

**DISTRICT OF BARRIERE**  
**MINUTES OF A REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING**

Held on Monday, February 23, 2026 at 5:30pm in the Council Chambers at Municipal Hall  
4936 Barriere Town Road, Barriere, B.C.

*“We acknowledge and respect the indigenous peoples of Simpcw First Nation  
within whose traditional lands we are meeting today.”*

Present:	Mayor Rob Kerslake Councillor Judy Armstrong Councillor Louise Lodge Councillor Brody Mosdell	Councillor Donna Kibble Councillor Colin McInnis Councillor Scott Kershaw
Staff:	Daniel Drexler, Chief Administrative Officer Kathy Abel, Chief Financial Officer Alexis Hovenkamp, Fire Chief	Tasha Buchanan, Corporate Officer Jamie Mosdell, Deputy Corporate Officer Chris Matthews, Public Works Manager

*Mayor Kerslake called the meeting to order at 5:30pm*

**1. ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

Moved by Councillor Lodge  
Seconded by Councillor McInnis  
That Council approve the February 23, 2026, Regular Council Meeting Agenda.

CARRIED

**2. ADOPTION OF MINUTES**

- a. Moved by Councillor Kershaw  
Seconded by Councillor Armstrong  
That Council adopt the minutes of the February 2, 2026, Regular Council Meeting.

CARRIED

- b. Moved by Councillor Lodge  
Seconded by Councillor Mosdell  
That Council adopt the minutes of the February 9, 2026, SPECIAL Council Meeting – Budget 2026.

CARRIED

**3. PETITIONS, DELEGATIONS AND SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS**

- a. Barriere First Responders – D. McMartin, President

The Barriere First Responder Society (BFRS) provided a PowerPoint presentation outlining the organization’s mandate and funding structure.

BFRS requested that Council consider a \$1/annual lease arrangement for the use of the Old Chamber Building for the Society’s needs and suggested a shared arrangement with other non-profit organizations for that building.

The Mayor inquired about the current arrangement between the District and the First Responder Society regarding the Society's use, at no charge, of one of the fire bays of the District's Fire Hall. Mr. McMartin responded that the arrangement was made approximately 10 years ago, by way of a verbal agreement only, in which the Society could use the bay for storage and training space for \$1.00/yr. It was stated that both the District and the Society recognize the importance of formalizing the verbal arrangement into a written lease agreement that outlines the terms of the Society's use of the space. It was noted that the District is in the process of creating a draft which will be forwarded to the Society after Council review.

b. Barriere and Area Men's Shed Society (BAMS) – R. Dane, President

Mr. Dane provided an overview of the Barriere & Area's Men's Shed Society (BAMS) mandate and financial structure.

BAMS provided a written proposal for the use of the Old Chamber Building as a community hub including a tool rental library. The proposal suggested that the Society would complete the labour & works required to bring the building up to a usable and safe standard, with the annual lease fee (minus utilities) to be considered in-lieu of this work. Mr. Dane noted that it is the membership's intention to complete the works themselves wherever possible as there is a number of experienced tradespersons within its membership qualified to take on such work such as LED lighting replacement, heat pump installation and adding additional insulation to the structure. Mr. Frezinger, a member of BAMS, indicated that its understood that as the owner of the Lions Hall, the District takes on 90% of the capital projects of the Hall which is under an operational lease of the Lions Club. However, the Men's Shed is looking to take on more of that type of work in order to make this project feasible and sustainable.

Staff will arrange a tour of the interior of the building in order for the Society to further investigate the feasibility of the project.

#### 4. **BYLAWS and POLICIES**

a. DRAFT Development Approvals Bylaw No. 269 – adoption – T. Buchanan, Corporate Officer  
*\*w/attachments*

It was questioned as to what would be the trigger for the security deposit requirement included within the draft bylaw. Council was advised that the intent of the security deposit is to ensure that the development outlined and approved by the permit or subdivision, is completed in the timeframe required with the trigger being substantial works such as utility installation, new primary structure or structure requiring servicing, access changes, and character changing landscaping for examples. Council noted that it wanted to reduce ambiguity and ensure fairness in the application of this requirement while not removing flexibility by being too prescriptive within the bylaw itself in order to address its concern. Therefore, it was agreed that staff will draft language to be included in the newly created development guideline literature to provide more clarity to prospective development and report this verbiage to Council prior to the bylaw's final adoption.

