

MINUTES OF THE CITY OF GRANDE PRAIRIE  
COUNCIL MEETING

**March 10, 2025, 3:00 P.M.**  
**Council Chambers, City Hall**

**PRESENT**

W. Pilat	Deputy Mayor
J. Clayton (virtual)	Mayor
M. O'Connor	Councillor
G. Berg	Councillor
K. O'Toole	Councillor
D. Bressey	Councillor
C. Thiessen	Councillor
G. Blackmore	Councillor

**ALSO PRESENT**

S. Bourke	City Manager
C. Nestibo	Chief Financial Officer, Acting
B. Glavin	Chief Operating Officer
D. Lemieux	Chief Public & Protective Services Officer
R. Tarant	Chief Strategy Officer, Acting
J. Freeman (virtual)	City Solicitor
A. Van Beekveld	Council Committee Coordinator
K. Biberdorf	Director of Community Connections
A. Downing	Manager of Planning & Development Permitting
Z. Patel	Planner

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

The Deputy Mayor called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m.

**2. NATIONAL ANTHEM**

**3. LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

**4. CAO ADDRESS**

4.1 Resignation of Wendy Bosch

**5. ADOPTION OF PREVIOUS COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES**

5.1 City Council Meeting

**MOVED** by G. Blackmore

Council adopt the minutes of the City Council meeting held February 24, as presented.

**CARRIED (8 to 0)**

**6. ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

**MOVED by M. O'Connor**

Council adopt the Agenda with the addition of Item 10.2 - Correspondence - Aquatera Utilities Inc.

**CARRIED (8 to 0)**

**7. DELEGATIONS**

**8. REPORTS**

**8.1 Deputy Mayor and Board & Committee Appointments March 2025 - October 2025**

**MOVED by C. Thiessen**

Council approve the Deputy Mayor and Committee appointments for March - October 2025, as presented.

**CARRIED (8 to 0)**

**9. COMMITTEE BUSINESS**

**9.1 Investment & Strategy Committee**

**MOVED by D. Bressey**

Council adopt the minutes of the Investment & Strategy Committee meeting held March 4, as presented.

**CARRIED (8 to 0)**

**9.1.1 Grant Recommendations**

**MOVED by D. Bressey**

Council approve funding allocations as presented in Appendix A.

**CARRIED (8 to 0)**

**9.1.2 2025 Large Scale Tourism Grant Recommendations**

**MOVED by D. Bressey**

Council approve allocation of the 2025 Large Scale Tourism Grant Funding in the amount of \$50,000 to the 2025 GrandeCon Event.

**CARRIED (8 to 0)**

**MOVED by D. Bressey**

Council approve allocation of the 2025 Large Scale Tourism Grant Funding in the amount of \$50,000 to the 2025 Grande Prairie Traditional Pow Wow.

For: (7): Mayor J. Clayton, M. O'Connor, G. Berg, K. O'Toole, D. Bressey, C. Thiessen, and G. Blackmore

Opposed: (1): W. Pilat

**CARRIED (7 to 1)**

**MOVED by Mayor J. Clayton**

Council direct Administration to work with the Grande Prairie Traditional Pow Wow organization and bring information regarding the 2026 event to Council before the end of 2025.

**CARRIED (8 to 0)**

9.1.3 Development Incentives and Grants Program Update

**MOVED by D. Bressey**

Council receive the Development Incentives and Grants Program Update for information.

**CARRIED (8 to 0)**

9.1.4 Amendment to Policy 357 - Development Incentives and Grants Program

**MOVED by D. Bressey**

Council approve amendments to Policy 357 - Development Incentives and Grants Program, as presented.

**CARRIED (8 to 0)**

**MOVED by D. Bressey**

Council increase the budget for the Municipal Fee Rebate program from \$700,000 to \$1,000,000, transferring \$300,000 from the Economic Recovery Fund.

**CARRIED (8 to 0)**

**MOVED by G. Blackmore**

Council direct Administration to bring back a report with options for taxation on buildings with 100 units or more while they are under construction, and that any permits in the queue as of March 1, 2025, will be subject to any of these potential new options.

