

DISTRICT OF BARRIERE
MINUTES OF A REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

Held on Monday April 6, 2020 at 7:00pm
Via Zoom Audio-Conference, Barriere, B.C.

Present: Mayor Ward Stamer
Councillor Judy Armstrong
Councillor Al Fortin
Councillor Scott Kershaw
Councillor Rob Kerlake
Councillor Donna Kibble
Councillor Amanda Sabyan

Staff: Colleen Hannigan, Chief Administrative Officer
Chelsea Young, Finance Officer
Tasha Buchanan, Legislative Services Manager
Ian Crosson, Utilities Manager

Mayor Stamer called the meeting to order at 7:05pm

1. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Moved by Mayor Stamer
Seconded by Councillor Sabyan
That Council approve the April 6, 2020 Regular Council Meeting Agenda.

CARRIED

2. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

- a. Moved by Mayor Stamer
Seconded by Councillor Kerlake
That Council adopt the minutes of a March 16, 2020 Regular Council Meeting.

CARRIED

3. PETITIONS AND DELEGATIONS

- a. Cpl. Rob Welsman, Barriere RCMP – Departmental Update

Cpl. Welsman provided an overview of the Barriere Detachment's annual priorities for 2020.

- Impaired Driving (alcohol and drug impairment)
- Increase Rural Crime Patrol (ATVs, boats, etc.)
- School Talks and Youth Engagement

It was noted that there were some impaired driving fatalities in the area last year which are currently being investigated. Property crime statistics were inquired about and Cpl. Welsman reported that the detachment hasn't seen an increase in such files this year.

4. BYLAWS

- a. 2020 – 2024 Financial Plan Bylaw No. 175 – 1st, 2nd and 3rd readings

**Moved by Mayor Stamer
Seconded by Councillor Fortin
That 2020 – 2024 Financial Plan Bylaw No. 175 be given 1st reading.**

CARRIED

**Moved by Mayor Stamer
Seconded by Councillor Fortin
That 2020 – 2024 Financial Plan Bylaw No. 175 be given 2nd reading.**

CARRIED

**Moved by Mayor Stamer
Seconded by Councillor Fortin
That 2020 – 2024 Financial Plan Bylaw No. 175 be given 3rd reading.**

CARRIED

- b. 2020 – 2024 Financial Plan Bylaw No. 175 - adoption

**Moved by Mayor Stamer
Seconded by Councillor Fortin
That 2020 – 2024 Financial Plan Bylaw No. 175 be adopted.**

CARRIED

- c. 2020 Tax Rates Bylaw No. 176 – 1st, 2nd and 3rd readings

**Moved by Mayor Stamer
Seconded by Councillor Sabyan
That 2020 Tax Rates Bylaw No. 176 be given 1st reading.**

CARRIED

**Moved by Mayor Stamer
Seconded by Councillor Sabyan
That 2020 Tax Rates Bylaw No. 176 be given 2nd reading.**

CARRIED

**Moved by Mayor Stamer
Seconded by Councillor Sabyan
That 2020 Tax Rates Bylaw No. 176 be given 3rd reading.**

CARRIED

- d. 2020 Tax Rates Bylaw No. 176 – adoption

**Moved by Mayor Stamer
Seconded by Councillor Kerlake
That 2020 Tax Rates Bylaw No. 176 be adopted.**

CARRIED

- e. Fees and Charges Bylaw No. 73, Amendment Bylaw No. 177 – 1st, 2nd and 3rd readings
**with accompanying Staff Report*

It was discussed that under Provincial legislation, local governments are not permitted to assistance to business by waiving fees. It was also noted that the operation of services such as water, sewer, garbage collection and street lights are billed at cost with no profits to draw from in order to provide a discount to rate payers without having to make up that cost recovery loss at a later date. Council debated other ways in which the District could assist their community, including the option to waive all late fee penalties from April 1st to the end of the year. This would essentially give residents the option to defer their own payments if they really needed to.

**Moved by Mayor Stamer
Seconded by Councillor Armstrong
That Fees & Charges Bylaw No. 73, Amendment Bylaw No. 177 be given 1st reading.**

CARRIED

**Moved by Mayor Stamer
Seconded by Councillor Sabyan
That Fees & Charges Bylaw No. 73, Amendment Bylaw No. 177 be amended
by replacing proposed 6.1 with:**

“6.1 - Due to the unprecedented Provincial State of Emergency event of the COVID-19 pandemic, any applicable late payment fees levied under Schedule 4 of this Bylaw, as amended, are waived for fees and charges with a due date between April 1st, 2020 and December 31, 2020.”

