

**MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING OF COUNCIL
of the Village of Barons
September 8, 2026**

Present: Clinton Bishop, Mayor
Belinda Rempel, Deputy Mayor
Kyle Prince, Councillor
Jen Durell, Administrator
Wade Krushel, Village Foreman

Absent: *None*

Recording Secretary: Jen Durell, Recording Secretary

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

Guests: **Robin Hepher, CEO - Chinook Arch Library Board**
Robin Hepher, CEO and Dothlyn McFarlane, Associate Director in attendance. Speaks of Chinook Arch Library System, and how it serves the region. Visiting all 40 members of the system to update them. Speaks of investing in the library system. Regional library board allows for communities to work together to deliver services and is formed by agreement. Public library board is formed under legislation. Volunteer board formed by a member from each community. System agreement is the heart of the board.

Every 4 years they develop a needs assessment and plan of service for the board which guides the next 4 years. Provides library services – bibliographic material, sports gear, toys, movies, etc. Each library has its own collection and lends to others. Chinook arch handles all ordering and packaging for libraries. Each library board gets a book allotment of \$2 per capita. Extensive IT services. Leveraging supernet to provide robust server infrastructure and internet to all libraries. Lots of tech purchasing for libraries as well. Expanded into phone services using VOIP for the libraries. No longer lending hotspots as it became too cost prohibitive for the system based on data usage. Professional librarians on staff to assist the librarians with reporting requirements, policy development, etc. Digital services are available with membership – video, newspapers, e-books, language learning software, tumblebooks, etc. all libraries share resources and are delivered by the 2 Chinook Arch delivery vans – 600,000 items moved last year. 40,000 items added to shared catalogue. Digital materials use increased.

Annual operating - \$4 million. Member levies make up bulk of revenues. Barons' levy is split between Carmangay and Lethbridge. Levy must be approved by Council – 2/3 of the Councils representing the board must approve of the increase. City

of Lethbridge has veto power due to population size. \$1 million operating grant for Chinook Arch Library Board. Still funded by the province at 2019 population numbers.

New service plans are potentially coming in 2027. Can come back for presentation to Council to discuss.

Speaks of Bill C-28 and inspection powers for library boards. Speaks of the new age and access requirements for age restricted materials and how they are impacting the libraries. Speaks of access to collections and how the new rules have changed policies and procedures.

Mayor Bishop asks about Lethbridge not increasing the levy and questions if there is concern about others not approving an increase. Robin explains that they have seen the opposite – most are supportive and are upset at the City for stonewalling the increase. Speaks of tight budgets at the City. Increase was \$0.41 increase per capita and the city declined. 2027 fees will be the same, next cycle is 2028-2032.

Al Cramer – Bylaw #776

Al questions what quorum is. Mayor Bishop explains that it would be 2/3 of Council.

Speaks of Council being presented with Bylaw #776 and who presented it to Council. Mayor Bishop explains that the utility bylaw was recommended by Administration to Council to lessen the subsidization of utilities with tax dollars.

Al speaks of tax dollars going up and wanting to know why taxes went up. Mayor Bishop explains that Nobleford sets the rate of water and sends us the bill.

Al speaks of water bills going from \$155 to \$175 and now to \$225. Mayor Bishop explains that we are still lower cost than Carmangay, Lethbridge, etc.

Mayor Bishop speaks of transparency between the utility costs and taxation. Al says that when a bylaw is changed it should be advertised in the newsletter.

Motion made by Councillor Prince to start including any bylaw or policy changes in the monthly newsletter.

Carried

Approval of Agenda:

Motion made by Councillor Prince to amend the agenda to add item 12(i) to discuss recording in meetings.

1 in favor, 2 opposed.

**Councillor Prince for,
Mayor Bishop and Deputy Mayor Rempel opposed.
Motion failed.**

Motion made by Mayor Bishop to approve the agenda as presented. Carried

Minutes:

To accept the minutes of the June 9, 2026 Regular Council Meeting minutes as presented.

Motion made by Councillor Prince to amend the June 9, 2026 minutes to change the wording of the motion made to remove the approval of the June 2, 2026 minutes from the agenda and to strike any motions made at that meeting as it was in violation of section 194 of the Municipal Government Act.

