



July 20, 2026

To: Board of City Commissioners
Fr: Michael Redlinger, City Administrator
Re: Receive Presentation on City Staff Roles Related to Future Incentive Processes/Procedures

City staff is currently studying the City of Fargo's incentive policies and procedures for the City's Growth Plan Update. These incentives, and their corresponding approval procedures, have been adopted over several years and necessitate a comprehensive review against the backdrop of the Growth Plan Update and the retirement and elimination of the Strategic Planning & Research Director position. Over the last several weeks as the former Strategic Planning & Research Director prepared for retirement, several departments have been coordinating the transfer of duties, including: Assessors; Planning; Finance; and Administration. These departments all interact with the incentive processes and will continue to do so following the elimination of the former Strategic Planning & Research Director position.

Concurrent to this staffing transition, as part of the Land Development Code (LDC) update and as identified in the findings of the 2024 Growth Plan, there is an opportunity for refinement of policies and processes to align with the updated vision adopted as part of the Growth Plan. At the July 20, 2026, City Commission meeting, the Planning Department will provide an overview of the recommendations and next steps related to that project timeline.

In summary, there are several types of policies and economic development activities that are positioned throughout the City of Fargo organizational structure, as well as with regional partners. Together with the City Commission, City staff looks forward to collaborating with the Greater Fargo Moorhead Economic Development Corporation (GFMEDC), especially related to metro-wide activities.

Specific to Fargo, following are the types of incentives and the departments associated with the coordination of applications. Each of these processes are administered through City staff and include the oversight of the Economic Development Incentive Committee (EDIC) and/or City Commission:

- PILOT Business Incentives: Assessors Department / EDIC / City Commission
- PILOT New Construction: Planning Department / EDIC / City Commission
- TIF Renewal Plans: Planning Department / EDIC / City Commission

Other incentives that the City of Fargo administers through processes outside of EDIC oversight include:

- Renaissance Zone
- Remodeling
- Residential new construction

Following the July 20, 2026, City Commission meeting, I suggest a City Commission Informational Meeting to further explore the relationship between the Fargo Growth Plan, Land Development Code, and the work of the consultants that are currently hired. This Informational Meeting will also be an opportunity to discuss next steps and the coordination of policy development as desired by the City Commission, as well as the coordination that will be needed with other political subdivisions, including Cass County Government and Fargo and West Fargo Schools.

Recommended Action: There is no recommended action for this item. City staff will provide a presentation and answer City Commission questions.