

DISTRICT OF BARRIERE
MINUTES OF A REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

Held on Monday, September 15, 2025 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 Donna Kibble Councillor Colin McInnis Councillor Brody Mosdell
Regrets:	Councillor Judy Armstrong Councillor Scott Kershaw Councillor Louise Lodge
Staff:	Daniel Drexler, Chief Administrative Officer Tasha Buchanan, Corporate Officer Kathy Abel, Finance Officer Jamie Mosdell, Deputy Finance Officer Chris Matthews, Public Works Manager Alexis Hovenkamp, Fire Chief

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

1. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Moved by Councillor Kibble

Seconded by Councillor Mosdell

That Council approve the September 15, 2025, Regular Council Meeting Agenda.

CARRIED

2. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

a. Moved by Councillor Kibble

Seconded by Councillor Mosdell

That Council adopt the minutes of the August 18, 2025, Regular Council Meeting.

CARRIED

b. Moved by Councillor McInnis

Seconded by Councillor Mosdell

That Council adopt the minutes of the August 27, 2025, Special Council Meeting.

CARRIED

3. PETITIONS, DELEGATIONS AND SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

a. Barriere Fire Rescue – Officer Appointment Presentation – Chief Hovenkamp

Chief Hovenkamp proudly presented two members of the Fire Department with their epaulettes and Officer pins. Thank you was expressed by Council and staff to the Officers for their dedication to the department and their community:

- Captain Ronja Baggio
- Lieutenant Jeff Camara

Chief Hovenkamp noted that Captain Scott Abel would have received the same recognition presentation this evening, however, he is out on deployment at the present moment.

b. Big Bark Falling – Special Thanks from Council & Barriere Fire Rescue

James Lane, owner of Big Bark Falling, was presented an award of recognition from Mayor Kerslake on behalf of Council and the Fire Department for his, and his team's, swift actioning of reporting and assistance in extinguishing the beginning of a wildfire in the Leonie Creek Rd area last month. Big Bark Falling's assistance helped ensure that our community didn't end up with an out of control wildfire at its doorstep and Mayor Kerslake expressed the District's gratitude.

c. Burning Ban in the District of Barriere – Eric Sweder

Mr. Sweder was not in attendance at this point in the meeting and was heard later on the agenda when he arrived at 6:10pm.

Mr. Sweder who lives on Saul Rd. provided an address to Council making the following statements and expressed opinions:

- *He loves living in Barriere and has since 2013.*
- *Campfires can cause wildfires but he can't find any statistics on the District website showing how many have actually caused wildfires in the District of Barriere.*
- *Found other studies relating to BC and Canada that 70% are started by lightening with 30% human caused which can be started by machinery and other causes – not necessarily by campfires.*
- *Accidents happen and this is why Barriere has a Fire Department.*
- *2003 Wildfire was started by a cigarette that was discarded irresponsibly, not by a campfire.*
- *Barriere was the first community in BC to have a full fire ban this year.*
- *Shortages of volunteer firefighter availability should be publicly posted on social media.*
- *Is the real reason the ban was put in place because they want to contract out to the TNRD and ban campfires every day of the year?*
- *Climate Change Emergency is Liberal propaganda.*
- *Why is Council participating in the Province's budget expanding policies by banning campfires?*

The Mayor responded that Barriere's Fire Chief implemented the Fire Ban in April for good reason. The ground in the surrounding area has been very dry. Even a few full days of rainfall does not remove a fire risk. Most people on Council and staff and even the Fire Department, have fire pits themselves and have no desire to ban campfires indefinitely.

4. STAFF REPORTS

- a. Department Updates – Department Heads
**submitted for information*
- b. Development Approval Process Report – T. Buchanan, Corporate Officer

A full analytical report and its summary, highlighting current statistics and practices relating to the District's Development Approvals processes, was provided to Council for review. The report has been prepared by the District's planning consultant as part of the District's successful funding application to the Province in the amount of \$150,000 to facilitate update and modernization recommendations to its Development Approvals process.

Moved by Councillor Kibble

Seconded by Councillor Mosdell

THAT Council receive the District of Barriere Development Approvals Process Review Report ("the Report") for information; and

THAT Council direct staff to prepare a revised Development and Subdivision Approvals Bylaw incorporating the appropriate recommendations outlined in the Report for future Council consideration.

CARRIED

- c. District Office Opening Hours – D. Drexler, CAO

The CAO presented an overview of statistics gathered by the office over a period of time showing the number of calls, office visits and types of inquiries/topics experienced by staff in order to determine if there are any efficiencies that could be implemented to better serve the community and support its staff. Due to a lower level of interaction during the first and last half hour of each workday, it was determined the office door and its phones be closed during those periods starting in the new year.

