

DISTRICT OF BARRIERE
MINUTES OF A REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

Held on Monday, January 10, 2022 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: Mayor Ward Stamer
Councillor Judy Armstrong
Councillor Al Fortin
Councillor Scott Kershaw
Councillor Rob Kerslake
Councillor Amanda Sabyan

Regrets: Councillor Donna Kibble

Staff: Bob Payette, Chief Administrative Officer
Tasha Buchanan, Corporate Officer
Chris Matthews, Parks & Roads Manager

Mayor Stamer called the meeting to order at 7:00pm

1. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Moved by Councillor Sabyan
Seconded by Councillor Kerslake
That Council approve the January 10, 2022 Regular Council Meeting Agenda.

CARRIED

2. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

a. Moved by Councillor Sabyan
Seconded by Councillor Armstrong
That Council adopt the minutes of a December 20, 2021 Regular Council Meeting.

CARRIED

3. PETITIONS AND DELEGATIONS

a. Peter Milobar, MLA – Update

Mr. Milobar provided a Legislative Assembly update which starts back up in the beginning of February where the budget will be presented. Other key points noted were:

- In regards to Provincial transportation restoration, there is no update as of yet. Commercial traffic is still the only traffic authorized through the Coquihalla Hwy.
- Grant relief programs for non-profits & organizations in light of the pandemic continue.
- In regards to the repeated closures of health centres due to staffing shortages around the Province, the Health Minister has assured him that they are working on a staffing plan but has not been provided details of that plan as of yet.

Questions asked of the MLA:

- Mayor: At the TNRD Hospital Board table, an MRI replacement has been discussed but some feel that the price tag is prohibitive. Therefore, the discussion is being held about possibly repairing the machine instead. The Mayor requested the MLA's support in lobbying for the full replacement of the much needed investment to our area's health. Mr. Milobar indicated his agreement.
 - Mayor: Requested a coordinated effort in re-route planning where needed by MOTI and the MLA voiced his agreement.
 - Councillor Kershaw: Will Lytton's rehabilitation relief support be impacted due to the Lower Mainland's disaster? The MLA answered that a lot of communities are in a similar situation and his office is dedicated to continue to press for their needs to not be forgotten in the fray.
 - Councillor Fortin: Expressed his opinion that the big cheques being handed to the communities for COVID relief, including the District of Barriere, may be well intentioned but feels that addressing homelessness in larger centres would be a better way to spend that kind of money. The MLA answered that he shares the concern about the growing homelessness in the Province but even if most or even all of the COVID relief funds were directed to that one, very complex issue, it would not be nearly enough to address the issue to be significantly impactful.
 - Councillor Armstrong: Are the railways affected with the washouts? Mr. Milobar answered that they were, but were able to be rebuilt fairly quickly. Councillor Armstrong followed up with asking if commuter travel via rail an option for the Province to collaborate with the rail lines? The MLA responded that the rail lines are federally regulated and therefore such coordination would be a Federal Government mandate and it is unfortunate that commodity distribution is prioritized over commuter transportation. The MLA also noted that bus travel is now permitted and he will have a conversation with E-Bus to see if there's some extra routes that can be incorporated.
- b. Lower North Thompson Community Forests Society – H. Wright re: Forestry and Funding Issues for Rural Communities

Harley Wright provided an overview of the current challenges Community Forests are experiencing in the Province and reiterated the importance of ensuring the Provincial Government fully appreciates the benefits they provide to British Columbia. Mr. Wright requested that Council write to Minister Conroy expressing these sentiments as well as to help educate those about the benefits of the Community Forests Society and their mandate, both on the political level and the local level.

Moved by Mayor Stamer

Seconded by Councillor Sabyan

That a letter be sent to Minister Conroy reiterating the benefits and essential service of Community Forests in the Province and to request the Minister's support of all of the Province's Community Forests now and in the future.

CARRIED

4. BYLAWS

None scheduled.

