

**MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING OF COUNCIL
of the Village of Barons
September 13, 2022**

Present: Ed Weistra, Mayor
Daniel Doell, Deputy Mayor
Ron Gorzitza, Councillor
Brian Passmore, Village Foreman
Laurie Beck, Administrator

Recording Secretary: Jen Durell, Recording Secretary

Call to Order: Call to order at 12:59 p.m.

Guests: **Angel Zucchiatti - Chickens**

Wants to bring forth discussion regarding Urban Chickens. Limits on amounts of chickens set at 3-6 in surrounding communities, as well as have them licensed with the Village. Carmangay, Champion and Nobleford have implemented an urban chicken program. Discussion was held. Mayor Weistra brings up issues regarding noise, proximity to neighbours, welfare, zoning, feces, predators. Discussion was held between the Guest, Administration, and Mayor Weistra regarding these points.

Council was presented with stats and information to make an informed decision on this matter.

Administration proposes sending out a survey regarding interest in starting an Urban Hen program, as there has only been a few residents who have expressed interest thus far. Further discussion was held.

Motion made by Mayor Weistra to send out a survey to Village residents regarding the possibility of starting an Urban Hen program. Carried.

Motion made by Deputy Mayor Doell to defer any decision until the next meeting, pending the results of the resident survey. Carried.

Approval of Agenda: **Motion made by Councillor Gorzitza to approve the agenda as presented. Carried**

Minutes:

To accept the minutes of the June 14, 2022 Regular Council Meeting minutes as presented.

Motion made by Deputy Mayor Doell to accept the minutes of the June 14, 2022 Regular Council meeting. Carried

To accept the minutes of the July 25, 2022 Special Council Meeting minutes as presented.

Motion made by Councillor Gorzitza to accept the minutes of the July 25, 2022 Special Council meeting. Carried

To accept the minutes of the August 11, 2022 Special Council Meeting minutes as presented.

Motion made by Councillor Gorzitza to accept the minutes of the August 11, 2022 Special Council meeting. Carried

Business Arising:

a) Hotel Site

The Village is waiting the transfer of land for said property.

b) Rezoning Request

The request for rezoning has been withdrawn.

c) "Animal" Bylaw

Administrator Beck polled all municipalities to see which municipalities have a cat bylaw. The results were presented to Council for discussion.

Mayor Weistra discussed the cost of enforcement and the un-enforceability of such a bylaw.

Motion made by Mayor Weistra to not pass a cat bylaw at this time.

Village Foreman Report:

Foreman reports that things have been very hot and dry as of late. Discussing the fire restriction and its impacts on our operations. Materials have been purchased to replace the tin on the community hall. Foreman reports that the old Fire Hall has now mostly been emptied, save for a few items that are either very big or hard to disperse like the turnout gear and the high-pressure air compressor.

Foreman reports that there was a failure in one of the service saddles to one resident; service was repaired within 24 hours. Foreman Passmore to order some new signage for the Village, as there are some posts in need of replacement and one sign on Milnes that is broken.

Motion made by Mayor Weistra to instruct Administration to research the cost of replacing signage. Carried.

Administrator Report: A email was sent from Green Acres requesting the Village's assistance with snow removal at Wheatheart Manor this winter. Administrator Beck sent a reply stating that the Village only has one public works employee and is unable to take this responsibility on. Slowly, the Village is getting rid of some of the Fire Department assets. Administration is recording all sales for the auditor and Tangible Capital Asset persons. The FortisAlberta grant for trees that Barons received has now been spent and the trees have been dispersed accordingly. Starting in August, the Village has had some temporary Bylaw enforcement services, and this will continue until Coalhurst hires a full-time person. The Village's IT person will be working on a new design for the village's website as an upgrade is needed. The Nobleford Fire Chief was contacted regarding excess medical supplies; Fire Chief Wagner took all the extra supplies and extends his gratitude to the Village. FortisAlberta moved the power pole in the back alley just to the east of the Village office so that the wood recycling bin can be placed on either side at the back of the office without the worry of hitting the power lines. Received a letter from Alberta Transportation that the Wastewater Lift Station and Trunk Main Replacement project that the Village applied for has been delayed due to funding. The project will be placed in the 2023/2024 fiscal year. Registration has been completed for the annual Alberta Municipalities Conference, and as such due to the dates, the Village Office will be closed from Sept 20-22 inclusive. Contacted EPCOR regarding electrical services out at the canal site – this service will be terminated as of September 16, 2022.

