



MINUTES OF THE CITY OF GRANDE PRAIRIE  
INVESTMENT AND STRATEGY COMMITTEE

November 12, 2024, 11:15 A.M.  
Council Chambers, City Hall

MEMBERS PRESENT	D. Bressey G. Blackmore	Committee Chair Councillor
MEMBER(S) ABSENT	W. Bosch	Councillor
ALSO PRESENT	M. O'Connor S. Bourke R. Tarant D. Whiteway B. Glavin J. Freeman (virtual) A. Van Beekveld T. Beaupre  Leona Hanson R. Dodd	Councillor City Manager Chief Strategy Officer, Interim Chief Financial Officer Chief Operating Officer City Solicitor Council Committee Coordinator Strategic Incentives Executive Consultant City Clerk Director of Invest Grande Prairie

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 12:55 p.m.

2. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

MOVED by G. Blackmore  
Committee adopt the agenda as presented.

CARRIED (2 to 0)

3. DELEGATIONS

4. REPORTS

4.1 Service Area Update

R. Tarant, Interim Chief Strategy Officer, presented Committee with an update on the current and projected activities planned throughout the service area:

- Invest Grande Prairie - Registration for Growing the North is open; the event will be held from February 18-20, 2025. Administration attended the Chamber's Business Showcase on October 30 as part of the Small Business Week wrap-up. Administration welcomed William Wang, Director for Alberta China Offices; this meeting focused on exploring regional opportunities and discussing future alignment. Last week, RDAR (Results Driven Agriculture Research), in

partnership with NWP, hosted an event focused on the future of soil research in the Peace Region, providing a great opportunity to connect with local producers. During the month of October, 11 new home-based and 14 new commercial business licenses were issued.

- Legislative & Executive Services - Board & Committee recruitment continues with an application deadline of November 29. Election preparations are ongoing, with many voting stations now secured. Administration is reviewing the impacts of implementing an elector register. Applications for the provincial Local Growth and Sustainability Grant opened last month; local governments with 10,000-200,000 people can apply for infrastructure funding to address growth pressures and attract industrial projects. The provincial legislature opened the fall session on October 28 and the legislative agenda was introduced; Administration has noted a few items which will have an indirect impact on municipalities and will be keeping an eye on them.
- Corporate Communications & Marketing - Recent announcements include: community sandbox; traffic signal maintenance; and Regional Fire Training Centre. CDN Controls renewed their naming rights for the Design Works Centre South Arena. Big Rig Collision renewed their advertising Back Lit and Floor decal at Bonnetts Energy Centre. The Keg has renewed their Back Lit agreement at Bonnetts Energy Centre and added a rink board and digital advertising.

#### 4.2 Fibre Optics: Fee Rebate & Broadband Analysis

R. Dodd, Director of Invest Grande Prairie, and T. Beaupre, Strategic Incentives Executive Consultant, presented Committee with information regarding a fibre optics fee rebate and broadband analysis. This temporary rebate is designed to expedite investment to invest in local broadband projects.

**MOVED** by G. Blackmore

Committee recommend Council:

1. Approve Fibre Optics Fee Rebate Program, allowing for up to a 100% rebate on municipal fees, for fibre alignment projects initiated between July 1, 2024, and December 31, 2025; and
2. Direct Administration to proceed with the Broadband Analysis, subject to 2025 budget deliberations.

**CARRIED (2 to 0)**

## 5. **CORRESPONDENCE**

## 6. **OTHER BUSINESS**

## 7. **BYLAW & POLICY REVIEW**

### 7.1 Elections Bylaw C-1480

L. Hanson, City Clerk, presented Committee with a proposed Elections Bylaw. This bylaw has been prepared to align with the new legislative requirements.

**MOVED by G. Blackmore**

Committee recommend Council give three readings to Bylaw C-1480, being the Elections Bylaw.

**CARRIED (2 to 0)**

**8. IN CAMERA**

8.1 FOIP Act Section 21 - Intergovernmental Relations

**MOVED by G. Blackmore**

Committee move In Camera to discuss matters protected under Section 21 of the FOIP Act.

**CARRIED (2 to 0)**

**MOVED by G. Blackmore**

Committee meeting resume.

**CARRIED (2 to 0)**

**MOVED by G. Blackmore**

Committee recommend Council approve the Terms of Reference for the Grande Prairie Regional Competitiveness (Invest NW) Committee, as outlined in Attachment 1.

**CARRIED (2 to 0)**

**9. OUTSTANDING ITEMS LIST**

The Committee reviewed the Invest GP Committee Outstanding Items List for November 12, 2024.

**MOVED by G. Blackmore**

Committee receive the November 12 Outstanding Items List, as amended, for information.

**CARRIED (2 to 0)**

**10. ADJOURN**

The meeting ended at 1:20 p.m.

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Chair

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City Clerk