



**MINUTES OF THE CITY OF GRANDE PRAIRIE
COUNCIL COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING**

**June 23, 2025, 1:00 P.M.
Council Chambers, City Hall**

PRESENT	J. Clayton	Mayor
	G. Berg	Councillor
	G. Blackmore	Councillor
	D. Bressey	Councillor
	M. O'Connor	Councillor
	K. O'Toole	Councillor
	W. Pilat	Councillor
	C. Thiessen	Councillor
ALSO PRESENT	S. Bourke	City Manager
	D. Whiteway	Chief Financial Officer
	B. Glavin	Chief Operating Officer
	D. Lemieux	Chief Public & Protective Services Officer
	S. Cajolais	Chief Public & Protective Services Officer, Acting
	P. Bailey	Chief Strategy Officer
	J. Freeman (virtual)	City Solicitor
	A. Van Beekveld	Council Committee Coordinator
	R. Tarant	Director of Invest Grande Prairie, Interim
	K. DeVries	Director of Environment & Parks
	A. Colter	Manager of Development Engineering
	K. Biberdorf	Director of Community Connections
	C. Esau	Manager of Community Connections

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 1:24 p.m.

2. LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

3. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

MOVED by D. Bressey

Committee adopt the agenda with the addition of Item 4.7 - Canada Day Parade Marshall.

CARRIED (8 to 0)

4. REPORTS

4.1 Grande Prairie Airport Economic Framework

R. Tarant, Interim Director of Invest Grande Prairie, and Robert Nicolay, Consultant, presented Committee with information regarding the economic potential of the Grande Prairie Airport.

Chris LeTourneur and Penny Gaze, representatives of MXD Development Strategists, were present virtually to provide information regarding the Grande Prairie Airport Area Economic Framework.

MOVED by G. Blackmore

Committee receive MXD Development Strategists' Grande Prairie Airport Area Economic Framework for information.

CARRIED (8 to 0)

MOVED by G. Blackmore

Committee direct Administration to explore options for facilitating the construction of an East-West Connector Road as identified in the Framework.

CARRIED (8 to 0)

MOVED by W. Pilat

Committee direct Administration to bring a report back to a future Council Committee of the Whole meeting on costing to service the lands in the AN-1, AN-2, AC-2, and AS-1 areas on page 13 of the Framework.

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

Opposed: (1): M. O'Connor

CARRIED (7 to 1)

MOVED by G. Blackmore

Committee recommend Council direct Administration to enter into discussions for a non-binding Memorandum of Understanding with Edmonton International Airport (YEG) to advance an alliance between the City and YEG in consultation with the Grande Prairie Airport Commission, in accordance with the following principles and expectations:

- City retains full ownership of the Grande Prairie Airport; and
- The Alliance is mandated to:
 - Improve the passenger experience by exploring opportunities for economic corridor development;
 - Maximize the economic potential of the GPA by optimizing potential development and real estate opportunities;
 - Collaborate on regional economic development initiatives, supporting the City's efforts to grow and expand a diversified commercial and industrial base;
 - Explore new and emerging technologies and processes to improve and streamline GPA operations; and

- Liaise with key community and business stakeholders to understand market demands and potential growth opportunities.

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

Opposed: (1): W. Pilat

CARRIED (7 to 1)

MOVED by D. Bressey

Committee direct Administration to report back to the appropriate Standing Committee with high level information regarding urban indigenous reserves and their potential economic development advantages.

CARRIED (8 to 0)

The meeting recessed from 3:33 p.m. to 3:50 p.m.

4.2 Budget Update - Verbal

D. Whiteway, Chief Financial Officer, presented Committee with an update regarding budget preparations.

4.3 Community Enhancement Funding - Project Feasibility Review

K. DeVries, Director of Environment & Parks, presented Committee with potential Community Enhancement projects.

MOVED by G. Berg

Committee recommend Council approve Project 2, Option 2 - Tree Grove Installations.

MOVED by W. Pilat

Committee amend the motion to add a tree grove on 121 Avenue as per Option 1, while keeping the cost at \$150,000.

CARRIED (8 to 0)

Vote on Main Motion as Amended.

For: (4): G. Berg, K. O'Toole, W. Pilat, and C. Thiessen

Opposed: (4): Mayor J. Clayton, G. Blackmore, D. Bressey, and M. O'Connor

DEFEATED (4 to 4)

MOVED by G. Blackmore

Committee recommend Council approve Project 2, Option 1 - Tree Grove Installations.

