

**MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING OF COUNCIL
of the Village of Barons
September 8, 2020**

- Present:*** Ed Weistra, Mayor
Ron Gorzitza, Deputy Mayor
Michelle Tarditi, Councillor
Byron Fraser, Fire Chief
Brian Passmore, Village Foreman
- Recording Secretary:*** Laurie Beck, Administrator
- Call to Order:*** Call to order at 6:03 p.m.
- Guests:*** None
- Public Meeting:*** The Council of Village of Barons held a public hearing to consider adopting the proposed Intermunicipal Development Plan with Lethbridge County and to contemplate the proposed signing of Bylaw #719. There was no public attendance at this meeting so Council will proceed with the readings.
- Approval of Agenda:*** **Motion made by Deputy Mayor Gorzitza to approve the agenda as presented. Carried**
- Minutes:*** To accept the minutes of the March 10, 2020 Regular Council Meeting as presented.
- Motion made by Deputy Mayor Gorzitza to accept the minutes of the March 10, 2020 Regular Council meeting. Carried**
- To accept the minutes of the March 16, 2020 Special Council Meeting as presented.
- Motion made by Mayor Weistra to accept the minutes of the March 16, 2020 Special Council meeting. Carried**
- To accept the minutes of the March 30, 2020 Special Council Meeting as presented.
- Motion made by Councillor Tarditi to accept the minutes of the March 30, 2020 Special Council meeting. Carried**
- To accept the minutes of the April 29, 2020 Special Council Meeting as presented.
- Motion made by Councillor Tarditi to accept the minutes of the April 29, 2020 Special Council meeting. Carried**

To accept the minutes of the May 26, 2020 Special Council Meeting as presented.

Motion made by Deputy Mayor Gorzitza to accept the minutes of the May 26, 2020 Special Council meeting. Carried

To accept the minutes of the June 3, 2020 Special Council Meeting as presented.

Motion made by Mayor Weistra to accept the minutes of the June 3, 2020 Special Council meeting. Carried

Business Arising:

a. Hotel Site

Administrator Beck met with the Village lawyer. Now that things have been reopening with respect to COVID-19, the lawyer intends on serving the owner with a clean-up order and has made registration on the title of the same. Based on legal advice, Council is being asked if the Village should proceed with the clean-up of the site cleanup date of September 30th, which is the date upon which the owner must clean up.

Motion made by Councillor Tarditi to hire the services of a cleanup company to remediate the old Hotel property and to seek compensation through the courts later.

Carried

b. Bylaw #719 – second and third reading

Motion made by Councillor Tarditi to read Bylaw #719 a second time this 8th day of September, 2020. Carried

And by unanimous consent of Council

Motion made by Mayor Weistra to read Bylaw #719 a third and final time and finally passed this 8th day of September, 2020. Carried

Village Foreman Report:

Both grass truck and gravel truck have now been sold. No issues with streets, etc. Next week, Drain-master will be out flushing lines as well as using the camera for the lines.

Administrator Report:

Mayor Weistra and Deputy Gorzitza have now completed Emergency Management Municipal Elected officials training. Both have passed the course and received certificates of completion. Capital MSI projects were applied for and subsequently approved, except for one which we are awaiting approval. Another grant application was submitted to Alberta Transportation regarding the

Infrastructure Master Plan as this has never been done in the Village. There have been a couple issues regarding the yard waste bin and it not being picked up promptly. The Village hopes this situation has now been rectified. Assessment notices went out and an extension was made by the Alberta Government that assessment appeals were granted additional time. To date no adjustments have been made to the assessment roll. Since ATB is now officially closed in Barons, deposits are now being done in Lethbridge. Arrangements have been made with Council that the office will close 15 minutes earlier on the days deposits are required to allow time to get to the bank as they close at 4 pm. Notification has been posted on the Village window and Canada Post advising residents of the change. The Bylaw Officer has had success working with the owner of numerous dogs, and two rescue organizations have removed 28 dogs from this residence. Only three animals remain – two of which are currently licensed. Would Council consider providing a donation to the two rescue organizations who assisted the Village in removing said dogs? A Fire ban was issued for the Village of Barons and clarity was received from the Fire Chief regarding propane and gas barbeques being acceptable. Request was made by a resident as to whether the Village would consider erecting a snow fence behind the properties on Blayney Avenue for the winter. Council's response was no. As well, it was requested that dust abatement be done in 2021 on the same road. Discussion will be held during planning sessions in early 2021. Some necessary maintenance was done on the Village Office building. New concrete was poured with a slight angle to move any water away from the building. In addition, some work was done on the laminate floors in the Council chambers and Administrator's office due to the water causing heaving. Public Works Foreman Passmore and Administrator Beck met with MPE regarding the Infrastructure Master Plan and additionally Administrator Beck has asked MPE to look at a project to use the Municipal Stimulus Program grant funds of \$50,000. It was thought that the Village could perhaps use these funds for upgrades to the sewer lift station, whether that be new pumps, etc. After meeting with Gavin Nummi from MPE, perhaps the best thing to replace would be a generator at the sewage plant. Would the Village be receptive to this even though the cost could be \$10,000 - \$15,000 more than the grant allows? The Village has a GIC due September 14th, in the amount of \$112,265.49. The Administrator believes that this should not be re-invested as the Village will need these funds to pay for the Infrastructure Master Plan. Alberta Emergency Management was in and conducted a review of the Community Emergency Management Program. Overall, the Village did very

