

**MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING OF COUNCIL
of the Village of Barons
April 9, 2024**

Present: Daniel Doell, Mayor
Ron Gorzitza, Deputy Mayor
Clinton Bishop, Councillor
Jen Durell, Administrator

Absent: Brian Passmore, Village Foreman

Recording Secretary: Jen Durell, Recording Secretary

Call to Order: Call to order at 7:00 p.m.

Guests: **Trevor Shaw - Rabbits**
Would like to have meat Rabbits on his property for his own consumption.

Administration informed Council about current bylaws not allowing rabbits in town.

Mr. Shaw would like to have Flemish Rabbits which would get up to 35 lbs. He would also like to have breeding pairs so that he would have a consistent supply of meat. Speaks of rabbits not needing room to run around and are content with a 2 ft by 2 ft box.

Motion made by Deputy Mayor Gorzitza to research rabbits further and come back to Council with findings.

Carried unanimously.

Rebecca McDonnell-Vrooman – Previous Questions, Policies and Procedures, Accountability/Transparency

Ms McDonnell-Vrooman spoke of concerns regarding the proposed Water Conservation Bylaw, as well as the rules for the different levels of restrictions. Wants to understand the restrictions exemptions process.

Speaks of research done regarding garbage bins, costs, etc. from other municipalities. What is all included in the research done?

Speaking of exemptions for utility bills regarding water vs. garbage charges and what is allowed under the utility exemption program.

Has questions regarding the monthly statements and is having trouble reconciling them.

Speaks of concerns regarding policies and procedures, as well as the Council Code of Conduct Bylaw.

In addition, Ms McDonnell-Vrooman questioned liabilities re: volunteers/committees. Requests answers to her concerns.

Susan Sarazin – Overdeveloped properties, Unsightly Premises, Expired Permits, Derelict House, Transparency, ORRSC Report

Spoke on a few issues such as overdeveloped properties and unsightly premises. Spoke to a few specific places.

Wanted clarification between development permit and building permit. Asked if building and occupancy permits are being adhered to.

Stated that she would like to see more information in the minutes and wonders if the Village will conduct visual meetings in the future. Requests answers to her concerns.

Approval of Agenda:

Motion made by Councillor Bishop to approve the agenda with the amendment as discussed. Carried unanimously.

Minutes:

To accept the minutes of the March 12, 2024 Regular Council Meeting minutes as presented.

Motion made by Mayor Doell to accept the minutes of the March 12, 2024 Regular Council meeting as presented. Carried unanimously.

To accept the minutes of the March 12, 2024 Budget Meeting minutes as presented.

Motion made by Mayor Doell to accept the minutes of the March 12, 2024 Budget meeting as presented. Carried unanimously.

To accept the minutes of the March 26, 2024 Budget Meeting minutes as presented.

Motion made by Deputy Mayor Gorzitza to accept the minutes of the March 26, 2024 Budget meeting as presented. Carried unanimously.

Business Arising:

- a) **Garbage Service for Commercial/Industrial Properties**

Council was presented with an RFD for the Garbage Service for Commercial and Industrial Properties, as well as the research gathered by Administrator Durell. Discussion was held.

Motion made by Councillor Gorzitza to allow for a second garbage bin at the Wheatheart Manor.

Amending motion made by Councillor Bishop to amend the utility rates bylaw to allow for non-residential users to request a second garbage bin at a cost for garbage service.

Carried unanimously.

b) Bylaw #757 – Water Conservation Bylaw

Council was presented with Bylaw #757 for their consideration. Discussion was held.

Councillor Gorzitza departed the meeting @ 8:40 pm.

Councillor Gorzitza returned to the meeting @ 8:42 pm.

Motion made by Councillor Bishop to send Bylaw #757 back to Administration for further revisions as discussed.

Carried unanimously.

Village Foreman Report:

Banff conference was great. Was very informative, especially the drought seminar. The water plant inspection went very well. Starting to prep for spring and summer work – readying mowers and doing preparatory maintenance. Updated Drinking Water Safety Plan.