**CARRIED (8 to 0)**

9.1.5 Meeting Highlights

Councillor Bressey provided highlights from the Investment & Strategy Committee meeting.

9.2 Public & Protective Services Committee

**MOVED by G. Blackmore**

Council adopt the minutes of the Public & Protective Services Committee meeting held March 4, as presented.

**CARRIED (8 to 0)**

9.2.1 Aging Well Together - 2025 Priorities & Goals

**MOVED by G. Blackmore**

Council adopt the Aging Well Together Action Plan as presented.

**CARRIED (8 to 0)**

**MOVED by D. Bressey**

Council direct Administration to bring a report back to the appropriate Standing Committee regarding working with applicable agencies to automatically enroll seniors who qualify into our Recreation Access and Transit programs.

**CARRIED (8 to 0)**

9.2.2 Wildfire Mitigation Plans and Projects Update

**MOVED by G. Blackmore**

Council support the City's grant application to Phase 2 of the Forest Resource Improvement Association of Alberta (FRIAA)'s Community Fireguard Program.

**CARRIED (8 to 0)**

9.2.3 Meeting Highlights

Councillor Blackmore provided highlights from the Public & Protective Services Committee meeting.

9.3 Financial & Administrative Services Committee

**MOVED by G. Berg**

Council adopt the minutes of the Financial & Administrative Services Committee meeting held March 4, as presented.

**CARRIED (8 to 0)**

9.3.1 Bylaw C-1474 - Indoor Recreation Facility Borrowing Bylaw

**MOVED by G. Berg**

Council give first reading to Borrowing Bylaw C-1474, as presented.

**CARRIED (8 to 0)**

Bylaw C-1474 was read for the first time.

9.3.2 Meeting Highlights

Councillor Berg provided highlights from the Financial & Administrative Services Committee meeting.

9.4 Operational Services Committee

**MOVED by M. O'Connor**

Council adopt the minutes of the Operational Services Committee meeting held March 4, as presented.

**CARRIED (8 to 0)**

9.4.1 Residential Snow Removal

**MOVED by M. O'Connor**

Council reduce the trigger for Residential Snow Removal to 10cm.

**CARRIED (8 to 0)**

9.4.2 Meeting Highlights

Councillor O'Connor provided highlights from the Operational Services Committee meeting.

**10. CORRESPONDENCE**

10.1 Grande Prairie Downtown Association

**MOVED by G. Blackmore**

Council appoint:

1. Dianne Laurin to the Grande Prairie Downtown Association Board for a term ending March 1, 2026; and
2. Catherine Ridgeway, Kendra Davis, and Marius Hodas to the Grande Prairie Downtown Association Board for terms ending March 1, 2028.

**CARRIED (8 to 0)**

10.2 Aquatera Utilities Inc.

**MOVED by G. Berg**

Council direct the Mayor to sign the Unanimous Consent for discretionary dividends, as requested by Aquatera Utilities Inc., on behalf of the City of Grande Prairie.

**CARRIED (8 to 0)**

**11. DELEGATION BUSINESS**

**12. NOTICE OF MOTION**

**13. RECESS**

The meeting recessed from 4:20 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

**14. DELEGATIONS (6:00 PM)**

14.1 Brent Zimmerman

Brent Zimmerman, resident, was present to discuss early tax payment incentives in the City.

**15. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

**16. PUBLIC HEARINGS**

**16.1 Land Use Bylaw Amendment C-1260-196**

**16.1.1 Call to Order**

The Public Hearing was called to order at 6:12 p.m.

**16.1.2 Introduction by Administration**

A. Downing, Manager of Planning & Development Permitting, and Z. Patel, Planner, presented Council with amendments to the Land Use Bylaw. The proposed amendments will rezone the subject land to Small Lot Residential district and Combined Residential district.

**16.1.3 Presentations/ Submissions**

Michael Fredrickson, representative of Helix Engineering and the applicant, was present to speak in support of the proposed amendments.

