Clark:

City Council, at its meeting held on December 16, 2020, approved Item 12 of General Issues Committee Report 20-023 which reads as follows:

12. Stimulating Local Development - Affordable Housing Projects - Cash-in-lieu Parking Policy – Downtown Secondary Plan Area -Temporary Period

(b) That the Mayor be authorized and directed to write to the Premier of Ontario, the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, and the local MPPs to request that the Province amend the Ontario Building Code Act to permit municipalities to utilize Building Permit Reserve funds to offset the cost of waiving Building Permit fees for affordable housing projects;

The City of Hamilton believes that municipal Building Permit Reserve Funds provide a potential funding source that could be used to reduce the cost of development for affordable housing projects.

Since 2018, the City of Hamilton has waived various application fees for planning approvals for affordable housing projects, such as zoning by-law amendments, minor variances, and site plan applications. This policy, which is entirely funded by the City of Hamilton, has saved affordable housing projects thousands of dollars over the past two years.

Waiving Building Permit fees could further reduce the costs of delivering affordable housing. Building Permit fees for some recent affordable housing projects in Hamilton include Parkdale Landing (\$46k), North End Landing (\$118k); Ken Soble Tower (\$129k); and Good Shephard (\$56k).

The Building Permit process is regulated by the Province under the Ontario Building Code Act. Under that Act, the City of Hamilton, like all municipalities, is authorized to maintain a Building Permit Reserve Fund. Hamilton's Building Permit Reserve Fund currently has a balance of approximately \$22 million. A small portion of these funds could be used to offset the cost of waiving Building Permit fees for future affordable

housing projects; however, the Ontario Building Code Act does not currently permit the use of these funds for that purpose.

The City of Hamilton is requesting the Ontario Government to support affordable housing in the Province by amending the Ontario Building Code Act to permit municipalities to utilize Building Permit Reserve Funds to offset the cost of waiving Building Permit fees for affordable housing projects. Your consideration of Council's request is appreciated.

Sincerely,

Mayor Fred Eisenberger

cc. Hon. Andrea Horwath, Leader of the Official Opposition, MPP, Hamilton Centre
Hon. Donna Skelly, MPP, Flamborough-Glanbrook
Hon. Paul Miller, MPP, Hamilton East-Stoney Creek
Hon. Monique Taylor, MPP, Hamilton Mountain
Hon. Sandy Shaw, MPP, Hamilton West-Ancaster-Dundas
Jason Thorne, General Manager, Planning and Economic Development, City of
Hamilton



OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
CITY OF HAMILTON

January 25, 2021

The Honourable Justin Trudeau
Prime Minister of Canada
Office of the Prime Minister
80 Wellington Street
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A2

The Honourable Chrystia Freeland
Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance
Department of Finance
90 Elgin Street
Ottawa, ON K1A 0G5

The Honourable Mona Fortier
Minister of Middle-Class Prosperity and Associate Minister of Finance
Department of Finance
90 Elgin Street
Ottawa, ON K1A 0G5

Dear Prime Minister Trudeau, Minister Freeland and Minister Fortier:

The City of Hamilton is requesting that the Government of Canada support the requests enclosed within this correspondence to further support of small businesses within Hamilton. This partnership and support will be critical to the continued success of the small businesses who have been significantly impacted by the restrictions imposed due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

We appreciate and thank you for the programs provided through the Federal Government, both the Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy and the Canada Emergency Rent Subsidy, as they are instrumental in providing assistance to the small businesses across the country. The formulas used to calculate the allocations under these programs, take into consideration the year over year comparisons of revenues and business levels (2019 and 2020) to come up with the eligible subsidy amount for a business. There are business districts that may be disproportionately impacted by this specific formula because of major capital infrastructure projects that disrupted their businesses in the 2019 calendar year. This would cause the comparative revenue numbers to be used in the calculation to be lower than years without disruption. The City of Hamilton is requesting the Government

...2

**Major Construction Project Disruptions Impacting the Eligibility for Affected
Businesses under the Canada Emergency Rent Subsidy Program
Page 2 of 3**

of Canada consider situations such as this and deliberate expanding the eligibility criteria and comparative dates to provide support to businesses who may have been disenfranchised due to previous construction projects causing disruptions.