And by removing proposed Section 6.2 entirely.

CARRIED

**Moved by Mayor Stamer
Seconded by Councillor Fortin
That Fees & Charges Bylaw No. 73, Amendment Bylaw No. 177 be given 2nd reading as amended.**

CARRIED

**Moved by Mayor Stamer
Seconded by Councillor Fortin
That Fees & Charges Bylaw No. 73, Amendment Bylaw No. 177 be given 3rd
reading.**

CARRIED

- f. Fees and Charges Bylaw No. 73, Amendment Bylaw No. 177 – adoption

**Moved by Mayor Stamer
Seconded by Councillor Kerlake
That Fees & Charges Bylaw No. 73, Amendment Bylaw No. 177 be adopted.**

CARRIED

Chelsea Young left the meeting at 7:30pm

5. STAFF REPORTS

- a. Development Variance Application DVP 20-01 – 4373 Conner Rd. – C. Hannigan, CAO

The CAO provided an overview of the DVP application No. DVP-20-01 located at 4373 Conner Rd. The proposed variance is to allow a reduction of the side lot line abutting Kamloops Street from 4.5m to 1.5m for the gas pump overhead canopy.

The CAO read the written and verbal comments received to date which are summarized in these minutes as follows:

- Mandeep Grewal – Barriere Esso: Barriere already two gas stations in town. Approval of this will impact our business.
- Eric Um – Barriere PetroCanada: Approval of this would have an adverse effect on our business. It may result in strain on the road access and could have a negative impact on real estate prices particularly during this time.
- Norma Bigham: Doesn't have an issue with the proposed variance itself but feels that it is poor timing due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Voiced worry that some residents wouldn't be able to submit comments on the application because they couldn't physically attend the meeting. As the TNRD is not accepting demolition waste at this time, construction should be delayed. Also felt that particulates in the air resulting from construction could impact those with respiratory illness. Feels the application should wait until the COVID-19 is over and that all building permits should be put on hold as well. Questioned the location of the underground fuel tank vents which staff will look into.
- Josephine Stevenson: Phoned comment in to staff and stated that "Barriere needs more business and no problem with what they are asking for."

- Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure: No objections to the proposed variance.

Moved by Mayor Stamer

Seconded by Councillor Kibble

That Council approve the Development Variance Application No. DVP-20-01 re: 4373 Conner Rd. as presented.

CARRIED

- b. Development Permit Application DP-20-01 – 4373 Conner Rd. – C. Hannigan, CAO

Moved by Mayor Stamer

Seconded by Councillor Armstrong

That Council approve Development Permit Application DP-20-01 as presented subject to an approved Development Variance Permit.

CARRIED

- c. COVID-19 Update – C. Hannigan, CAO

Things are changing on a daily basis. Public Health Officer at a Federal and Provincial levels continue to promote the message surrounding physical distancing and self-isolation.

Ministerial orders:

MO 82 – Bylaw Enforcement Officer (COVID-19) Order

- Local authorities must ensure that bylaw enforcement officers provide such assistance as may be required for the purpose of enforcing public health orders which will mostly be done via a public education process.

MO 83 - Local Government Meetings and Bylaw Process (COVID-19) Order

- Despite the Community Charter and Local Government Act, and the requirements of a procedure bylaw, a Council/Board, or their committees, are not required to allow members of the public to attend an open meeting.
- Despite the CC and LGA, a Council/Board may adopt a bylaw at the same meeting as the bylaw received 3rd reading.

MO 84 - Local Authorities and Essential Goods and Supplies (COVID-19) Order

- Local authorities must activate their local emergency plans and ours has been activated as we continue to work with the TNRD Emergency Services Coordinator.

Business Continuity

- The District of Barriere is continuing to operate “business as usual” as much as is possible under the above ministerial orders.