**16.1.4 Close Public Hearing**

The Public Hearing closed at 6:17 p.m.

**16.1.5 Business Arising from the Hearing**

**MOVED by C. Thiessen**

Council give first reading to Bylaw C-1260-196, being an amendment to the Land Use Bylaw.

**CARRIED (8 to 0)**

Bylaw C-1260-196 was read for the first time.

**MOVED by C. Thiessen**

Council give second reading to Bylaw C-1260-196.

**CARRIED (8 to 0)**

Bylaw C-1260-196 was read for the second time.

**MOVED by C. Thiessen**

Council have third reading of Bylaw C-1260-196 at this meeting.

**CARRIED (8 to 0)**

**MOVED by C. Thiessen**

Council give third reading to Bylaw C-1260-196, being an amendment to the Land Use Bylaw.

**CARRIED (8 to 0)**

Bylaw C-1260-196 was read for the third time and finally passed.

**17. DELEGATION BUSINESS**

17.1 Brent Zimmerman

**MOVED by D. Bressey**

Council receive the delegation presentation for information.

For: (6): W. Pilat, Mayor J. Clayton, G. Berg, K. O'Toole, D. Bressey, and G. Blackmore

Opposed: (2): M. O'Connor, and C. Thiessen

**CARRIED (6 to 2)**

**18. COUNCIL MEMBER REPORTS**

Councillor O'Connor highlighted the Grande Prairie Downtown Association AGM, the Evening with Grande Prairie event, the Technical Search & Rescue Vehicle Unveiling, the 2025 Bear Creek Folk Festival Lineup Reveal, the 10-Year Anniversary Gala for the Pregnancy Care Centre, the Breaking Bread for Iftar event, and the AB Munis Spring Caucus.

Councillor Berg highlighted the Bear Creek Folk Festival Lineup Reveal, the Evening with Grande Prairie event, the AB Munis Spring Caucus, and the Black History Month Gala.

Councillor O'Toole noted that Apex Security recently celebrated their 20-year anniversary in the City. He highlighted the Women of Influence Awards, Grande Prairie Storm hockey games, the Big Brothers Big Sisters Ultimate Escape, the Technical Search & Rescue Vehicle Unveiling, and the 2025 Bear Creek Folk Festival Lineup Reveal.

Councillor Thiessen highlighted the Water Management in Alberta's Boreal Conference, the Women of Influence Awards, the 10-Year Anniversary Gala for the Pregnancy Care Centre, the Evening with Grande Prairie event, the Breaking Bread for Iftar event, and the Candlelight Unveiling of the Women of War Memorial.

Councillor Blackmore highlighted the Airport Commission meeting, the Evening with Grande Prairie event, the 2025 Bear Creek Folk Festival Lineup Reveal, the Economic Development Strategic Planning & Advisory Committee meeting, the AB Munis Spring Caucus, the Women of Influence Awards, and the Candlelight Unveiling of the Women of War Memorial.

Councillor Bressey highlighted the Healthcare Task Force meeting regarding Physician Attraction, the Golden Age Centre's 50-Year Anniversary event, the AB Munis Spring Caucus, and the AB Munis Board Meeting.

Mayor Clayton highlighted the Water Management in Alberta's Boreal Conference, the Provincial Budget announcement, the Evening with Grande Prairie event, a meeting with Ambassadors from the Special Olympics, the Technical Search & Rescue Vehicle Unveiling, the Black History Month Gala, the Community Rail Advocacy Alliance meeting, a meeting regarding electricity distribution, the Women of Influence Awards, the AB Munis Spring Caucus, the Healthcare Task Force meeting regarding Physician Attraction, and the recognition dinner for the Alde family as Farm Family of the Year.

Deputy Mayor Pilat highlighted the Grande Prairie Local Immigration Partnership meeting, the Evening with Grande Prairie event, and the AB Munis Spring Caucus.

**19. ADJOURNMENT**

The Deputy Mayor declared the meeting adjourned at 7:08 p.m.

---

Deputy Mayor

---

Council Committee Coordinator