

DISTRICT OF BARRIERE
MINUTES OF A REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

Held on Monday, March 24, 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 Judy Armstrong
Councillor Scott Kershaw – *via Zoom*
Councillor Donna Kibble
Councillor Louise Lodge
Councillor Colin McInnis

Regrets: Councillor-Elect Brody Mosdell

Staff:	Daniel Drexler, Chief Administrative Officer	David Alderdice, Finance Manager
	Tasha Buchanan, Corporate Officer	Alexis Hovenkamp, Fire Chief

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

1. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Moved by Councillor Lodge
Seconded by Councillor Armstrong
That Council approve the March 24, 2025, Regular Council Meeting Agenda.

CARRIED

2. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

- a. Moved by Councillor McInnis
Seconded by Councillor Kibble
That Council adopt the minutes of the March 10, 2025, Regular Council Meeting.

CARRIED

3. OATHS OF OFFICE

- i. Rob Kerslake – Mayor
A copy of Mayor Kerslake's Oath of Office can be found at the District Office.
- ii. Brody Mosdell – Councillor
Mr. Mosdell was not in attendance due to a family emergency and will take his oath of office at a future Council meeting.

4. PRESENTATION TO OUTGOING MAYOR – Mayor Kerslake

Mayor Kerslake presented a commemorative plaque to Ward Stamer in recognition of his long tenure serving the community on Council since its incorporation in 2007.

A transcript of Mayor Kerslake's presentation to previous Mayor, Ward Stamer, can be found at the District Office.

5. MAYOR'S INAUGURAL ADDRESS – Mayor Kerslake

A transcript of Mayor Kerslake's inaugural address can be found on the District of Barriere's website: www.barriere.ca

6. PETITIONS AND DELEGATIONS

- a. Wayne Sim, Wildlife Coordinator, Natural Resource Department – Simpcw First Nation
re: Bag n' Tag Program

Mr. Sim provided an overview of Simpcw First Nation's request to establish a bag n' tag station within the District of Barriere as a proactive measure against 'Chronic Wasting Disease' which can affect wild deer populations. Mr. Sim will approach the Barriere Esso as a possible location and the District will express its support of the proposed location to Esso management.

Moved by Councillor Lodge
Seconded by Councillor Armstrong
That Council take a brief recess at 5:56pm

CARRIED

Mayor Kerslake called the meeting to order at 6:00pm

7. BYLAWS and POLICIES – none scheduled

8. STAFF REPORTS

- a. TNRD Appointments – T. Buchanan, Corporate Officer
- i) Director to be appointed – Local Government Act

Moved by Councillor Kibble
Seconded by Councillor Lodge
That Council appoint Mayor Rob Kerslake as the Municipal Director representing the District of Barriere on the Thompson Nicola Regional District Boards.

CARRIED

- ii) Alternate Director(s) to be appointed

Moved by Councillor Kibble
Seconded by Councillor Lodge
That Council appoint Councillor Scott Kershaw as Alternate Municipal Director for 2025/2026, representing the District of Barriere on the Thompson Nicola Regional District Boards.

CARRIED

b. Department Updates – Department Heads

**submitted for information*

An overview of the written report was provided to Council. Councillor Armstrong reported that the North Thompson Activity Centre Society (NTACS) will be donating \$500 towards the 2025 Barriere Block Party.

The possibility of temporarily converting the men's washroom at the bandshell into a "Family Washroom" while the repairs to the women's washroom are being made was discussed. Council voiced no objection to this suggestion.

c. 2025 Budget Process – Draft 1 – D. Drexler, CAO

Moved by Councillor Lodge

Seconded by Councillor McInnis

THAT Council instructs Staff to tentatively plan with an application to the UBCM grant funding program for the fall of 2025 depending on the District's financial position at that time.

CARRIED

Moved by Councillor Lodge

Seconded by Councillor McInnis

That Council instructs Staff to include a 2.0FTE compliment, with an estimated increase of \$25,000, for the finance department in the 2025-2029 Financial Plan.

