

DISTRICT OF BARRIERE
MINUTES OF A REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

Held on Monday, September 23, 2024 at 7:00pm 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: Acting Mayor Rob Kerslake
 Councillor Judy Armstrong -*via Zoom*
 Councillor Scott Kershaw – *via Zoom*
 Councillor Colin McInnis

Regrets: Mayor Ward Stamer (*on approved leave*)
 Councillor Donna Kibble
 Councillor Louise Lodge

Staff: Daniel Drexler, Chief Administrative Officer
 Tasha Buchanan, Corporate Officer
 David Alderdice, Chief Financial Officer
 Chris Matthews, Public Works Manager
 Alexis Hovenkamp, Deputy Fire Chief

Acting Mayor Kerslake called the meeting to order at 7pm

1. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Moved by Councillor McInnis
Seconded by Councillor Armstrong
That Council approve the September 23, 2024, Regular Council Meeting Agenda.

CARRIED

2. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

a. Moved by Councillor McInnis
Seconded by Councillor Armstrong
That Council adopt the minutes of the September 9, 2024, Regular Council Meeting.

CARRIED

3. PETITIONS AND DELEGATIONS – none scheduled.

4. BYLAWS and POLICIES

a. DRAFT Permissive Tax Exemption Bylaw No. 222, Amendment Bylaw No. 246 – 1st, 2nd & 3rd
readings.
**w/staff report*

Moved by Councillor McInnis
Seconded by Councillor Armstrong
That Permissive Tax Exemption Bylaw No. 222, Amendment Bylaw No. 246 be given 1st, 2nd
and 3rd readings.

CARRIED

5. STAFF REPORTS

- a. Department Updates – CAO
**submitted for information*

Council was provided an overview of the written report. It was added that the audit is getting closer to completion.

In addition, it was reported that MIABC has recommended that the District either physically deconstruct the unauthorized trail created on District property behind the Siska wastewater treatment facility, or install signage clearly notifying pedestrians that the property is not a public park or trail, and nor is it maintained and may pose hazards. Council agreed that the most cost-effective option was sign installation.

6. PROCLAMATIONS – *none scheduled*

7. CORRESPONDENCE

- a. For Information
- b. For Action - *none submitted.*

8. COUNCIL REPORTS

- a. Councillor McInnis provided a verbal report on the following:
 - Attended the 2024 UBCM Convention in Vancouver. Found great value in the numerous sessions, Ministry Meetings and other forums relating to topics that matter to citizens of Barriere and BC as a whole.
 - Was also pleased to learn about “Honour Ranch”, which is a safe haven for first responders and military personnel to receive critical mental health support.
 - E-Comm 9-11 Dispatch stats regarding mental health calls were provided at UBCM and a new 911 mental health program is currently being explored by the Province.

9. ACTING MAYOR’S REPORT

The Acting Mayor provided an overview of a written report:

- Council attended UBCM (Union of British Columbia Municipalities) convention from September 16 to September 20. We held several one-on-one meetings with Ministers and Support Agencies to discuss key topics that matter to the Barriere community.

Highway safety has been a priority for Council, and we met with the Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure the Honourable Rob Fleming to follow up on past requests on CVSE inspections and mandatory dashcams for semi-trucks, the ongoing construction of the CVSE pullout, an update on the potential 4-laneing project south of Barriere, and the continued sluffing of the highway North of Barriere. Along with Simpcw First Nations representative Ron Lampreau we also urged the Minister to expand a current traffic safety review to include the section of highway north of the Highway bridge to at least Barriere Town Road and consider a 60km/h speed zone in that area as it continuous to develop.

The meeting with the Honourable Anne Kang, Minister for Municipal Affairs, included discussions on grant funding opportunities to expand the District's underground infrastructure to the North end to enable additional proposed development and to potentially eliminate any current boil water advisories that may exist. We also discussed a potential project in partnership with Simpcw First Nation to develop a crown land parcel within the District of Barriere for various community services and much needed mixed-use and seniors housing facilities.

The Staff meeting with IHA (Interior Health Authority) further included discussions on the boil water advisories and support from IHA for the related grant application. Other key discussions included in-home care support services staffing needs, diagnostic technician staffing at the Barriere Medical Clinic to operate the incoming X-Ray equipment in 2025, and the continuation of existing ambulance service levels in the community which has proven to be a win-win for the entire valley with the current sharing model thus far.

Council also met with BC Hydro to discuss the various planned and unplanned power outages that affect our community, and we advocated for a redundant power source for the valley. Potential impacts to the power grid were also discussed if and when certain housing and commercial developments advance and how a potential mine would be connected.

Regarding the Taseko mine, Council met with the Honourable George Heyman, Minister for Environment & Climate Change Strategy, to discuss an update on the potential project and process timelines.

Attended a plenary session regarding medical transportation support services, "Hope Air".

Overall Council had a productive week at UBCM and we're looking forward to the responses to our requests from the various Ministries and Agencies.

- Attended Simpcw Days this past weekend in Chu Chua.

10. **PUBLIC INQUIRIES** – *none presented*

11. **NOTICE OF MOTION** – *none presented*

12. **NEXT MEETING**

a. Regular Council Meeting, Monday, October 7, 2024 @ 7pm

13. **ADJOURNMENT**

Moved by Councillor McInnis that the meeting adjourn at 7:43p.m.

CARRIED

Acting Mayor Rob Kerslake

Tasha Buchanan, Corporate Officer