The Chamber
Greater Kingston Chamber of Commerce

KINGSTON CITY COUNCIL REPORT CARD Q1 2024

For 183 years, The Greater Kingston Chamber of Commerce continues to play a pivotal role with facilitating connections and collaborative initiatives aimed at strengthening our business community.

This report card is part of our continued advocacy efforts to ensure that City Council remains transparent and accountable to our vibrant business community.

How to read our report card

Our team has reviewed motions voted on in public at full City Council meetings over the first quarter of 2024, and identified the motions that are most relevant to the Kingston business community and how council voted on those motions. This includes January through March of 2024.

Ratings Explained

Red: Council is seen to be offside with the priorities of the business community. Issues important to the business community and workers are not being considered or are being voted down.

Yellow: Council is somewhat aligned on business issues. There is occasional consideration given to business concerns and vote outcomes sometimes reflect the needs of local employers and workers.

Green: Council is generally aligned with the priorities of the business community. Issues important to the business community are regularly being discussed and considered, and votes on business issues typically pass.

Individual councillors' voting records are included at the end of the report for your information. In recording council votes, a green indicates a vote in favour, red indicates a vote to reject, yellow indicates abstention, and black indicates absence. Note there are 13 members of city council.

1ST QUARTER VOTING ON BUSINESS ISSUES

Jan 23rd Meeting

Revocation of the Minister's Zoning Order from the Clogg's Road Business Park

About: This was a proposal to support the revocation/cancellation of the Minister's Zoning Order from the Clogg's Road Business Park. Developing the City owned portion of Clogg's Road Area to add an additional business park, is critical to increase long term supply of Industrial land in order to facilitate business attraction, retention, and expansion

Chamber Desired Outcome: In favour
Council Result: Twelve in favour, 1 Absent

Rezoning of the St. Lawrence Business Park Expansion Lands

About: This was a council initiative to have City Staff initiate an application for an amendment to the City of Kingston Official Plan and Kingston Zoning By-Law 2022-62 to adjust the urban boundary and to re-designate and rezone the St. Lawrence Business Park Expansion Lands to add them into the City's employment land inventory. The City is already in short supply so this will assist with attracting new business as well as providing additional space for current business to relocate or expand.

Chamber Desired Outcome: In favour
Council Result: 13 in favour (unanimous)

1ST QUARTER VOTING ON BUSINESS ISSUES

Feb 20th Meeting

Conference Centre Development

About: Council had voted to move forward on the RFI's for the proposed Conference Centre Development in 2023. In this meeting, staff reported that 6 pre-qualified submissions had been received and are now requesting authorization to move towards the strategic planning and RFP process. Recognizing the potential for year-round economic impact and job creation city-wide, and will boost business tourism and enhance the City's economic landscape.

Chamber Desired Outcome: In favour
Council Result: 13 in favour (unanimous)

Street Patio Program Update (Caution)

About: In 2023, the City proposed Patio By-Law changes that, business owners felt, would deliver a negative impact. Your Chamber, along with other partners, engaged with businesses to better understand those challenges and voice them forward to the City. The City then engaged in further discussions and have since made changes that are very well received. However, 1 stipulation still posing a concern is the temporary exemptions provided which only apply to current owners and if they sell the business, that exemption is not transferrable. This is why we have classified this segment in yellow.

Chamber Desired Outcome: In favour (No Conditions)
Council Result: 13 in favour, (Temporary Exemption Condition applied)

1ST QUARTER VOTING ON BUSINESS ISSUES

Mar. 5th Meeting

Aquatic Facilities Options

About: Council voted unanimously to move forward with the proposed enclosure of the Culligan Waterpark and have voted to move forward with the planning stages of a collaborative effort with YMCA of Eastern Ontario, to construct a 25m/10 lane Aquatic Centre. Various locations to be considered as part of the review and planning process.