- The District Office is closed to the public but are still able to collect payment via drop box, mail a cheque, set up and appointment by phone to be able to pay via debit, online via their online banking or via our website with credit card payments.
- Weekly update sessions are happening with local TNRD and Simpcw representatives in order to keep everyone as close to the same page as possible. These Zoom meetings were initiated by the Barriere First Responders with Simpcw hosting. Meetings normally include a member of their EOC, Council, Fire Department and First Responders. RCMP, BCAS, Barriere First Responders, Barriere Fire Department, Mayor Stamer and Ms. Hannigan. Ms. Hannigan thanked Drew McMartin for initiating these valuable sessions.

d. CAO Update – C. Hannigan, CAO

The CAO provided an overview of her written report.

Utilities Manager Update: The Louis Creek Industrial Park water system had its commissioning program in full swing last week to which we saw the entire facility undergo a drastic push towards completion.

The deep well is having to undergo the installation of a new well pump in the near future.

The replacement of the deep well #2 well pump will remain on hold until the point in time we can get the Bradford well system operational and this is due to the fact that deep well 2 will be offline for 3 or 4+ days. Also, a hydrant flushing program will have to commence prior to these works.

The third Rapid Infiltration Basin, which wasn't replaced at the same time as the other two last year because it had still been functioning normally, is having issues. Testing is underway with repairs to follow.

Roads & Parks Manager Update: Roads work is ongoing with grading of all gravel surfaced roads underway at this time. Sweeping will take place mid-April after Easter as the contractor's schedule permits. As per usual this is a very weather dependent activity.

A cleanup of Fadear Park circle and other trail areas has been done.

Community Garden maintenance will be completed by the official opening date scheduled for May 1st. and information on plot reservation is now available on the District website.

Fire Rescue Department Update: There is an open burning ban in the Barriere Fire Protection Area until further notice. Associated signage is up at the Fire Hall. Fire practices have been canceled for now.

Infrastructure Canada Grant Feedback and Opportunity to Resubmit: The District of Barriere has not been successful in obtaining funding for the extension of wastewater along Barriere Town Road that would tie into the line that comes across Station Rd. and currently services Riva Ridge. Due to the fact the current ICIP EQ application intake closed before decisions were made regarding the ICIP RNC applications we have been granted a 6-week window to reapply by a new deadline of May 6, 2020 should Council wish to explore that option. The estimated cost for TRUE Engineering to rework that

grant application is approximately \$1000.00. Council agreed to hold off on the option to resubmit at this time in light of not knowing the overall impact on District finances that COVID-19 may present this year.

6. PROCLAMATIONS

None scheduled.

7. CORRESPONDENCE

a. For Information

Moved by Mayor Stamer

Seconded by Councillor Fortin

That a letter of thanks and appreciation be sent to YCS for the services they are offering under the *North Thompson Better at Home Program* in our community.

CARRIED

b. For Action

i. CHLW “The Bear” Radio Station – Request for Temporary Rent Relief

Unfortunately, local governments are prohibited from assisting business by waiving fees, including rent, (Section 25(1)(a)(b) of the *Community Charter*).

It was expressed that it is hoped the radio station would be eligible for some of the relief options being made available to small businesses from the Provincial Government.

8. COUNCIL REPORTS

a. Councillor Kibble re: Barriere Blooms

- Asked if Council would still like to go ahead with the proposed Victory Garden program and if so, asked for permission to create a Facebook page specifically for Barriere Blooms. Council agreed that the positivity and community spirit of this program is much desired at this time. Both Mayor Stamer and Utilities Manager, Ian Crosson, both expressed support for the program by offering up an additional \$50 each to go towards prize money.

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

- Will be touching base with Damon Marken regarding the HY Louis Building design.

9. MAYOR’S REPORT

The Mayor provided a verbal update on the following:

- Thanked all staff for working above and beyond with all the different work circumstances during this pandemic.
- Audio-conference meetings are being held weekly with Simpcw regarding COVID-19

- Council expects to announce a new CAO in the next week or so with an expected start date of July 1st, 2020. Ms. Hannigan will remain in her position until that time.

10. PUBLIC INQUIRIES

- a. Seanna Armstrong – Liked the ability to be able to attend the meeting remotely.

11. NOTICE OF MOTION

None presented.

12. NEXT MEETING

- a. Regular Council Meeting via audioconference – Monday, April 20, 2020

13. ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Councillor Kerlake that the meeting adjourn at 9:15p.m.

CARRIED

Mayor Ward Stamer

Colleen Hannigan, CAO