

**MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING OF COUNCIL
of the Village of Barons
February 24, 2026**

Present: Kyle Prince, Mayor
Belinda Rempel, Deputy Mayor
Jen Durell, Administrator

Absent: Wade Krushel, Village Foreman

Recording Secretary: Jen Durell, Recording Secretary

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

Guests: None

Approval of Agenda: **Motion made by Mayor Prince to amend the agenda to add item 11(d) and item 12(a).**

Carried unanimously

Motion made by Deputy Mayor Rempel to accept the agenda with amendments as discussed.

Carried unanimously

Minutes: To accept the minutes of the January 13, 2026 Regular Council Meeting minutes as presented.

Motion made by Mayor Prince to accept the minutes of the January 13, 2026 Regular Council meeting as presented.

Carried Unanimously

To accept the minutes of the January 22, 2026 Special Council Meeting minutes as presented.

Motion made by Deputy Mayor Rempel to accept the minutes of the January 22, 2026 Special Council meeting as presented.

Carried Unanimously

Business Arising:

a) Policy #087 – Village Owned Lot Prices

Council was presented with Policy #087 – Village Owned Lot Prices Policy for their consideration Discussion was held.

Motion made by Mayor Prince to adopt Policy #087 – Village Owned Lot Prices Policy as presented.

Carried unanimously

b) Bylaw #775 – Establish a Library Board Bylaw

Council was presented with Bylaw #775 – Establish a Library Board Bylaw for their consideration. Discussion was held

Motion made by Mayor Prince to table Bylaw #775 until March. Carried unanimously.

Village Foreman Report:

Recently became a member of the Alberta Water and Wastewater Operators Association. Has now booked training courses in preparation for water and wastewater operator certification. Will be away for two days in April, as well as in May for these training courses. Will be attending the annual AWWOA conference in Banff next month. This will further knowledge of water and wastewater treatment best practices, as well as provide opportunity for networking with industry peers. Has spent lots of time recently with plowing and keeping roads and streets passable and safe for travel. The mystery water leak has now been repaired and its location documented. Railway Avenue has been open for travel since February 6th – Apologies for the prolonged closure. Monitoring of the site continues, and the site will be refilled and repacked as needed. A big thank you to Mike Dean for his assistance in the finishing of the road repair.

Administrators Report:

Assessment roll has arrived from the Assessor - Residential assessment up approximately 5% overall, though different assessment classes will see different increases or decreases. Assessment notices should be mailed out by February 25th with an Assessment Date of March 5th and an appeal deadline of May 4th. Work is underway in preparation for the final audit on March 3rd and 4th. Letters have been sent out reminding affected property owners to clear up outstanding balances on taxes from 2024 and prior, otherwise this will be registered on title. Administration has been working with Foreman Krushel and Foreman Howes from Nobleford to submit the annual water reports to AB Environment. Have a meeting upcoming with the Village Engineers regarding the 2026 improvements project – This project involves the valve replacements, hydrant replacements, a sludge survey at the sewer lagoon, the Brainard to Blayney road connection, and the Queen Street waterline loop. Work on year end continues.

Correspondence:

- Police Funding Model Changes – Preliminary Estimation Process
- CPO Year End Report
- Barons Ladies Auxiliary – Thank you
- ORRSC – Message from Lenze Kuiper, Retired ORRSC CAO
- January Bank Reconciliation
- Chinook Arch Regional Library System – Board Report

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

Financial Reports: Council was presented with the accounts payable and monthly statement for the month of January, 2026.

Motion made by Mayor Prince to approve the accounts payable for the months of January, 2026. Carried unanimously

Motion made by Deputy Mayor Rempel to approve the monthly statement for January, 2026. Carried unanimously

Committee Reports:

- a) **ORRSC**
Nothing to report
- b) **Green Acres**
Nothing to report - Mostly discussed closed session items.
- c) **CFLR (Community Futures Lethbridge Region)**
Nothing to report
- d) **FCSS (Family Community and Social Services)**
Had a housekeeping meeting. Got a new FCSS staff member for Barons.
- e) **Mayors and Reeves**
Lots of discussion on police funding model. No word from the province about the police funding model – doesn't expect answers until after budget.
- f) **Chinook Arch Library System**
Nothing to report.
- g) **Ag Society**
Nothing to report.
- h) **Emergency Advisory Committee**
Meeting upcoming with Lethbridge County to discuss revisions to the evacuation plans. Meetings upcoming.
- i) **Carmangay Library**
Nothing to report.

New Business: a) **Resignation of Council Member**
Discussion was held.

Motion made by Deputy Mayor Rempel to accept the resignation of Councillor Baird. Carried unanimously

b) Date of By-election

Council was presented with an RFD outlining available dates for a by-election. It is required that the Council for the Village of Barons set a nomination date and election date for the vacant Councillor position. Discussion was held.

Motion made by Mayor Prince to accept the recommendation to have April 23, 2026 as the Nomination date and May 25, 2026 as the Election date.

Carried unanimously

c) Returning Officer Appointment

Due to the recent resignation of one council member, a by-election must be held, and an appointment of a Returning Officer must be made.

Motion made by Mayor Prince to name Jennifer Durell, Administrator, as Returning Officer for the Village of Barons. Carried unanimously

Motion made by Deputy Mayor Rempel to name Delores Toso, Secretary, as Deputy Returning Officer for the Village of Barons. Carried unanimously

d) March Council Meeting Discussion

Deputy Mayor Rempel requested this item for discussion. Discussion was held.

Motion made by Deputy Mayor Rempel to tentatively reschedule the March Regular Council Meeting to March 24, 2026.

Carried unanimously

Motion made by Mayor Prince to hold a 10 minute recess at 7:19. Carried unanimously

Motion by Mayor Prince to reconvene the meeting at 7:29 pm. Carried unanimously

Closed Session:

a) Offer to Purchase – ATIA Section 19 (1)(c)(i)

Motion made by Mayor Prince to go in camera as per ATIA Sec 19 (1)(c)(i) at 7:30 pm. Carried unanimously

Motion made by Mayor Prince to come out of camera at 7:58 pm. Carried unanimously

Motion made by Mayor Prince to accept the offer made by EVE Farms Ltd. in the amount of \$15,000.00 (Fifteen Thousand Dollars) for the purchase of equipment. Carried unanimously

Adjournment:

Adjournment of the meeting was at 8:00 p.m.

Mayor – Kyle Prince

Administrator – Jen Durell