5. STAFF REPORTS

a. Capital Projects and COVID Fund Projects Update – C. Matthews, Parks & Roads Manager

Staff presented the most recent cost estimates for the proposed capital projects related to COVID funding. Discussion ensued. Details of the proposed Dog Park included the agreement of a 60m x 30m fence with a height of 5', gates, benches, trees, and water. It was suggested that solar lighting be incorporated if permitted in the budget. Substituting the standard dog fountain that was quoted with another option was suggested to facilitate this change.

In regards to the proposed UTV purchase to be shared by the Parks, Roads & Utilities Departments, it was voiced that other options may be desired by Council and therefore removed from the proposed resolution at this time.

Moved by Councillor Armstrong

Seconded by Councillor Fortin

That Council approve spending for the following items as detailed in the attached costing sheet:

- 1. Construct a dog park behind the SAWRC facility**
- 2. Purchase and installation of a solar LED crosswalk at Bradford Road**
- 3. Completion of Fadear Park playground safety upgrades**

CARRIED

b. CAO Update – B. Payette, CAO

The CAO provided an overview of the written report.

Moved by Councillor Fortin

Seconded by Councillor Kershaw

THAT staff be directed to submit an application for grant funding for the Sanitary Sewer Upgrades through the ICIP – Environmental Quality, and THAT Council supports the project and commits to its share of the project in the amount of \$1,900,000.00 as well as cost overruns.

CARRIED

6. PROCLAMATIONS

None submitted.

7. CORRESPONDENCE

a. For Information

December Cheque Listing: It was questioned if it were possible that the District could pay out the Fire Department members for their hours provided to the Province assisting in the Provincial wildfire fighting effort while waiting for the MOF payments that only just came in. Staff will look into this feasibility going forward.

b. For Action

i. District of Lillooet – BC Wildfires Petition

Moved by Councillor Fortin

Seconded by Councillor Kerslake

That a letter of support be provided to the District of Lillooet in their effort to lobby for changes to the Province's wildfire mitigation and emergency planning.

CARRIED

8. COUNCIL REPORTS

a. Councillor Fortin provided a verbal report on the following:

- Thanked members of Council, staff and public who helped clear the multi-use court. The Mayor thanked Councillor Fortin on behalf of everyone for all of the time and effort he dedicates to that popular facility.

b. Councillor Kerslake provided a verbal report on the following:

- Along with his family, assisted in the clearing of the multi-use court.

c. Councillor Sabyan provided a verbal report on the following:

- Many people have approached her complaining about their property assessments from BC Assessment and the significant increase they have seen.
- Some people are shoveling their snow around the fire hydrants and suggested that staff consider this issue in the draft bylaw and policy amendments in the works.

9. MAYOR'S REPORT

The Mayor provided a verbal report on the following:

- Participated in a number of TNRD and Hospital Board meetings
- Participated in a meeting with MOTI with DoB staff where variable speed zones, emergency re-routing, etc. was discussed.

Moved by Mayor Stamer

Seconded by Councillor Sabyan

That Councillor Kerslake be appointed as TNRD Board Alternate and that Councillor Kershaw be appointed as the secondary back-up Alternate, for the year 2022.

CARRIED

10. PUBLIC INQUIRIES

- a. Lana Lascovic –
 - Provided an update on the Community Christmas Dinner:
As the 2nd year doing food delivery, the event was very successful with 210 meals delivered this year. Donations came in at approximately \$2,100 and expenses were \$1,876. Expressed admiration for the amazing community volunteers who make this event happen. She thanked the District of Barriere for their steady support.
 - Thanked Council for the dog park headway and requested Council consider lights along the pathway.
 - Reported that she is considering running for Council in the upcoming Election.
 - Has been appointed the new ESS Director and will report to Council as that representative going forward.

11. NOTICE OF MOTION

None presented.

12. NEXT MEETING

- a. Committee of Whole Meeting – Monday, January 24, 2022 @ 5pm
- b. Regular Council Meeting – Monday, January 24, 2022 @ 7pm

13. ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Councillor Kerslake that the meeting adjourn at 9:05 p.m.

CARRIED

Mayor Ward Stamer

Bob Payette, CAO