

**MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING OF COUNCIL
of the Village of Barons
March 11, 2025**

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 6:59 p.m.

Guests: **Dr. Alexander Darku, Prentice Institute – FCSS Community Needs Assessment Study**

Presented slide deck to Council with updated figures and information as of February 2025. Discussed the project, project outputs, and expected results of the study.

Councillor Bishop speaks about getting clarity about the study and appreciates Dr. Darku presenting to Council.

Approval of Agenda: **Motion made by Mayor Doell to approve the agenda as presented. Carried Unanimously**

Minutes: To accept the minutes of the February 11, 2025 Regular Council Meeting minutes as presented.

Motion made by Deputy Mayor Gorzitza to accept the minutes of the February 11, 2025 Regular Council meeting as presented. Carried Unanimously

Business Arising: a) **Bylaw # 765 – Revised Traffic Bylaw**
Council was presented with the revised Traffic Bylaw for their consideration.

Motion made by Mayor Doell to table Bylaw #765 until the next meeting. Carried unanimously.

b) **Bylaw # 766 – Alternative Methods for Advertising Statutory Notices on Planning and Development Matters Bylaw**
Council was presented with the Alternative Methods for Advertising Statutory Notices on Planning and Development Matters Bylaw for their consideration.

Motion made by Councillor Bishop to instruct administration to amend the bylaw title and the section relating to meeting method. Carried unanimously.

Village Foreman Report: Tree trimming will take place over the next week to cut back some of the Elm trees prior to the cutoff date of Mar 31. The roof on the water plant is underway – they are expected to be done this week. Have had a couple power flickers lately which has caused some minor issues at the sewer lagoon – these have all been remediated same day. Planning for the handicap parking stalls has commenced with the pavement being marked out where the stall lines will eventually be painted. As per Alberta Safety Code, the stalls for handicapped parking are required to be a minimum of 8 feet wide, with an 8 foot wide island placed between the stalls for accessibility purposes.

Administrators Report: Assessment notices have now been mailed out as of February 26th. The appeal deadline for same is May 6th, 2025. Residential assessment was up 8% overall, though different assessment classes saw different increases. The Village Auditors were here for the final audit on March 4th and 5th. Administration attended a meeting with MPE and the contractor for the Sewer Project; the electrical subcontractor is still waiting for a portion of the electrical conduit which is still needing to be shipped. The contractor takes full responsibility for the delays at the Lift Station, however on March 17th they will be commencing the tie-ins for the trunk main and discharge line so the land can be returned to the landowner prior to seeding, with the goal of having that completed by March 20th and commence the bypass pumping. MPE suggests that we give the contractor until April 1st to complete the project in its entirety, and if it is not completed by then, then the Village look at damages and recouping delay costs at \$1,000.00 per day.

Correspondence:

- February Bank Reconciliation
- Alberta Municipal Affairs – Provincial Priorities Act
- Alberta Municipal Affairs – Provincial Budget 2025
- Chinook Arch – 2025 Southern Alberta Library Conference
- Alberta Municipalities – Preliminary Analysis of Provincial Budget 2025
- ORRSC – Development Processing Position and Project Viability
- FCSS – Report to Municipalities
- FCSS – All Council’s Invitation and Agenda
- Bylaw Enforcement – February Monthly Report
- Alberta Municipal Affairs – ACP Program

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 February, 2025.

Motion made by Mayor Doell to approve the accounts payable for the month of February, 2025. Carried unanimously

Motion made by Deputy Mayor Gorzitza to approve the monthly statement for February, 2025. Carried unanimously

Committee Reports:

- a) **ORRSC**
Increase to ORRSC's budget. ORRSC is currently struggling to recruit planners and personnel.
- b) **Green Acres**
Discussed Piyami Lodge and the reticence of the Province to renovate. Discussed the retreat, and possible land purchases for new sites for lodges. Coalhurst is interested in having a lodge built in their community.
- c) **CFLR (Community Futures Lethbridge Region)**
Did annual write offs. Still funding in the Blackfoot signage project for signage. Possibility of facilitating a flag raising ceremony with the Blackfoot people.
- d) **FCSS (Family Community and Social Services)**
Celebrating their 55th year of Operations. Holding their All-Councils Meeting which is set for April 2nd at 6pm in Coaldale. We have been asked to RSVP our attendance by March 26th.
- e) **Mayors and Reeves**
Very short meeting. Not many in attendance.

Motion made by Mayor Doell to take a 5-minute recess at 7:41.
Carried.

- f) **Chinook Arch Library System**
Dinner meeting upcoming. Another meeting in Coaldale upcoming.
- g) **AG Society**
Have had some new committees created to organize activities.
- h) **Emergency Advisory Committee**
Meeting upcoming at the end of March

- i) **Carmangay Library**
Meeting upcoming

New Business:

- a) **Boulevard Parking Discussion**
Councillor Bishop speaks of the informal process in the bylaw whereby a parking agreement can be made with the property owner to park on the boulevard. Speaks of drainage requirements and the effect of boulevard parking on the drainage system within the Village.

Councillor Bishop suggests we implement a permitting process to allow for permitted boulevard parking. Discussion was held.

Deputy Mayor Gorzitza departed the meeting at 8:18 pm.

Deputy Mayor Gorzitza returned at 8:20 pm.

Motion made by Councillor Bishop to direct Administration to enforce the Traffic Bylaw as written and to send letters to affected properties to inform them of the bylaw standards.
Carried Unanimously.

Motion made by Councillor Bishop to instruct Administration to draft a Parking Agreement appendix to Traffic Bylaw #765 to include parking standards, remediation of damaged ground, drainage concerns, etc.
Carried Unanimously.

- b) **Regional Emergency Advisory Committee Appointees**
Council was asked to appoint two (2) members to the Regional Emergency Advisory Committee, as well as declare who the Director of Emergency Management (DEM) is for the Village. Discussion was held.

Motion made by Councillor Bishop to appoint Councillor Bishop as the primary appointee for the Village, with Mayor Doell as the alternate.

2 for, 1 against.

Councillor Bishop and Deputy Mayor Gorzitza for

Mayor Doell against.

Carried

- Closed Session:***
- a) **none**

Adjournment: Adjournment of the meeting was at 8:41 p.m.

Mayor – Daniel Doell

Administrator – Jen Durell