- b. DRAFT Alternative Means of Public Notice Bylaw No. 270 – adoption – T. Buchanan, Corporate Officer  
*\*w/attachments*

***Moved by Councillor Kibble  
Seconded by Councillor Armstrong  
THAT Council adopt Alternative Means of Public Notice Bylaw No. 270.***

**CARRIED**

- c. DRAFT Elections Bylaw No. 271 – adoption – Corporate Officer  
*\*w/attachments*

***Moved by Councillor Lodge  
Seconded by Councillor Mosdell  
THAT Council adopt Elections Bylaw No. 84, Amendment Bylaw No. 271.***

**CARRIED**

- d. DRAFT Election Officials Remuneration Bylaw No. 213, Amendment Bylaw No. 272 – adoption – D. Drexler, CAO  
*\*w/attachments*

***Moved by Councillor Lodge  
Seconded by Councillor Kibble  
THAT Council adopt Election Officials Remuneration Bylaw No. 272.***

**CARRIED**

- e. DRAFT Official Community Plan Bylaw No. 85, Amendment Bylaw No. 273 – 1<sup>st</sup> reading  
T. Buchanan, Corporate Officer

***Moved by Councillor McInnis  
Seconded by Councillor Lodge  
THAT Council gives 1<sup>st</sup> reading to Official Community Plan Bylaw No. 85,  
Amendment Bylaw No. 273; and***

**CARRIED**

***Moved by Councillor Lodge  
Seconded by Councillor McInnis  
THAT Council schedule a Public Hearing for March 30, 2026 re: Official Community  
Plan Bylaw No. 273***

**CARRIED**

- f. DRAFT 2026-2030 Financial Plan – 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> readings – D. Drexler, CAO  
*\*w/attachments – including: TNRD Invasive Plant Management Program*

If the Roads Department expands as proposed, additional staff hours provided may be available to assist the District in starting to address the noxious weed issue within

municipal roadways and properties. It was suggested that this service be included in the year-round road department business case. Staff intends to review possible training opportunities and inventory critical areas throughout 2026.

**Moved by Councillor Kerlake**  
**Seconded by Councillor McInnis**  
**THAT Council receive the report for information.**

**CARRIED**

**Moved by Councillor Lodge**  
**Seconded by Councillor Armstrong**  
**THAT Council give 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> readings to 2026-2030 Financial Plan Bylaw No. 274.**

**CARRIED**

- g. DRAFT Fees & Charges Bylaw No. 73, Amendment Bylaw No. 274 – 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> readings – T. Buchanan, Corporate Officer  
*\*w/attachments*

**Moved by Councillor Kershaw**  
**Seconded by Councillor Kibble**  
**THAT Council give 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> readings to Fees & Charges Bylaw No. 73, Amendment Bylaw No. 275.**

**CARRIED**

- h. Updating Policy No. 44 – Public Engagement to a Communications Policy – J. Mosdell, Deputy Corporate Officer

**Moved by Councillor Lodge**  
**Seconded by Councillor McInnis**  
**THAT Council direct Staff to amend and rename Policy No. 44 – Public Engagement to a Communications Policy, to update and clarify how the District communicates and shares information with residents, including the use of social media as a District communication tool, aligned with the inform level of the IAP2 Spectrum of Public Participation and to make other general revisions as needed.**

**CARRIED**

A draft policy amendment will be brought forward for Council consideration at a future Council Meeting.

## 5. STAFF REPORTS

- a. 2024 Statement of Financial Information (SOFI) – K. Abel, Chief Financial Officer

**Moved by Councillor Lodge**  
**Seconded by Councillor Armstrong**

**THAT Council accepts and approves the statements and schedules included in the 2024 Statement of Financial Information (SOFI) as presented.**

**CARRIED**

- b. Automatic Fund Transfer (AFT) Limit Increase – K. Abel, Chief Financial Officer

**Moved by Councillor Lodge**

**Seconded by Councillor McInnis**

**THAT Council instruct staff to apply to Beem Credit Union for an increase to transfer limits on the AFT system administered by Central 1 Credit Union. Limits to be increased to \$100,000 per transaction, \$250,000 per day, and \$500,000 per month.**

**CARRIED**

- c. Fire Engine # 1 – Disposal (Re-Discussion) – A. Hovenkamp, Fire Chief

Councillor McInnis reported that he was able to look at the truck and was able to disengage the PTO in order for the truck to run, but the batteries are done and would all need replacing. The time, funds and work to complete this work may not be sufficient enough to warrant any significant savings to make the necessary repairs.

