



Economic Development Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, March 19, 2025

7:00 p.m.

Energy Centre - ^{1ST}~~2nd~~ Floor Boardroom

Present: Councillor Bill Parker
Paul McWilliams
Laurier Lapointe
Sherri Buckle
Ray Cowell
Michael Kilburn
Austin Verner

Absent: Councillor Adele Richardson
Lacey Chyz
Carrie Purcell

Staff Present: Andrew Serba, Manager of Economic Development, Strategy
and Communications
Terra Dimion, Intermediate Assistant and Recording Secretary

Also Present: Kyle Seleski, 4 Wing Cold Lake
Lisa Ford, Regional Economic Development Specialist

ADJOURNMENT

EDAC20250313.1005

Moved by L. Lapointe that the meeting be adjourned at this time being 8:04 p.m.

Carried Unanimously

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at this time being 6:56 p.m. by Vice Chairperson, Paul McWilliams.

CITY OF COLD LAKE INDIGENOUS LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Paul McWilliams recited aloud the following City of Cold Lake Indigenous Land Acknowledgement:

"In the spirit of respect and reciprocity, we acknowledge that the City of Cold Lake is located on lands and by water in Treaty 6 Territory and the homeland of the Metis Nation that has been, and continues to be, a sacred place for many. We pay respect to the indigenous peoples of this place past and present: the Cree, Denesuline and Metis peoples. We acknowledge that this place is impacted by the ongoing process of colonialism. We strive to understand and reframe our responsibilities to land and community as we journey towards reconciliation."

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

EDAC20250313.1001

Moved by Ray Cowell that the agenda be adopted as presented.

Carried Unanimously

DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST

None.

ADOPTION OF MINUTES

EDAC20250313.1002

Moved by Ray Cowell that the meeting minutes of February 6, 2025 be adopted as presented.

Carried Unanimously

DELEGATION

None.

OLD BUSINESS

None.

NEW BUSINESS

Alberta Advantage Immigration Program (AAIP) - March Rural Renewal Stream Employer Application Review

For information.

Alberta Advantage Immigration Program (AAIP) - March Rural Renewal Stream Letter of Endorsement Requests

EDAC20250313.1003

Moved by Laurier Lapointe to accept the Letter of Endorsement Request by Elevation Health into the Rural Renewal Stream, as presented.

Carried Unanimously

EDAC20250313.1004

Moved by Michael Kilburn to accept the following Letter of Endorsement Requests into the Rural Renewal Stream, as presented:

1. 7-Eleven Canada Inc.
2. 7-Eleven Inc.
3. Sunstrum Enterprises Ltd (Canadian Tire 450)
4. Dockside Inn Limited
5. 2478875 Alberta Ltd. (Kia Cold Lake)
6. Lakeland Petroleum Services Cooperative Ltd.
7. Cold Lake Foods Inc. (Sobeys)
8. 2523065 Alberta Ltd. (Tacotime Cold Lake)
9. Tacotime Cold Lake
10. Gia Enterprided Ltd. (Wendy's)

In Favor (6): Councillor Parker, Paul McWilliams, Austin Verner, Ray Cowell, Michael Kilburn, Sherri Buckle

Opposed (1): Laurier Lapointe

Carried

ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION

P. McWilliams advised that he has resigned from EDAC, and that this will be his last meeting. Discussions ensued. A. Serba thanked P. McWilliams for his time and effort put toward EDAC.

K. Seleski queried if Council wrote a letter to 4 Wing Cold Lake requesting a timeline regarding the upgrades on base. A. Serba advised that this has not occurred, but it will be brought forward for consideration.

K. Seleski noted an increase in the number of postings into Cold Lake that will ultimately affect housing. Discussions ensued regarding training personnel for the new F-35 Jets, structure of house pricing. K. Seleski noted the Parkade is scheduled to be completed in November 2025, and that the piles for the new hangar building will be scheduled to be installed in the next few months.

R. Cowell has nothing to add at this time.

L. Ford introduced herself as the Northeast Regional Economic Development Specialist. She noted a few projects being worked on, such as a procurement symposium and funding approvals.

M. Kilburn noted planning is underway with Community Futures regarding Lemonade Day and the Smartstart Program. He also advised that planning for the 2026 Winter Games is underway, and that there is now an office in Cold Lake and one in Bonnyville.

Councillor Parker advised that LICA is discussing a scholarship for \$2,500 for anyone involved with the watershed or Beaver River; the information will soon be posted to the LICA website. He noted a project that will occur at Lara Site Fishpond by Fort Kent. Councillor Parker also advised that Municorr is working with Riverland Trails to upgrade the Iron Horse Trail and make it more of a tourist area. Discussions ensued regarding the trail through Cold Lake First Nation.

Councillor Parker noted the Cold Lake Policing Committee is seeking to fill two positions. He noted workshops and meetings that will occur in New Brunswick and Westlock.

S. Buckle advised that the Chamber of Commerce is hosting a Job Fair next week at the Reid Field House in the Energy Centre. They will be starting a new project in September, being a health and wellness expo. The Chamber of Commerce will not be hosting Feast at the Beach this year due to a lack of funding and volunteers. Discussions ensued regarding grant funding and involvement with the trade show.

S. Buckle advised that she attended Edmonton Political Action Day for the Chamber of Commerce where Premier Smith spoke.

A. Serba spoke to the Rural Renewal Stream nominations approved today, and provided an update on the programs intake, allocations for nominations province-wide, and changes to the program itself.

A. Serba noted the AEMS Project continues to move forward. They await building and development permits from the M.D. of Bonnyville for reconfiguration of the hangar. He confirmed that Portage College hired an instructor that was recently released by CAF, and confirmed the start date for the program is anticipated to be Fall of 2026. Discussions ensued regarding the curriculum, CANSEC, and approvals to run the program.

A. Verner has nothing to add at this time.

L. Lapointe ensued discussions regarding immigration and cutbacks, and a potential Youth Employment Advocacy Program. A. Serba requested that the Youth Employment Advocacy Program be included on the Agenda for the May EDAC meeting.

Councillor Parker advised that the Local to Global Eastern Alberta Trade Corridor Forum will occur in Medicine Hat April 23-25, 2025. Discussions ensued. Councillor Parker requested the item be added to the next Agenda to gauge interest.

AK

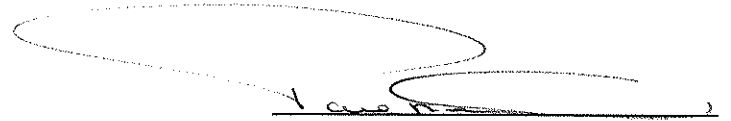
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NEXT MEETING

The next meeting shall be held April 3, 2025.

IN CAMERA

None.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "J. B. Smith", written over a horizontal line.

Chairperson

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "J. B. Smith", written over a horizontal line.

Designated Officer