well as we received 84% and there were some areas that are still being modified such as training and risk assessment.

Motion made by Deputy Mayor Gorzitza to approve the unbudgeted expenditures to repair the Village Office due to flooding. Carried

Motion made by Mayor Weistra to donate \$250.00 to both Windy City Canine Rescue and AARCS in recognition of their assistance in providing shelter, veterinary care, and subsequent adoptions for dogs. Carried

Motion made by Councillor Tarditi to approve the extra expenditures of municipal funds to make up the difference from the Municipal Stimulus Program grant of \$50,000, for a new generator for the sewage lift station to not exceed \$15,000.00. Carried

Correspondence:

- Barons Fire Department re: COVID-19
- Lethbridge County – Coronavirus information
- AEMA re: K-12 schools
- Privatenode – COVID-19
- Town of Nobleford – COVID-19
- City of Calgary – Local State of Emergency
- ORRSC – Coronavirus
- FCSS – Low German Mennonites
- Chinook Arch – COVID-19
- Alberta Community and Social Services – Suspension of in-person services
- AUMA – Amendment of Emergency Management Act
- Glenn Henry, RCMP – Changes in services delivery
- Alberta Municipal Affairs – Supports for students and laid off workers
- AUMA – Education Tax relief
- AHS – COVID-19 update
- AHS – COVID-19 info for Hutterite Colonies
- Palliser Schools – Cancellation of rentals
- Municipal Affairs – COVID-19
- Community Foundation – Responding to COVID-19
- Municipal Affairs – Municipal Governments during COVID-19
- Glenn Henry, RCMP – Sudden Death
- Glenn Henry, RCMP – Status update on Policing as of April 1, 2020
- FCSS – 2020 Funding contribution
- ATB – Deposit certificate
- ORRSC Planner Diane Horvath – Holiday schedule
- Municipal Affairs – Extended timeframes
- Bank Reconciliation – February, 2020

- AUMA – Economic Stimulus Funding
- ORRSC – Extension of deadline
- MPE – Intermunicipal Development Plan
- AHS – COVID-19 Testing
- Lethbridge County – Media release for Intermunicipal Collaboration Framework agreements signed between Lethbridge County, Town of Coaldale and Village of Barons
- Jaime Thomas, ORRSC – Custom maps or mapping
- AUMA – Employee benefits
- Glenn Henry, RCMP – Status update on Policing as of April 22, 2020
- AUMA – Survey results on finances of Villages due to COVID-19
- Chinook Arch – Board meeting via Zoom
- Municipal Affairs – Detailed Assessment Audit
- Municipal Affairs – COVID-19
- Police Advisory Board correspondence
- Chinook Arch Library Board – COVID
- Alberta Health – Municipal Council and Committee Meetings
- S/Sgt Glenn Henry, RCMP activity report
- Bank Reconciliation April 1 – April 30, 2020
- Bank Reconciliation May 1 – May 31, 2020
- Community Futures – Annual AGM meeting restrictions
- Minister Tanya Fir, Phase 2 relaunch
- Alberta Municipal Affairs – Clarification on authority of Enforcement when a public health orders lapse.
- James and Angelica Zucchiatti – Decision on appeal
- Alberta Municipal Affairs – Working with Federal government for infrastructure funding to continue despite COVID
- Green Acres – Update on COVID-19
- Alberta Health – Outdoor gathering limits have increased
- FCSS – Service Delivery Update during COVID 19
- Alberta Municipal Affairs – Economic Recovery Plan funding
- City of Cold Lake – Criminal Code Amendment
- S/Sgt Glenn Henry, RCMP – monthly report
- Bank Reconciliation June 1 – June 30, 2020
- AUMA – Statement on Bill 29
- Alberta Municipal Affairs – Detailed Assessment Audit for 2020
- Fixed Date Deposit Certificate
- AUMA – AHS changes to municipal 911 dispatch
- Priddle Gibbs, Adjustors – no liability
- S/Sgt Glenn Henry, RCMP – online reporting
- AB FireTech Ltd – pump test
- AUMA Convention – Virtual this year due to COVID
- Bank Reconciliation July 1 – July 31, 2020
- AUMA – Assessment Model Review for Wells & Pipelines
- Alberta Counsel – change of Municipal Affairs Minister

