

District of Barriere
REPORT TO COUNCIL

Date: March 11, 2024	
To: Council	From: Tasha Buchanan, Acting CAO
Re: Administrative Updates	

ACTING CAO UPDATE:

Development Projects:

- The next two Development Permits expected to be at the Council table for consideration this spring are for the Paradigm expansion in the LCIP and for a 7-unit multi-family structure on Lilley behind the BMI.
- Staff continue to facilitate initial discussions regarding a number of upcoming and potential developments.

Other:

- Participated in a productive meeting with Simpcw Band Manager, Rhonda Kershaw, during the last week of February during which Ms. Kershaw noted that she doesn't anticipate any challenges in providing a letter of support for the District's CEPF Flood Mitigation Plan grant application due at the end of the month.
- Attended the March 6, 2024 Community to Community (C2C) Forum in Clearwater with Mayor Stamer and Councillors Kershaw, Lodge and McInnis. A letter to BC Hydro has been drafted urging the utility to address the energy shortfalls in the Valley. Robust discussion took place regarding other organizational collaboration opportunities during this well attended session. While Valemount took the lead in signing the new MOU with Simpcw First Nation, Barriere, Clearwater and the TNRD are making headway in their collective review of the document and look forward to a joint, jurisdictional signing this spring.
- Participated in a joint CAO to CAO meeting with the TNRD, Clearwater, Chase, Logan Lake, Ashcroft, Sun Peaks, Cache Creek and Clinton regarding a shared service to complete the legislatively required Housing Needs Report update that must be completed by every local government before the end of the year. By combining this update into one contract, the cost to each local government is significantly reduced. An RFP will be issued by the TNRD in the coming days and Barriere's share will be covered by the Provincial funding provided to facilitate this work as well as for the OCP and Development Bylaw updates as previously reported.



PUBLIC WORKS MANAGER:

Parks

- Staff have begun to prune trees in park areas and around town.
- Brush has been removed along trails in Community Park.
- Submitted BC Hydro Re-greening grant for additional trees for Fadear and Community Park

Roads

- Staff will start to remove winter road abrasives this week.
- The damaged solar crosswalk by the AG Plaza has been replaced.

Utilities

- A minor issue of dirty water in the Riverwalk/Teacher's subdivision that stemmed from DW3 early last week, has been resolved. Flushing and testing have cleared DW3 to be put back online.
- A minor anomaly regarding recent water loss is being investigated. Our leak detection contractor is booked for the end of March. Staff will provide an update once more information becomes available.
- A water leak has been repaired on Salle Road with minor disruption to the homeowner.
- Staff recently toured two WWTP facilities in the Scotch Creek area; one SBR and the other MBR regarding our anticipated grant funding to upgrade the downtown WWTP. The original grant application referenced the SBR treatment method. Staff, in conjunction with our consultant, will present treatment options including projected operating costs to Council in the next month.
- The recent power outage last Wednesday did not negatively affect any of our facilities. The back-up generators started automatically with only minor issues at Siska WWTP.

BBC

- Interior painting is on-going.
- Millwork, drop ceiling, and flooring to start this week.
- Parking lot paving will be completed by BA Dawson and is scheduled for April.
- More clean-up and rotten tree removal has been completed around the property.
- The electrician is scheduled for the week of March 18 to install lights, switches, etc.

RECREATION COORDINATOR:

- The Recreation Committee is assisting at the Lions Easter Egg Hunt. Kids are invited to decorate an Easter Basket and bring to the event for the chance to win a prize. Judging will commence from 9-10:30am before the hunt begins.
- Staff have inquired about an electronic message board and are awaiting quotations. Also awaiting a call/email back regarding possible rental from the Seniors Society for space on their electronic board to help save on costs.
- Volunteer Recognition is scheduled for Thursday April 18th – More information coming soon.
- One evening Baseball Clinic for beginning of May is being arranged.

FINANCE OFFICER:

Reminder of draft Budget Meeting Schedule:

- Monday, March 25, 2024 – Regular Council Meeting @ 7:00pm for 4th (and possibly final if not previously approved during the March 11th meeting) review of Draft 2024 Budget & tax implications
- Monday, April 22, 2024 – Regular Council Meeting @ 7pm for 1st, 2nd, 3rd readings of 5-year Financial Plan & Tax Rate Bylaws
- Monday, May 13, 2024 – Regular Council Meeting @ 7:00pm for adoption of Financial Plan & Tax Rate Bylaws.

CORPORATE OFFICER:

- The TNRD has been notified of the District's approval to sign an agreement for GIS Services.
- Staff continue to update the District's Occupational Health & Safety program with a review of all safe work practices and risk assessments.
- The CAO position posting has been re-issued. Applications will be accepted to tbuchanan@barriere.ca until March 25th . A Hiring Committee meeting date will be scheduled early that week.
- Shelley Sim of the Division of Family Practice is scheduled to appear at the next Council Meeting to discuss 'Welcome' ideas/option/plan for the incoming new Doctor expected in Barriere shortly.
- Will be away on holiday as of March 10th and returning March 22nd.

*submitted for information

Prepared by: Tasha Buchanan, Acting CAO