Hamilton City Council, at its meeting held on December 16, 2020, approved Item 33 of General Issues Committee Report 20-023 which reads as follows:

33. Major Construction Project Disruptions Impacting the Eligibility for Affected Businesses under the Canada Emergency Rent Subsidy Program (Item 10.1)

WHEREAS, on October 9, 2020, the Government of Canada proposed the new Canada Emergency Rent Subsidy (CERS) to provide direct relief to businesses, non-profits and charities that continue to be economically impacted from the COVID-19 pandemic;

WHEREAS, the Canada Emergency Rent Subsidy mirrors the calculation of the Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy (CEWS), providing benefits directly to qualifying renters and property owners, without requiring the participation of landlords;

WHEREAS, the Canada Emergency Rent Subsidy provides a subsidy on eligible expenses for qualifying organizations that have experienced a revenue decline due to the impacts of COVID-19;

WHEREAS, the Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy provides a subsidy on eligible expenses for qualifying organizations that have experienced a revenue decline due to the impacts of COVID-19;

WHEREAS, the eligibility will generally be determined by the reduction in an eligible entity's monthly revenues, year-over-year, for the applicable calendar month;

WHEREAS, major construction and capital projects, such as the Locke Street Business Improvement Area road reconstructions located between Main Street West and Herkimer Street (Hamilton), caused considerable disruption to vehicular and pedestrian traffic resulting in significant declines in business levels and revenues for impacted businesses;

WHEREAS, using the 2019 base to calculate the percentage revenue decline for the current qualifying period of 2020 in determining the subsidy rate will not reflect an accurate representation of year-over-year lost revenue decline, due to the lowered revenues in 2019 due to road reconstruction; and,

WHEREAS, small businesses and commercial districts are the lifeline of not only Hamilton's, but also to the Canadian economy, and they have been devastated by the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic;

**Major Construction Project Disruptions Impacting the Eligibility for Affected
Businesses under the Canada Emergency Rent Subsidy Program
Page 3 of 3**

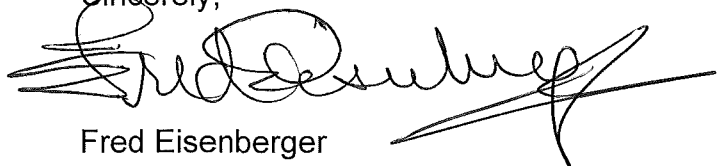
THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:

That the Mayor correspond with the Prime Minister, the Minister of Finance, the Minister of Middle-Class Prosperity and Associate Minister of Finance and, the local MPs to request that:

- (i) The reference periods for the drop-in-revenues, used for calculating the eligible payment amount under the Canada Emergency Rent Subsidy and Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy, be expanded to support businesses who were disproportionately affected by major construction and capital projects, such as the Locke Street Business Improvement Area road reconstruction, located between Main Street West and Herkimer Street (Hamilton), caused considerable disruption to vehicular and pedestrian traffic resulting in significant declines in business levels and revenues for impacted businesses; and,
- (ii) The rate of revenue drop used in the calculation of the subsidy drop in both the Canada Emergency Rent Subsidy and the Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy be more flexible to allow a base year to include a year that is most representative of a normal year's revenue, especially in situations where 2019 is not representative of a normal year's revenue.

In summary, in supporting small businesses that have been negatively impacted by the pandemic, but do not qualify using the strict formula, we ask that consideration be made to expand the eligibility criteria.

Sincerely,



Fred Eisenberger
Mayor

- cc. The Honourable Filomena Tassi, M.P., Hamilton West, Ancaster, Dundas
Scott Duvall, M.P., Hamilton Mountain
Bob Bratina, M.P., Hamilton East-Stoney Creek
David Sweet, M.P., Flamborough – Glanbrook
Matthew Green, M.P., Hamilton Centre