Chamber Desired Outcome: In favour
Council Result: 13 in favour

Family Physician/Primary Care Recruitment

About: Council voted to endorse the family physician and primary care recruitment plan. The report provided (24-045) outlines the added funding of $1M which was approved with this years budget and highlights various methodologies being employed and initiated. A new grant program is to be developed which will provide a one time grant of $100K to clinics who achieve 800 - 1000 sustained increase in patient clinic capacity. The grant application will include a sustainability section for clinics to explain how they will continue to maintain the expansion once grant funds are spent.

Chamber Desired Outcome: In favour
Council Result: 13 in favour

Q1 2024 COUNCIL SCORE

5	1	0

We will summarize our first quarter assessment as 'green',

Similar to the last quarter of 2023, we are healthily encouraged by much of the voting results and the identified key areas of focus for 2024. We have consistently advocated for growth and often high growth approaches to the overall planning for our City and its future and the focus currently with the City is reflecting a similar approach. Looking to expand employment lands is critical to ensure continued investment as well as provide space for expansion of existing businesses throughout the City. Adding a new business conference centre will promote business centric tourism and add a new venue which is much needed. We were also very pleased to see that the changes to the patio by-laws that now include amendments that the business community had highlighted. One area of concern remains which is the restriction on granted exemptions for non compliant patios impacting the sale of the property since the exemption is non transferrable. Additionally, we are very encouraged by the efforts put forward for physician recruitment as well as the new grant program currently being designed. We caution yet still, that 30,000 Kingstonians are without primary care but a strong focus in this area is being sustained by the City.

ABOUT YOUR CHAMBER

The Greater Kingston Chamber of Commerce is the oldest chamber in Ontario and boasts a membership base of 650 businesses representing over 18,000 employees.

We are the trusted advocate and tireless champion for local business. We are committed to stimulating the growth and prosperity of the local business community. Our mission is to influence public policy, be the catalyst for connectivity, and provide unique competitive advantages for our members.

We invite prospective new member organizations to visit kingstonchamber.ca and complete a membership application.

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1ST QUARTER VOTING RECORDS ON BUSINESS ISSUES

	CLOGGS ROAD BUSINESS PARK	EXPANSION ST. LAWRENCE BUSINESS PARK	CONFERENCE CENTRE DEVELOPMENT
MAYOR BRYAN PATERSON Mayor			
COUNCILLOR GARY OOSTERHOF District 1, Countryside	ABSENT		
COUNCILLOR PAUL CHAVES District 2, Loyalist-Cataraqui			
COUNCILLOR LISA OSANIC District 3, Collins-Bayridge			
COUNCILLOR WENDY STEPHEN District 4, Lakeside			
COUNCILLOR DON AMOS District 5, Portsmouth			
COUNCILLOR JIMMY HASSAN District 6, Trillium			
COUNCILLOR BRANDON TOZZO District 7, Kingscourt-Rideau			
COUNCILLOR JEFF MCLAREN District 8, Meadowbrook -Strathcona			
COUNCILLOR VINCENT CINANNI District 9, Williamsville			
COUNCILLOR CONNY GLENN District 10, Sydenham			
COUNCILLOR GREGORY RIDGE District 11, King's Town			
COUNCILLOR RYAN BOEHME District 12, Pittsburgh			

1ST QUARTER VOTING RECORDS ON BUSINESS ISSUES

	STREET PATIO PROGRAM UPDATE	AQUATIC FACILITIES	FAMILY PHYSICIAN RECRUITMENT
MAYOR BRYAN PATERSON Mayor			
COUNCILLOR GARY OOSTERHOF District 1, Countryside			
COUNCILLOR PAUL CHAVES District 2, Loyalist-Cataraqui			
COUNCILLOR LISA OSANIC District 3, Collins-Bayridge			
COUNCILLOR WENDY STEPHEN District 4, Lakeside			
COUNCILLOR DON AMOS District 5, Portsmouth			
COUNCILLOR JIMMY HASSAN District 6, Trillium			
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COUNCILLOR GREGORY RIDGE District 11, King's Town			
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