CARRIED

Moved by Mayor Kerslake

Seconded by Councillor McInnis

THAT Council instructs Staff to include no funding at this time in the Financial Plan; however, pending on the outcome of the current sponsorship campaign, in principle, Council is prepared to fund a portion at that time, with the funding coming from General Surplus.

CARRIED *w/Councillor Lodge opposed.*

Moved by Councillor Lodge

Seconded by Councillor McInnis

That the District's annual Voyent Alert subscription in the amount of \$1,700 be cancelled and these costs be removed from the 2025-2029 Financial Plan.

CARRIED

Moved by Councillor Lodge

Seconded by Councillor Armstrong

THAT Council approves the draft 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:

- Include opportunities to offset the 2025 operational and capital expenditures utilizing the COVID-19 safe restart grant for Local Governments**
- find ways to reduce the operational expenditures by roughly \$50,000**
- reduce the Council Requests to \$2,500 from \$45,000**
- increase Property Tax revenue by up to 9% to meet inflationary pressures**
- a 7.5% Water service and a 5% Wastewater service increase**
- where applicable, increase User Fees by 5%**
- as a last resort, consider balancing any shortfall within the Financial Plan with funding from surplus;**

AND to present Draft 2 of the Financial Plan to the Public at a Special Meeting held on March 31, 2025, at 5:30pm.

CARRIED

9. CORRESPONDENCE

a. For Information

b. For Action

i. North Thompson Fall Fair & Rodeo Association (NTFFRA) re: Request for Garbage Collection Over Fall Fair Weekend

Utilizing one of the expected new garbage bins being obtained by the District this year, was discussed and general agreement was to continue support the request with the expectation that staff will coordinate the service in such a manner to reduce costs as much as possible.

ii. BSS Grad Parade Request for In-Kind Support - BSS Grad Committee

Between staff volunteer support and some in-kind support from the District, the parade will be supported by the District.

10. COUNCIL REPORTS

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

- Attended the viewing of the Simpcw Film in Chu Chua with Councillor Kibble

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

- Attended the viewing of the Simpcw Film in Chu Chua with Councillor Armstrong
- The Barriere Museum is seeking a tree faller volunteer

- A member of the public has suggested that the District hire a rat specialist to visit the District to assess the problem.
 - A member of the public has phoned to note that the traffic speed in the town needs to be better enforced.
 - Participated in a Block Party Working Group
- c. Councillor Lodge provided a verbal report on the following:
- Participated in Block Party Working Group
- d. Councillor McInnis provided a verbal report on the following:
- Has stepped down from the Rec Committee

11. MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Kerslake provided a verbal report on the following:

- Appointed Councillor Mosdell to the Rec Committee.
- During his campaign, he heard the following issues were a priority to some residents: housing needs, lack of taxi service, permitting golf cart use, affordable rentals, and the increased rat presence.
- Met with BC Ambulance regarding the fate of the Juliet Car service in Barriere which has subsequently been approved until the fall.
- Met with the Parliamentary Secretary at the BBC with the CAO.
- Participated in a number of budget working group sessions and acknowledged the District staff's efforts in this regard.

12. PUBLIC INQUIRIES – *none presented.*

13. NOTICE OF MOTION – *none presented.*

14. CONVENE INTO CLOSED SESSION

Moved by Councillor Lodge

Seconded by Councillor McInnis

That pursuant to Sections 90(1)(c)(e)(i)(k) 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 7:35pm.

CARRIED

15. RECONVENE OPEN MEETING – *the meeting reconvened at 9:33p.m.*

16. NEXT MEETING

- a. SPECIAL Council Meeting – BUDGET: March 31, 2025 @ 5:30pm
- b. Regular Council Meeting, Monday, April 14, 2025 @ 5:30pm

17. ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Councillor Kibble that the meeting adjourn at 9:34p.m.

CARRIED

Mayor Rob Kerslake

T. Buchanan, Corporate Officer