

DISTRICT OF BARRIERE
MINUTES OF A REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

Held on Monday, February 2, 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 Donna Kibble
	Councillor Louise Lodge	Councillor Colin McInnis – <i>via Zoom</i>
	Councillor Brody Mosdell	Councillor Scott Kershaw - <i>absent</i>
Staff:	Daniel Drexler, Chief Administrative Officer	Tasha Buchanan, Corporate Officer
	Kathy Abel, Chief Financial Officer	Chris Matthews, Public Works Manager
	Alexis Hovenkamp, Fire Chief	Scott Abel, Building Inspector

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

1. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Moved by Councillor Kibble
Seconded by Councillor Lodge
That Council approve the February 2, 2026 Regular Council Meeting Agenda.

CARRIED

2. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

- a. Moved by Councillor Lodge
Seconded by Councillor Mosdell
That Council adopt the minutes of the January 12, 2026, Regular Council Meeting.

CARRIED

3. PETITIONS, DELEGATIONS AND SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS – none scheduled.

4. STAFF REPORTS

- a. DRAFT 2026 Budget/2026-2030 Financial Plan - *1st Review – D. Drexler, CAO

An overview of the written report was provided. It was added that the TNRD's 5yr Invasive Plant Management Program that was previously considered in 2021 is once again offered. Depending on the number of communities opting to participate in the program, the estimated cost to the District would be \$10,000 per year to be included. In 2021, Council ultimately chose not to pursue the program due to funding restrictions. Should Council wish to reconsider participation in the program for this upcoming 5yr term, the draft budget and financial plan will need to be adjusted accordingly to reflect this cost. Staff will bring more information forward at the next Council Meeting.

Moved by Councillor Lodge

Seconded by Councillor McInnis

THAT Council approves the Draft 1 financial plan as presented and directs staff to implement the following strategies, ranked by priority, in the development of the Draft 2 financial plan, in order to provide a balanced budget:

- **Reduce Council’s Legislative Operating budget by \$5,000 (strategic conference attendance limits)**
- **Reduce the Roads Paving Capital Project by \$25,000**
- **Include funding the \$150,000 for Roads Equipment from Debt/Loan, with all Loan principal payments coming from Reserves in 2026**
- **Include \$70,000 Streetlighting Utility Billing revenue as Property Tax revenue with the same % of Tax Burden as in 2025**
- **Include a Property Tax Rate of 40.00 for Class 2 (Utilities), for roughly \$40,000 additional tax revenue, while retaining the Industry classes % of Tax Burden as in 2025**
- **to meet inflationary and asset replacement pressures, consider:**
 - **increasing Water service fees by 7.5%**
 - **increasing Wastewater service fees by 5%**
 - **where applicable, increasing User Fees by 5%**
 - **increasing overall Property Tax revenue by up to 9%**
 - **adjust the Class 4 (Major Industry) % of Tax Burden to roughly 3% (from 2.66% in 2025), the same as Class 5 (Light Industrial) – approximately \$3,500 additional revenue from taxation**
 - **Accept more day-to-day operational risk and reduce operational expenditures by up to \$40,000**
 - **as a last resort, consider balancing any shortfall within the 2026 Financial Plan with funding from surplus/reserves.**
 - **to increase future revenues:**
 - **review construction related fees and charges, including Connection fees, DCC’s, and Building Permit fees**
 - **connect with other Ridge tenants about cost sharing for Facility Use and Gym rental**

; AND to present Draft 2 of the Financial Plan to the Public at a Special Meeting held on February 9, 2026, at 530pm.

CARRIED

- b. Building Infraction re: Building Permit # 2016-007R, 2014-005 – Building Inspector
D. Dowling (“the Owner”)
Lot 11 Block 2 DL 1445 Plan 6315, PID: 010-098-887
630 Salle Rd (“the Property”)

The Building Inspector provided an overview of the file and its contravention(s). The Corporate Officer added that the property owner visited the office last week and while acknowledged the right to speak to Council on the matter, has chosen to not attend tonight’s meeting.

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

THAT, the Corporate Officer be authorized to file a Notice pursuant to the authority of Section 57 of the Community Charter against the Title of Dave Dowling of 630 Salle Rd (PID: 010-098-887).

CARRIED

- c. Disposal of Engine 1 – 1996 Freightliner Fire Apparatus – A. Hovenkamp, Fire Chief

Councillor McInnis suggested holding off on this decision until the next meeting as he would like the opportunity to further evaluate the truck personally to determine if there are other options Council should consider.

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

THAT the staff report titled “Disposal of Engine 1 – 1996 Freightliner Fire Apparatus” be considered at the next Council Meeting.

CARRIED

- d. Department Updates – Department Heads
**submitted for information*

Council was provided an overview of the written report.

The Fire Chief added that the Emergency Operations Centre (EOC) Equipment and Training funding stream, administered by the Union of British Columbia Municipalities (UBCM), is once again open for intakes. The program provides funding for essential EOC equipment, supplies, and training to ensure communities are better prepared to coordinate effective responses to emergencies and disasters. The funding is 100% funded up to \$30,000.

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

THAT staff be directed to apply for funding in the amount of \$30,000 under the UBCM Community Emergency Preparedness Fund.

