

**MINUTES OF THE  
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING**

**February 26, 2026, 1:00 p.m.**

Present:               Reeve Siewert (Chair)  
                          Councillor Callister  
                          Councillor Kendall  
                          Ken Westhaver  
                          Pat Stier  
                          David Olson  
                          Craig Russel  
                          Miguel Parobec (by electronic means)  
                          Don Francis (by electronic means)  
                          Councillor Oel (by electronic means)

Absent:                Hayden Knorr  
                          Garity Stanley Legislative Assistant

Administration:     Drew Granson Deputy Director of Planning  
                          Mark Laver Economic Development Officer  
                          Aamani Sidhu Planner

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**1.    CALL TO ORDER**

The Economic Development Advisory Committee meeting was called to order at 1:00 p.m.

**2.    ADDITIONS OR DELETIONS TO THE AGENDA**

**Resolution: 01-26**

**Moved by:** John Callister

That the agenda of the February 26, 2026 meeting of the Economic Development Advisory Committee be adopted as presented.

**CARRIED**

**3.    MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

**Resolution: 02-26**

**Moved by:** Ken Westhaver

That the minutes of the December 18, 2025 meeting of the Economic Development Advisory Committee be adopted as presented.

**CARRIED**

**4. NEW BUSINESS**

4.1 Economic Development Plan - Verbal Progress Update

**Resolution: 03-26**

**Moved by:** John Callister

That the Economic Development Advisory Committee accept the Economic Development Plan Update as information.

**CARRIED**

4.2 Website - Verbal/Visual Update

**Resolution: 04-26**

**Moved by:** John Callister

That the Economic Development Advisory Committee accept the website update as information.

**CARRIED**

4.3 Rural Renewal Stream

**Resolution: 05-26**

**Moved by:** Pat Stier

That the Economic Development Advisory Committee recommend that Foothills County Council apply to the Alberta Advantage Immigration Program for an allocation of approximately 20 - 40 positions to help address local labour shortages, and that Council direct Administration to explore partnership opportunities with adjacent municipalities (High River, Okotoks, and Diamond Valley) to participate jointly in the Rural Renewal Stream.

**CARRIED**

4.4 Rural Entrepreneur Stream

**Resolution: 06-26**

**Moved by:** Ken Westhaver

That the Economic Development Advisory Committee recommend to the Foothills County Council to apply for the Alberta Advantage Immigration Program generate business opportunities in Alberta.

**CARRIED**

4.5 Streamlining Application Processes

**Resolution: 07-26**

**Moved by:** Pat Stier

That the Economic Development Advisory Committee recommend that Foothills County Council initiate strategy sessions with Administration to review and consider amendments to the Highway 2A Industrial Area Structure Plan and related documents, including associated land use bylaw districts.

**CARRIED**

4.6 Education - Economic Development for Elected Officials

M. Laver Mark confirmed training through the EDA is a full-day onsite course, more comprehensive than the one-hour RMA session. The option exists to partner with another municipality to reduce cost.

4.7 Red Tape Reduction Strategy

Reeve Siewert re-iterated Council discussion regarding red tape reduction strategies. Much of this was covered under item 4.5. No new motions specific to this item.

6. **CONFIDENTIAL CLOSED SESSION**

**Resolution: 08-26**

**Moved by:** John Callister

That, in accordance with Section 197 of the Municipal Government Act, the Economic Development Advisory Committee move into Closed meeting to discuss advice from officials as per Section 29 of the *Access to Information Act (ATIA)*.

**CARRIED**

7. **MOTIONS OUT OF CLOSED**

**Resolution: 09-26**

**Moved by:** John Callister

That the Committee return to its open meeting.

**CARRIED**

8. **ROUND TABLE**

8.1 Invest Greater Calgary - Verbal Update

M. Laver stated that there should be an update soon.

8.2 OKOTech

OKOTech (technology incubator) launched in Okotoks; County residents may join.

**General Discussion**

- Tourism discussed as a valuable economic sector that should not be overlooked.
- Rodeo groups (Little Britches) seeking County funding.
- Importance of agricultural heritage emphasized.

9. **NEXT MEETING DATE - April 30, 2026**

10. **ADJOURNMENT**

**Resolution: 10-26**

**Moved by:** Reeve Siewert

That the February 26, 2026 meeting of the Foothills County Economic Development Advisory Committee be adjourned at 2:48PM.

**CARRIED**