Administrators Report:

Submitted the tax notification list for 2024 to AB Land Titles. Administration has received complaints of kids climbing on the roof of the kitchen at the Community Hall. Have purchased no trespassing signs to be placed in the windows of the kitchen. There was another break-in at a vacant property in the Village – Administration has contacted the RCMP as well as the property owner but advises to be vigilant. Received calls re: 2024 assessments – referred to assessor. Lots of time spent on research as per Council's directive. Attended quite a few meetings in the last month. Work continues on budget and planning goals.

Correspondence:

- March Bank Reconciliation
- AB Municipal Affairs – 2024 Minister's Awards for Library Excellence
- AEMA – 2023/2024 Municipal Emergency Program Review
- Alberta Public Safety & Emergency Services – 2024 Police Funding Model

- AB Municipal Affairs – Assessment Model Review Steering Committee
- Community Peace Officer Monthly Report
- AB Environment – Water Sharing Agreements Update

Motion made by Deputy Mayor Gorzitza to accept the correspondence as presented. Carried unanimously.

Financial Reports: Council was presented with the accounts payable and monthly statement for the month of March, 2024.

Motion made by Mayor Doell to approve the accounts payable for the month of March, 2024. Carried unanimously.

Motion made by Deputy Mayor Gorzitza to approve the monthly statement for March, 2024. Carried unanimously.

Committee Reports:

- a) **ORRSC**
Next meeting in June.
- b) **Green Acres**
Attended last meeting. Had the auditor in to discuss financial statements.
- c) **CFLR (Community Futures Lethbridge Region)**
Relatively quiet. 1 Loan approval.
- d) **FCSS (Family Community and Social Services)**
Attended a meeting – Starting hiring for more staff.
- e) **Mayors and Reeves**
Unable to attend.
- f) **Chinook Arch Library System**
Attended the meeting. Went over financial reports. Kainai Library Board trying to get their library going.
- g) **AG Society**
Starting to look into feasibility of a community garden. 8 boxes have interest. Family Fun Day set for July 6th.
- h) **Emergency Advisory Committee**
Had a meeting on April 8 – discussed the draft bylaw and ministerial order application. There has been some delay getting the draft bylaw back from AEMA’s legal department. Discussed next steps and ongoing training for those in our organizations.

- i) **Carmangay Library**
Starting May 2nd they will be attending the Seniors Centre on the First Thursday of each month from 1pm to 7pm with a pop-up library.

New Business:

- a) **Fortis Franchise Agreement Renewal**
Council was presented with the renewal documents for the Fortis Franchise Agreement. Discussion was held.

Motion made by Deputy Mayor Gorzitza to sign the 2025 Franchise Agreement Renewal as presented.

Carried unanimously.

- b) **Historical Society Request**
A request has come from the Historical Society, which was presented to Council. Discussion was held.

Motion made by Councillor Bishop to give permission to the Historical Society to place plaques at the Village Square to commemorate historical buildings, with Administration to set standards for placement of same.

Carried unanimously.

- c) **Donation Requests**
Council has received a request for donation and were presented with same. Each year the Village of Barons sponsors a business card ad in the Military Service Recognition Book for the Legion.

Motion made by Councillor Bishop to place a business card ad in the Royal Canadian Legion Military Service Recognition book in the amount of \$345.00.

Carried unanimously.

Motion made by Mayor Doell to deny the request for donation to the Fallen Heroes Foundation at this time.

Carried unanimously.

- d) **Sewer Lift Station Tender**
Council was presented with documentation from MPE regarding the Sewer Lift Station tender for their consideration.

Motion made by Councillor Bishop to accept the tender from UG Excavating for the upgrade to the Sewer Lift Station and Trunk Main at a cost of \$1,656,717.55.

Carried unanimously.

Closed Session:

None

Adjournment: Adjournment of the meeting was at 9:41 p.m.

Mayor – Daniel Doell

Administrator – Jen Durell