



City of Grand Forks
Staff Report
Committee of the Whole – March 23, 2026
City Council – April 6 & 20, 2026



Agenda Item: Ordinance to amend City Code related to Tech Accelerator Advisory Board

Submitted By: Andy Conlon, Economic Development Manager

Staff Recommendation: Review attached ordinance to amend City Code related to the tech accelerator advisory board; preliminary approval and first reading of the ordinance on April 6, and schedule public hearing for April 20; second reading, public hearing, and final approval on April 20.

Committee Recommended Action: Motion by Berg, second by Fridolfs to move staff recommendation to City Council with a recommendation to approve. Motion carried unanimously.

Council Action 4/6/26: Motion by Berg, second by Sande for preliminary approval of Ordinance and schedule public hearing for April 20, 2026. Motion carried unanimously.

Council Action 4/20/26:

BACKGROUND:

The original operational plan for The HIVE involved a tech accelerator advisory board comprising nine voting and two non-voting members representing various sectors/organizations. This group met one time in April 2023 and it quickly became evident that such a structure was impractical and poorly-suited to advise and guide The HIVE, for various reasons. Ultimate decision-making authority for The HIVE rests with the JDA and it is best suited to provide the necessary guidance and direction for The HIVE. The attached ordinance reflects the requisite code modifications to formalize this structure. The JDA approved an update on operational changes, including the described code modifications, at its February 2 meeting.

FINDINGS AND ANALYSIS:

- As stated in the grant application to the US Economic Development Administration, Tech Accelerator operations and programming will be guided by an advisory board. With operations expected to begin early next year, it is time to get this board established and functional. While it will meet relatively frequently as part of the launch of the Tech Accelerator, it is anticipated that it will meet on a quarterly basis thereafter.

- The JDA has served, and is best suited to serve, as the advisory and governance board of The HIVE. The proposed ordinance changes would simply reflect this reality.
 - Section 24-0108.2 establishing the board and its membership would be repealed entirely.
 - Section 24-0110 regarding reports would be amended to remove references to the tech accelerator advisory board and would remove a specific due date for the JDA annual report. This change is proposed to provide flexibility as certain financial/reporting information is not always available in time to produce a thorough annual report by the current deadline.

SUPPORT MATERIALS:

- Draft ordinance

ORDINANCE NO. _____

An ordinance to repeal Grand Forks City Code § 24-0108.2. relating to the creation of the Tech Accelerator Advisory Board and to amend Grand Forks City Code § 24-0110 relating to records and reports of the Tech Accelerator Advisory Board.

BE IT ORDAINED by the City Council of the City of Grand Forks, North Dakota, pursuant to its home rule charter, Grand Forks City Code and N.D.C.C. ch. 40-11 that:

Section 1: Repealing Grand Forks City Code § 24-0108.2.

Grand Forks City Code § 24-0108.2. is repealed in its entirety.

Section 2: Amending Grand Forks City Code § 24-0110.

Grand Forks City Code § 24-0108.2. is amended to read as follows (the amending language in bold, with deletions stricken through and additions underlined):

24-0110. - Records and reports.

The authority, **and** growth fund committee ~~and Tech Accelerator Advisory Board~~ shall keep a full and complete record of their respective transactions and activities. The authority, ~~the growth fund committee and/or Tech Accelerator Advisory Board~~ shall provide a report ~~on or before the first day of August of~~ each year to the mayor and **members of** city council.

Section 3: Effectivity.

This ordinance shall be in full force and effect after publication thereof, as provided by law.

Brandon Bochenski, Mayor

Dated: _____

ATTEST:

Maureen Storstad, City Auditor

Dated: _____

Introduction and first reading: _____

Public Hearing: _____

Second reading and final passage and approval: _____

Approved: _____

Published: _____