CARRIED (8 to 0)

MOVED by K. O'Toole

Committee direct Administration to bring back further information regarding lighting around the pond at Muskoseepi Park, to a maximum of \$70,000.

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

Opposed: (1): G. Blackmore

CARRIED (7 to 1)

MOVED by C. Thiessen

Committee recommend Council approve Project 3, Option 2 - Beautification of the Triangle Median, Bioswaled Median.

CARRIED (8 to 0)

MOVED by C. Thiessen

Committee recommend Council approve Project 7 - Muskoseepi Pavilion Dock & Fence.

For: (6): Mayor J. Clayton, D. Bressey, M. O'Connor, K. O'Toole, W. Pilat, and C. Thiessen

Opposed: (2): G. Berg, and G. Blackmore

CARRIED (6 to 2)

MOVED by M. O'Connor

Committee recommend Council approve Project 6 - South Entrance Sign.

For: (1): M. O'Connor

Opposed: (7): Mayor J. Clayton, G. Berg, G. Blackmore, D. Bressey, K. O'Toole, W. Pilat, and C. Thiessen

DEFEATED (1 to 7)

MOVED by D. Bressey

Committee recommend Council approve Project 5 - 100 Avenue/100 Street Parkette, in the amount of up to \$35,000.

CARRIED (8 to 0)

MOVED by C. Thiessen

Committee refer Project 4 - New Park Furniture (Benches, Picnic Tables, Garbage Bins), and Project 6 - South Entrance Sign, to fall budget deliberations.

For: (5): Mayor J. Clayton, G. Berg, M. O'Connor, K. O'Toole, and C. Thiessen

Opposed: (3): G. Blackmore, D. Bressey, and W. Pilat

CARRIED (5 to 3)

4.4 Canada Day Parade Marshall - Verbal

MOVED by K. O'Toole

Committee recommend Council appoint Doug Edey as the Canada Day Parade Marshall.

CARRIED (8 to 0)

MOVED by W. Pilat

Committee recess this meeting until after the conclusion of the Standing Committee meetings June 24.

CARRIED (8 to 0)

The meeting recessed at 5:15 p.m. on June 23, and resumed at 11:49 a.m. on June 24.

4.5 South Bear Creek Driving Range

K. DeVries, Director of Environment & Parks, and A. Colter, Manager of Development Engineering, presented Committee with information regarding the driving range at South Bear Creek.

MOVED by W. Pilat

Committee recommend Council approve \$30,000 from the Future Expenditures Reserve to execute an environmental, geotechnical, and geophysical assessment at the Bear Paw Driving Range.

CARRIED (8 to 0)

MOVED by W. Pilat

Committee direct Administration to work with Nitehawk after receipt of the environmental, geotechnical, and geophysical assessment, and allow them opportunity to supply a design and cost estimates for driving range space, and report back to the appropriate Standing Committee before fall budget deliberations.

CARRIED (8 to 0)

MOVED by D. Bressey

Committee direct Administration to explore other potential options for this land and report back to the appropriate Standing Committee.

CARRIED (8 to 0)

4.6 South Bear Creek Park Beach Volleyball Expansion

C. Esau, Manager of Community Connections, presented Committee with information regarding potential expansion of the beach volleyball courts at South Bear Creek Park.

MOVED by D. Bressey

Committee recommend Council direct Administration to enter into a construction agreement with the Beach Volleyball Club, with terms and conditions satisfactory to the City Manager and City Solicitor, and commit \$200,000 to construction costs, with a funding source to be recommended by Administration.

CARRIED (8 to 0)

4.7 Municipal Fee Rebate Program

R. Tarant, Interim Director of Invest Grande Prairie, presented Committee with potential amendments to the Municipal Fee Rebate program.

MOVED by W. Pilat

Committee recommend Council approve the following:

1. Increase the total funds available for the Municipal Fee Rebate from \$1 million to \$1.6 million;
2. That the remaining \$139,300 in unallocated funds from the Economic Recovery Fund be allocated to the Municipal Fee Rebate program;
3. That \$51,358 from the disbanded Training and Marketing Grant programs be allocated to the Municipal Fee Rebate program;
4. That the remaining \$172,380 in unallocated funds from the Development Incentives and Grants (DIG) program be allocated to the Municipal Fee Rebate program; and
5. That \$236,962 be allocated to the Municipal Fee Rebate program from the Financial Stabilization Reserve.

CARRIED (8 to 0)

5. ADJOURN MEETING

The meeting was adjourned at 12:40 p.m. on June 24.

Mayor

Council Committee Coordinator