- Bylaw Enforcement Report – June to September 1, 2020

Financial Reports: Council was presented with the accounts payable and monthly statements for the months of March - August, 2020.

Motion made Mayor Weistra to approve the accounts payable for the months of March - August, 2020. Carried

Motion made by Deputy Mayor Gorzitza to approve the monthly statements for March - August, 2020. Carried

Committee Reports:

- a) **ORRSC (Oldman River Regional Services Commission)**
ORRSC bought a drone with the intent that municipalities will be able to access. An ombudsman complaint was received; the appellant was denied. It has been a bad year for subdivisions.
- b) **Fire Department**
Spent time revising all protocols. COVID-19 has changed many things. AHS gave the option to the Fire Department to resume response to medical calls at pre-COVID response. Chief Fraser will ascertain whether it is feasible to do so. Still waiting word about grant funding for a new rescue vehicle. MVC's and wildfires have been most of the response calls. Continual training for department members.
- c) **Green Acres**
No report at this time.
- d) **CFLR (Community Futures Lethbridge Region)**
There were about quite a few Forty thousand-dollar loans that were approved during the COVID-19.
- e) **FCSS (Family Community and Social Services)**
Some workers have been advertising the services of FCSS by going door-to-door or talking to people on the street. Discussion held re the budget. An online course will be offered. FCSS was contemplating starting a non-profit organization to raise extra funding for FCSS but there could be some conflict.
- f) **Mayors and Reeves**
No report at this time.
- g) **Chinook Arch Library System**
No report at this time.

- h) **AG Society**
The floor has been re-done in the hall.
- i) **Emergency Advisory Committee**
No report at this time.
- j) **Carmangay Library**
No report at this time.

New Business:

- a) **Royal Canadian Legion – Military Service Recognition Book**
Each year the Village sponsors a business card ad in this book, whose proceeds stay within the province to help veterans. The cost of this year’s ad will be \$285.00 including GST.

Motion made by Councillor Tarditi to sponsor a business card ad in the Royal Canadian Legion, Military Service Recognition Book. Carried

- b) **ATCO Gas Franchise Fee**
Each year, ATCO Gas gives the municipality an opportunity to change the franchise fee percentage. The current rate is 14.97%.

Motion made by Mayor Weistra to not increase the ATCO Gas Franchise Fee for 2021. Carried

- c) **Snow clearing and Ice Control Policy #75**
Council was presented with Policy #75, the Snow Clearing and Ice Control Policy for their consideration.

Motion made by Deputy Mayor Gorzitza to adopt the Snow Clearing and Ice Control Policy #75. Carried

- d) **Public Sale Date/Reserve Bids**
Council was presented with the fair market assessment for the following properties that will be offered at the Public Auction. Council is asked to set the public auction date and set the reserve bids for these properties that are in tax arrears. It is suggested that the Public Auction date be set for November 10, 2020.

<u>Plan/Block Lot</u>	<u>Reserve Bid</u>
Plan 0811206, Block 18, Lot 2	\$15,000.00
Plan 0811206, Block 18, Lot 4	\$17,000.00
Plan 0811206, Block 18, Lot 9	\$22,000.00
Plan 0811206, Block 18, Lot 10	\$22,000.00
Plan 2605X, Block 5, Lots P6 – 9	\$85,000.00

Motion made by Councillor Tarditi to set the tentative date of November 10, 2020 as the Public Auction date for the above noted properties that are in tax arrears and that it should be held at 10:00 am at the Village Office. Carried

Motion made by Deputy Mayor Gorzitza to set the reserved bids as presented for the properties that are to be sold at the Public Auction. Carried

Executive Session: None

Adjournment: Adjournment of the meeting was at 7:14 p.m.

Mayor – Ed Weistra

Administrator – Laurie Beck