Moved by Councillor McInnis

Seconded by Councillor Kibble

THAT Council instructs Staff to change the general Opening Hours for the District Hall offices to 9:00am to 4:00pm Monday to Friday, except for statutory holidays, starting on January 5, 2026.

CARRIED

5. BYLAWS and POLICIES

- a. DRAFT Reserve Fund Establishment Bylaw No. 259 – 1st, 2nd & 3rd readings.
**w/attached staff report*

Moved by Councillor McInnis

Seconded by Councillor Mosdell

THAT Council gives first three readings to the Reserve Fund Establishment Bylaw No. 259.

CARRIED

- b. DRAFT Utility Billing Bylaw No. 260 – 1st, 2nd & 3rd readings.
**w/attached staff report*

Moved by Councillor McInnis
Seconded by Councillor Mosdell
THAT Council gives first three readings to Utility Billing Bylaw No. 260.

CARRIED

- c. DRAFT Tangible Capital Asset Policy No. 57FI – adoption
**w/attached staff report*

Moved by Mayor Kerslake
Seconded by Councillor McInnis
THAT Council adopts Tangible Capital Asset Policy No. 57FI.

CARRIED

6. CORRESPONDENCE

- a. For Information
- b. For Action
- i. North Thompson Community Foundations Society re: Request for Sponsorship

Moved by Mayor Kerslake
Seconded by Councillor Kibble
That Council purchase a Gold Sponsorship of the North Thompson Community Foundation Society's 2025 'Sip & Support' event in the amount of \$250.00

CARRIED

- ii. Yellowhead Literacy "Raise-a-Reader" Fundraiser re: Donation Request – J. Hayward

Moved by Councillor Kibble
Seconded by Councillor Mosdell
That Council approves a grant in the amount of \$500 to be provided to the Yellowhead Literacy "Raise-a-Reader" 2025 Fundraiser with the funds coming from the Council Grants line item in the budget.

CARRIED

- iii. Barriere Pickleball Request for AED Installation at Multi-Use Court – J. Biller

Moved by Councillor McInnis
Seconded by Councillor Mosdell
That Council approve the installation of an AED within the Multi-Purpose Court's Warming Hut should funds be raised by a third party for the purchase

of an AED or alternatively, that the purchase be considered within the 2026 annual budget deliberations.

CARRIED

7. COUNCIL REPORTS

- a. Councillor Kibble provided a verbal report on the following:
 - Participated and Volunteered at this year's Fall Fair & Rodeo
- b. Councillor Mosdell provided a verbal report on the following:
 - Gilbert Smith celebrated 70 years of operation this year.
 - Attended this year's Fall Fair & Rodeo

8. MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Kerslake provided a verbal report on the following:

- Attended this year's Fall Fair & Rodeo, including participating in the Parade and Chicken Race with MLA Stamer and volunteering in the Beer Gardens.
- Oct. 9th will be presenting the District's budget to the Lower North Thompson Forests Society.
- MLA Stamer will be attending this year's UBCM Convention in Victoria
- Valley Connector Bus Service Update – Currently is operating two days a week and managed by the District of Clearwater and regulated by BC Transit. The District of Clearwater would like to increase this service by another three days for a total of five days a week. Funding for this service comes in part from taxation – TNRD, District of Clearwater and the District of Barriere. More information will be coming forward soon.

9. PUBLIC INQUIRIES

- a. Grace Baker, President of the Chamber of Commerce – The Chamber is attempting to create a Learning Centre at the Chamber Office. Various training can be offered, therefore a survey will be put out to determine the best options to serve the community. Anyone wishing to learn more about the proposed Training Centre or potential training opportunities should contact Leanne Hamblin at the Chamber Office located at the Barriere Business Centre (BBC).

10. NOTICE OF MOTION – *none presented.*

11. CONVENE INTO CLOSED SESSION

Moved by Councillor McInnis

Seconded by Councillor Mosdell

That pursuant to Sections 90(1)(c)(e) 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 7:05p.m.

CARRIED

12. RECONVENE OPEN MEETING – *the meeting reconvened into open session at 7:58p.m.*

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

14. **NEXT MEETING** – *Regular Council Meeting – October 6, 2025 @ 5:30pm*

15. **ADJOURNMENT**

Moved by Councillor that the meeting adjourn at 7:58p.m.

CARRIED

Mayor Rob Keslake

T. Buchanan, Corporate Officer