



**MINUTES OF THE CITY OF GRANDE PRAIRIE  
INVEST GP COMMITTEE**

**April 16, 2024, 10:00 A.M.  
Council Chambers, City Hall**

MEMBERS PRESENT	G. Blackmore D. Bressey W. Pilat J. Clayton	Committee Chair Councillor Councillor Mayor
ALSO PRESENT	G. Berg W. Bosch M. O'Connor K. O'Toole C. Thiessen S. Bourke B. Glavin D. Lemieux  J. MacEachern J. Freeman A. Van Beekveld J. Johnson A. Downing Z. Patel	Councillor Councillor Councillor Councillor Councillor City Manager Chief Operating Officer Chief Public & Protective Services Officer Chief of Staff City Solicitor Council Committee Coordinator Director of Planning & Development Senior Planner Planner

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**1. CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 11:46 a.m.

**2. ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

**MOVED** by D. Bressey  
Committee adopt the agenda as presented.

**CARRIED (4 to 0)**

**3. DELEGATIONS**

**3.1 BILD Grande Prairie (Jordan Gregson)**

Jordan Gregson, representative of BILD Grande Prairie, Scott Roessler, representative of Helix Engineering, and Kevin Backus, representative of Anthem United, were present to discuss the restrictions regarding secondary suites within the City.

#### 4. REPORTS

##### 4.1 Service Area Update

J. MacEachern, Chief of Staff, presented Committee with an update on the current and projected activities planned throughout the service area:

- Economic Development - Administration attended the Economic Developers of Alberta Conference, which celebrated 50 years of economic development in the province. From March 11-28, 17 new business licenses were issued; 11 commercial and 6 home-based. Employer applications previously qualified under the Rural Renewal Stream Program are being reviewed to meet new provincial regulatory requirements, with 154 employer applications in process, bringing available qualified positions to 130. The City will have a booth at the upcoming Chamber trade show on April 25.
- Investment Attraction - The City, County and MD will have a booth at the Canadian Hydrogen Convention April 23-25 in Edmonton. The City is partnering with the County and MD to host the Sitelink Forum in mid-May. The Peace Region Energy Show, hosted by the Grande Prairie and Region Chamber of Commerce, will take place next month.
- Events & Entertainment - The Bonnetts Energy Centre Ice Plant will be shut down on April 21 at the conclusion of the Storm Spring Camp; ice removal will begin on Tuesday, April 23. Food and Beverage revenue at Bonnetts is up 55% in Q1 2024 from the same time last year, due to increased event books along with a focus on event specialty beverages. Upcoming events include: East Indian Cultural Association's Vaisakhi Celebration on April 20; high school graduations; Mini Pops Kids May 24; Dinosaur World Live May 26; Stompede Bust Out May 28; Pride Society Rainbow Bright Teen Dance May 31 and Party in White June 1; Queen Tribute June 3; Grande Gathering Gala June 15; and Canada Day July 1.

##### 4.2 Secondary Suites

J. Johnson, Director of Planning & Development, and A. Downing, Senior Planner, presented Committee with information regarding secondary suites within the City, and options for additional development opportunities.

**MOVED by W. Pilat**

Committee direct Administration to bring to Council amendments to the Land Use Bylaw under Secondary Suites to include the items identified in the report alternatives, and to increase the units within a 50-metre radius.

**CARRIED (4 to 0)**

##### 4.3 Sidewalk Patio Program

J. Johnson, Director of Planning & Development, and Z. Patel, Planner, presented Committee with the Sidewalk Patio Program Policy. This policy would streamline the patio application and approval process and potentially attract more businesses.

**MOVED by J. Clayton**  
Committee recommend Council:

1. Approve Policy 622, being the Sidewalk Patio Program Policy; and
2. Direct Administration to draft an amendment to the Fees, Rates, and Charges Bylaw to add an application fee for the Sidewalk Patio Program.

**CARRIED (4 to 0)**

4.4 Retail Cannabis - Hours of Operation

J. Johnson, Director of Planning & Development, presented Committee with amendments to the Business License Bylaw. The proposed amendments remove all regulations specific to cannabis retail stores from this bylaw.

Councillor Pilat left the meeting at 12:53 p.m.

**MOVED by D. Bressey**  
Committee recommend Council give three readings to Bylaw C-1393A, being an amendment to the Business License Bylaw.

**CARRIED (3 to 0)**

**5. CORRESPONDENCE**

**6. OTHER BUSINESS**

**7. BYLAW & POLICY REVIEW**

**8. OUTSTANDING ITEMS LIST**


The Committee reviewed the Invest GP Committee Outstanding Items List for April 16, 2024.

**MOVED by D. Bressey**  
Committee receive the April 16 Outstanding Items List, as amended, for information.

**CARRIED (3 to 0)**

**9. ADJOURN**

The meeting ended at 12:55 p.m.

  
Gladys Blackmore (Apr 22, 2024 11:59 MDT)

Chair



City Clerk