Correspondence:

- FortisAlberta – construction request
- Alberta Justice – engagement opportunity re provincial police service
- RCMP – Services
- Alberta Justice – Victim Services
- Mass Casualty Commission – Independent Inquiry
- Elizabeth Strange – Safety

- G. Foster – tree at 233 Queen Street
- Town of Tofield – Victim Services
- Alberta Police Service – Deployment Model
- Community Policing
- Diane Horvath, Planner – vacation leave
- Article on Policing
- Town of Coalhurst – Peace Office Resignation
- Alberta Municipal Affairs – Ministerial Order
- Barons Family Fun Day
- County of St. Paul – Rising Costs of Utility Fees
- Friends of the Carmangay Library Association – silent auction
- Green Acres – GAF Strategic Plan 2023 – 2025
- GIC Investment

- Service Alberta – Delays at Land Title Offices
- Municipal Affairs 2021 – 2022 Annual Report
- Alberta Transportation – Wastewater Lift Station and Trunk Replacement eligibility letter
- Aggressive Dog Complaint
- FortisAlberta Franchise Agreement
- June 2022 Bank Statement and Reconciliation
- Complaint letter – too many cats
- Lethbridge County – First Right of Refusal
- July 2022 Bank Statement and Reconciliation
- Precision Hydrant Services – Maintenance Package information
- County of Lethbridge Learning Council General Meeting

Financial Reports: Council was presented with the accounts payable and monthly statements for the months of June to August, 2022.

Motion made by Mayor Weistra to approve the accounts payable for the months of June to August, 2022. Carried

Motion made by Councillor Gorzitza to approve the monthly statements for June to August, 2022. Carried

Committee Reports:

- a) **ORRSC**
No report at this time as Deputy Mayor Doell had COVID and was unable to attend the meeting at the beginning of September.

- b) **Green Acres**

No meeting since beginning of summer. Next meeting is end of September.

- c) **CFLR (Community Futures Lethbridge Region)**
No report at this time.
- d) **FCSS (Family Community and Social Services)**
No discussion of new business at the last meeting, only housekeeping. FCSS has a retreat planned in Edmonton on November 16-17 with Mayor Weistra planning to attend.
- e) **Mayors and Reeves**
Cancelled due to Queen Elizabeth II's death
- f) **Chinook Arch Library System**
Meeting in August was cancelled. Next meeting to come at the end of September.
- g) **AG Society**
Brought up family fun day conflict.
- h) **Emergency Advisory Committee**
There is a mock disaster planned for Sept 22 hosted by the County of Lethbridge, but unfortunately, we are unable to attend due to a conflict of scheduling, as it is to take place during the Alberta Municipalities Conference.
- i) **Carmangay Library**
Meeting held to discuss the passing of board member Joyce Cook. A complaint was received regarding unprofessional conduct of a librarian, however it was determined the complaint was unfounded and due to a personal conflict outside of the workplace.

New Business:

- a) **Barons/Nobleford Emergency Services Agreement**
Administrators from both the Village and Town have worked on this document. Council is presented the agreement for their consideration.

Motion made by Mayor Weistra to defer signing the five-year Emergency Services Agreement between the Village of Barons and the Town of Nobleford until the issue of respective liability

**is covered.
Carried**

- b) KAIROS Blanket Exercise Invite**
Lethbridge County is hosting a KAIROS Blanket Exercise, September 28 and are extending an invitation to surrounding municipalities.

Discussion was held. Mayor Weistra expressed interest in attending.

Motion made by Councillor Gorzitza to instruct Administration to register Mayor Weistra for the upcoming blanket exercise. Carried.

- c) Rezoning**
With the disbanding of the Fire Department should the Village rezone the firehall's property from Public to Commercial/Industrial so that the Village can market said property for sale?

Motion made by Councillor Gorzitza to have the property formerly known as the Barons Firehall rezoned from Public to Commercial.

Carried

- d) Electoral Boundaries**
The Federal Government is changing the electoral boundaries. The impact of this is that Rachel Thomas, MP would no longer be the Village of Barons member of parliament.

Mayor Weistra made a short presentation on the proposed Electoral Boundary changes. Mayor Weistra to speak on the Village's behalf at an upcoming meeting on September 26, 2022 and express opposition to the proposed changes. Mayor Weistra spoke on the fact that many of our residents do business in Lethbridge, and to change the boundary and have us served by the MP for Brooks would put the residents at a disadvantage if they were to require assistance from their MP.

Closed Session: None

Adjournment: Adjournment of the meeting was at 1:46 p.m.

Mayor – Ed Weistra

Administrator – Laurie Beck