

Present: Mayor Mitchell (Participating Virtually)
Councillor Drumm (Participating Virtually)
Councillor Leahy (Participating Virtually)
Councillor Lee (Participating Virtually)
Councillor Mulcahy (Participating Virtually)
Councillor Newman (Participating Virtually)
Councillor Roy (Participating Virtually)
Councillor Shahid (Participating Virtually)
Councillor Yamada (Participating Virtually)

Also Present: M. Gaskell, Chief Administrative Officer
S. Klein, Director of Strategic Initiatives
W. Mar, Commissioner of Legal and Enforcement Services/Town Solicitor
M. Perini, Acting Fire Chief
J. Romano, Commissioner of Community Services
D. Speed, Head of Operations & Fire Chief
F. Wong, Commissioner of Financial Services/Treasurer
H. Ellis, Executive Advisor to the Mayor
C. Harris, Town Clerk
K. Douglas, Legislative Specialist (Recording Secretary)

Regrets: None noted

1. Declarations of Pecuniary Interest

1.1 There were no declarations of pecuniary interest.

2. Presentations

2.1 Paul Pirri, Senior Manager of Economic Development
Re: Economic Development Strategy Update

Refer to Item 4.1, CAO 15-21

Paul Pirri, Senior Manager of Economic Development, provided a PowerPoint presentation regarding the Economic Development Strategy Update. Highlights of the presentation included:

- the goals of the Economic Development Strategy, including establishing a mandate, enabling business investment and innovation, and determining measurable actions and initiatives;
- the Project Steering Committee's mandate and an overview of their upcoming meetings;
- the stakeholder consultation framework, which will involve internal and external stakeholders such as Members of Council, the innovation sector, Downtowns, and post-secondary institutions;
- the situational analysis that offers insights into local demographics and labour force information, and will include a Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, Threats and Aspirations (SWOTA) analysis;
- an overview of the comparator analysis that will review lower-tier municipalities;
- examples of comparators by geography, including Pickering, Ajax, Clarington and Oshawa;
- examples of comparators by population, including Newmarket, Niagara Falls, Waterloo, Cambridge, St. Catharines, Burlington, Oakville and Richmond Hill;
- the literature review of comparable municipalities and Town documents to ensure strategic alignment and adherence to best practices;
- development of the Mission, Vision and Goals of the Economic Development Strategy based on stakeholder consultations, comparator and situational analyses, as well as a literature review;
- key findings from the situational analysis, including the Town's population growth, median household income, and housing affordability based on the house value income ratio;
- target economic sectors, including Information and Communications Technologies, Professional and Technical Services, Advanced Manufacturing, and Downtown and Lifestyle;
- stakeholder consultations managed by a third-party consultant, including 24 in-person interviews, two workshops, and a community survey;
- details of the comparator analysis and literature review that will be available in June 2021; and,
- next steps in the Economic Development Strategy.

A question and answer period ensued between Members of Council and Staff regarding:

- prioritizing two issues, being the economic recovery plan for local businesses that are struggling, and ensuring a balance between residential and business development in the Town;

- rationale behind the number of individuals being interviewed during the stakeholder consultation;
- the process for selecting virtual workshop participants;
- whether Staff will review the survey conducted as part of the Region of Durham's Economic Development Strategy;
- clarification regarding the relatively affordable housing in Whitby given the current real estate market;
- the number of graduates from local post-secondary educational institutions that remain in the community after graduating;
- programs to support small businesses within the historic downtowns;
- factors that impact the percent of Whitby's workforce that commute from other communities, and how Whitby compares to similar municipalities;
- clarification regarding factors that impact the relative housing affordability in Whitby;
- strategies for increasing enrollment in post-secondary education and reducing the unemployment rate within Whitby;
- strategies for increasing industrial vacancy rates to support the local expansion of existing businesses and attract new investment;
- strategies for expediting the issuance of business permits, such as a business concierge program;
- the anticipated completion date for the community survey, and when results will be reported to Council;
- projects that will facilitate economic development within downtown Whitby, such as the Metrolinx Bus Rapid Transit;
- how the Economic Development Strategy will support non-essential retailers that have been impacted by the pandemic;
- discussions with the provincial government regarding the Highway 407 and 412 lands, and discussion with the federal government regarding Canada's manufacturing policies;
- the impact of population size on the Economic Development Strategy; and,
- clarification regarding the difference between manufacturing and advanced manufacturing.

3. Delegations

3.1 There were no delegations.

4. Items for Consideration

4.1 Office of the Chief Administrative Officer Report, CAO 15-21

Re: Economic Development Strategy Update

Resolution # 162-21

Moved By Councillor Newman
Seconded By Councillor Shahid

1. That Report CAO 15-21 be received; and,
2. That Council endorse the Project Milestones as described in the report.

Carried

Moved By Councillor Drumm
Seconded By Councillor Mulcahy

That Council move in-camera in accordance with Procedure By-law # 7462-18, Closed Meeting Policy G 040, and the Municipal Act, 2001, Section 239 (2) (b) personal matters about an identifiable individual, including municipal or local board employees, (e) litigation or potential litigation, including matters before administrative tribunals, affecting the municipality or local board, and (f) advice that is subject to solicitor-client privilege, including communications necessary for that purpose.

Carried

5. Closed Session

5.1 Confidential Legal and Enforcement Services and Public Works (Engineering) Joint Report, LS 11-21
Re: Litigation or Potential Litigation

This portion of the meeting was closed to the public. [Refer to the In Camera minutes of the meeting - Town Clerk has control and custody.]

5.2 Confidential Legal and Enforcement Services Report, LS 13-21
Re: Whitby Brock Estates Inc. Ontario Land Tribunal Appeal – 423-435 Brock Street North

This portion of the meeting was closed to the public. [Refer to the In Camera minutes of the meeting - Town Clerk has control and custody.]

6. Rising and Reporting

6.1 Motion to Rise

Moved By Councillor Newman
Seconded By Councillor Shahid

That Council rise from the closed portion of the meeting.

Carried

6.2 Reporting Out

Mayor Mitchell advised that during the closed portion of the meeting, Council discussed personal matters about an identifiable individual, litigation or potential litigation, including matters before administrative tribunals, and received advice that is subject to solicitor-client privilege. Council also provided direction to Staff.

7. Confirmatory By-law

7.1 Confirmatory By-law

Resolution # 165-21

Moved By Councillor Mulcahy
Seconded By Councillor Drumm

That leave be granted to introduce a by-law and to dispense with the reading of the by-law by the Clerk to confirm the proceedings of the Council of the Town of Whitby at its special meeting held on June 14, 2021 and the same be considered read and passed and that the Mayor and the Clerk sign the same and the Seal of the Corporation be thereto affixed.

Carried

8. Adjournment

8.1 Motion to Adjourn

Moved By Councillor Drumm
Seconded By Councillor Shahid

That the meeting adjourn.

Carried

The meeting adjourned at 6:35 p.m.

Christopher Harris, Town Clerk

Don Mitchell, Mayor