CARRIED

5. BYLAWS and POLICIES

- a. Wastewater Regulations Bylaw No. 268 – adoption – T. Buchanan, Corporate Officer
**w/attachments*

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

THAT Council adopt Wastewater Regulations Bylaw No. 268.

CARRIED

- b. DRAFT Development Approvals Bylaw No. 269 – 1st, 2nd & 3rd readings – T. Buchanan, Corporate Officer
**w/attachments*

Moved by Councillor Lodge

Seconded by Councillor Armstrong

THAT Council give 1st, 2nd & 3rd readings to Development Approvals Bylaw No. 269

CARRIED

- c. DRAFT Alternative Means of Public Notice Bylaw No. 270 – 1st, 2nd & 3rd readings – T. Buchanan, Corporate Officer
**w/attachments*

Moved by Councillor Mosdell

Seconded by Councillor Lodge

THAT Council give 1st, 2nd & 3rd readings to Alternative Means of Public Notice Bylaw No. 270.

CARRIED

- d. DRAFT Elections Bylaw No. 271 – 1st, 2nd & 3rd readings – Corporate Officer
**w/attachments*

Moved by Councillor Lodge

Seconded by Councillor Kibble

THAT Council give 1st, 2nd & 3rd readings to Elections Bylaw No. 84, Amendment Bylaw No. 271.

CARRIED

Councillor Mosdell declared a conflict of interest and left the meeting at 7:25pm

- e. DRAFT Election Officials Remuneration Bylaw No. 213, Amendment Bylaw No. 272 – 1st, 2nd & 3rd readings – D. Drexler, CAO
**w/attachments*

Moved by Councillor McInnis

Seconded by Councillor Lodge

THAT Council give 1st, 2nd & 3rd readings to Election Officials Remuneration Bylaw No. 272.

CARRIED

- f. Appointment of Chief Election Officer & Deputy Chief Election Officer(s) – T. Buchanan, Corporate Officer

Moved by Councillor Lodge

Seconded by Councillor Armstrong

THAT Council:

- 1. Appoint Tasha Buchanan as Chief Election Officer for the 2026 General Local Election.**

Moved by Councillor McInnis

Seconded by Councillor Armstrong

THAT Council:

- 2. Appoint Jamie Mosdell as Deputy Chief Election Officer and Daniel Drexler as Deputy Chief Election Officer for the 2026 General Local Election.**

CARRIED

Councillor Mosdell returned to the meeting at 7:30pm

6. CORRESPONDENCE

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

7. COUNCIL REPORTS

- a. Councillor Armstrong provided a verbal report on the following:
 - Attended the Legion Bursary Awards
 - Attended the Teddy Bear Picnic on January 25th, 2026.
- b. Councillor Kibble provided a verbal report on the following:
 - Voiced sincere condolences on behalf of the District to Councillor Armstrong regarding the loss of her husband, Bob Armstrong.
 - Attended the Simpcw/District of Barriere Public Open House on January 27th
 - The Heritage Society is working on a project relating to the history of the Barriere Improvement District.
- c. Councillor Lodge provided a verbal report on the following:
 - Attended a Barriere Chamber of Commerce Meeting – will be stepping down as a voting Director on their Board but is interested in serving on the Board as a Council Liaison member.
 - Participated in a Communities Foundation Meeting – 2026 is the organization's 25yr anniversary.
 - Attended the Simpcw/District of Barriere Public Open House on January 27th.
 - Family Fun Night is scheduled for Sunday, February 15th, 2026 – 5:30pm – 9pm at the Ridge.

8. MAYOR'S REPORT

The Mayor provided a verbal report on the following:

- January 18th – along with Councillor Mosdell and the CAO, met with Minister of State and spoke of Barriere's goals and priorities.
- January 26th – met with Chief Lamperau regarding shared goals.
- January 26th – met with the Barriere Trails Society

- January 27th – Participated in the Simpcw/District of Barriere Public Open House
- Had a meeting with the Men’s Shed Group to hear about the group’s mandate and any possibilities of the group utilizing the old Chamber building. The group plans on attending a Council Meeting in the near future.

9. **PUBLIC INQUIRIES** – *none presented.*

- a. Steven Boylan – inquired as to the status of the apparent abandoned property within the LCIP. It was noted that the property is currently for sale.

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

11. **CONVENE INTO CLOSED SESSION**

Moved by Councillor Lodge

Seconded by Councillor Armstrong

Pursuant to Sections 90(1)(k)(2)(b) of the Community Charter, that the public interest requires that persons other than Council Members and required staff be excluded from the meeting and that Council continues the meeting in closed session to discuss confidential matters at 7:46p.m.

CARRIED

12. **RECONVENE OPEN MEETING** - @ 8:46p.m.

13. **BUSINESS ARISING FROM CLOSED SESSION** (*if required*)

14. **NEXT MEETINGS** - *SPECIAL Council Meeting (Public Presentation of Draft 2026 Budget) – February 9, 2026 @ 5:30pm*
 - *Regular Council Meeting – February 23, 2026 @ 5:30pm*

15. **ADJOURNMENT**

Moved by Councillor that the meeting adjourn at 8:48p.m.

CARRIED

Mayor Rob Kerslake

T. Buchanan, Corporate Officer