**Moved by Councillor Lodge**

**Seconded by Councillor Armstrong**

**THAT Council authorize the sale of Engine 1 (1996 Freightliner) to Barriere Auto and Truck Tow for the offered price of \$3,000, and direct staff to complete all necessary documentation to remove the unit from the fire department fleet and municipal asset registry.**

**CARRIED**

- d. Early Budget Approval and Loan – D. Drexler, CAO

Councillor Armstrong left the meeting at 7:30pm

**Moved by Councillor McInnis**

**Seconded by Councillor Lodge**

1. **THAT Council provides early budget approval in the amount of up to \$150,000 for the Roads Equipment.**

**CARRIED**

**Moved by Mayor Kerslake**

**Seconded by Councillor Lodge**

2. **THAT the Council of the District of Barriere authorizes up to \$150,000 be borrowed under Section 175 of the Community Charter from the Municipal Finance Authority (MFA), for the purpose of Roads Equipment, AND THAT the loan be repaid within 5 years, with no rights of renewal.**

**CARRIED**

**Moved by Councillor McInnis  
Seconded by Councillor Lodge**

3. **THAT Council instruct Staff to utilize the General Capital and Fire Capital Reserve accounts to fund the principal portion of the 2025 Bush Truck and the Roads Equipment loans, estimated at a total of \$55,069, for the 2026-2030 Financial Plan.**

**CARRIED**

*Councillor Armstrong returned to the meeting at 7:33pm*

## 6. CORRESPONDENCE

- a. For Information
- b. For Action
  - i. BC Farmers' Market – Request for Letter of Support to Minister of Health regarding the importance of continued and expanded funding investment for the BC Farmers' Market Nutrition Coupon Program.

**Moved by Councillor Kibble**

**Seconded by Councillor Lodge**

**THAT a letter of support be sent to the Minister of Health reiterating the importance of continued and expanded funding investment for the BC Farmers Market Nutrition Coupon Program.**

**CARRIED**

## 7. COUNCIL REPORTS

- a. Councillor Mosdell provided a verbal report on the following:
  - Participated in a Zoom Workshop hosted by UBCM
- b. Councillor Lodge provided a verbal report on the following:
  - Thanked staff for their assistance in helping the Tumbler Ridge vigil come together at such short notice. It was wonderful that all the first responders were able to attend.
  - Volunteered at the annual Family Fun Night on February 15<sup>th</sup>.
  - Community Futures Foundation has awarded \$1,000 to the Wells Grey Fire Brigade and to both the Clearwater and Barriere Food Banks.
  - Will be participating in a MOU Meeting with Simpcw on Friday.
- c. Councillor Kibble provided a verbal report on the following:
  - Participated in a Senior's Centre Meeting.
  - Participated in a Barriere Food Bank Meeting.
  - Participated in a Heritage Meeting.
  - Volunteered at Family Fun Night 2026.
  - Is assisting the Fall Fair in various new projects.

- d. Councillor Armstrong provided a verbal report on the following:
- Volunteered at the Thompson Valley Players Fundraiser.
  - Volunteered at Family Fun Night 2026.
  - Attended the Tumbler Ridge vigil outside of Barriere Secondary.

## 8. MAYOR'S REPORT

- a. The Mayor provided a verbal report on the following:
- Participated in a number of TNRD Meetings.
  - Volunteered at the Family Fun Night 2026.
  - Met a number of times with the Trail Society
  - Spoke with a citizen regarding air quality in Barriere.
  - Spoke with a citizen regarding the deer population that seems to be larger than normal in town lately.
  - Stamer Memorial Wall in the cemetery – will be meeting with potential contractor with staff next week.
  - ETSI BC has announced it is open for grants.
  - BMI has been having issues retaining qualified kitchen staff and will suggest contacting MP Caputo's office for assistance regarding work visa requirements.
- b. SILGA Resolution:

**Moved by Councillor Mosdell**

**Seconded by Councillor Lodge**

**Whereas** local governments across British Columbia face significant infrastructure deficits, with many municipalities and electoral areas unable to meet these needs through property taxation alone;

**Whereas** many infrastructure funding programs require local governments to compete through application-based grant processes that are unpredictable, resource-intensive, and often resemble a lottery system that creates winners and losers while diverting valuable staff capacity at both local and provincial levels;

**Whereas** reliance on competitive, application-driven funding programs creates uncertainty in long-term financial planning and delays critical infrastructure, fire smarting, and community resilience projects;

**Whereas** predictable and sustained funding would enable local governments to plan responsibly, deliver infrastructure upgrades more efficiently, and reduce overall costs to taxpayers;

**Whereas** in other jurisdictions, such as the United States, local governments retain a share of sales tax revenue, providing a stable funding source for community infrastructure and services;

**Therefore be it resolved** that the Southern Interior Local Government Association (SILGA) urge the Union of BC Municipalities (UBCM) to advocate for the Province of British Columbia and the Government of Canada to establish a revenue-sharing model that allocates a portion of Provincial Sales Tax (PST) and Goods & Services Tax (GST)