Carried

Motion made by Deputy Mayor Rempel to accept the minutes of the June 9, 2026 Regular Council meeting with the amendment as presented. Carried

To accept the minutes of the June 16, 2026 Special Council Meeting minutes as presented.

Motion made by Councillor Prince to accept the minutes of the June 16, 2026 Special Council Meeting as presented.

Carried

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

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

Carried

To accept the minutes of the July 28, 2026 Special Council Meeting minutes as presented.

Motion made by Deputy Mayor Rempel to accept the minutes of the July 28, 2026 Special Council meeting as presented.

Carried

Business Arising:

a) Council Training

Council was presented with prospective dates for holding requested Council Training sessions. Discussion was held.

Motion made by Councillor Prince to select October 22 as the date for the Roles and Responsibilities workshop.

Carried

b) Boulevard Parking

Council was presented with an RFD outlining the definitions of boulevard across the applicable policies and bylaws. Discussion was held.

Motion made by Councillor Prince to extend the moratorium on boulevard parking for 3 months.

1 for, 2 against.

Motion failed

Motion made by Mayor Bishop to rescind the motion to request Administration to conduct a survey on boulevard parking.

2 for, 1 against.

**Mayor Bishop and Deputy Mayor Rempel for,
Councillor Prince against.**

Motion carried.

Motion made by Deputy Mayor Rempel to direct Administration to amend Policies No. 062 and No. 084 to use the definition currently contained within Bylaw No. 769.

Carried

c) Resident Complaint Policy

Council was presented with an RFD outlining what other communities are doing regarding a resident complaint policy. Discussion was held

Motion made by Councillor Prince to create a CAO code of conduct.

Councillor Prince says this is a step in the right direction. Mayor Bishop asks how this will be utilized. Councillor Prince says that this can be reviewed upon during performance evaluations. Mayor Bishop speaks of this being largely symbolic and we shouldn't have a CAO code of conduct until Councillors themselves have one.

**1 for, 2 against
Councillor Prince for,**

**Mayor Bishop and Deputy Mayor Rempel against
Motion failed**

**Motion made by Mayor Bishop to accept the report for
information and take no further action.**

2 for, 1 against.

**Mayor Bishop and Deputy Mayor Rempel for,
Councillor Prince against.
Motion carried.**

**Councillor Prince questions what happens when a complaint is
ignored by Council. Mayor Bishop outlines the difference
between unfounded and ignored complaints.**

Mayors Report:

“Administration will provide detailed reporting regarding ongoing
infrastructure and operational work.

Appreciation expressed to Village staff for the work being
undertaken and for continuing to manage regular municipal
operations alongside these projects. Also gratitude expressed to
residents who have experienced water service interruptions while
this work has been completed

On July 27, Council and administration attended a joint meeting
with the Minister of Municipal Affairs alongside representatives
from Picture Butte and Nobleford.

Prior to the meeting, Council formally identified the following
advocacy priorities:

- Water treatment plant rehabilitation and upgrades
- Policing costs
- Access to provincial grant funding
- Provincial downloading of responsibilities onto
municipalities

During the meeting, Councillor Prince departed from the
coordinated approach Council had established for the meeting. In
my view, his intervention caused significant disruption to the
discussion and placed the Barons delegation out of step with the
approach that had been established for the joint meeting.

This was particularly concerning to me because Council had
formally identified the priorities Barons intended to advance, and
our time with the Minister was limited.

Following the meeting, I was approached by other elected officials
regarding what had occurred. In my capacity as Mayor, I felt it

necessary to apologize for the disruption and for the conduct they had observed from a member of the Barons delegation.

I am including this information because I believe residents should be aware not only of the opportunities available to advocate for Barons, but also of circumstances that can affect our ability to make effective use of those opportunities.

Differences of opinion among elected officials are normal and appropriate. However, when Council has formally established its priorities or direction for an advocacy meeting, I believe members representing the Village should respect that direction and conduct themselves in a manner that supports effective representation of Barons.

These comments reflect my own observations and perspective as a member of Council. They are provided for public information and are not presented as a finding or determination by Council regarding the conduct of another member.

I intend to continue focusing my efforts as Mayor on constructive advocacy for Barons and on advancing the priorities formally established by Council. Clinton sharing his own opinion and not asking Council to sanction Councillor Prince for his conduct.

On July 4, the Village held Family Fun Day, which was once again well attended and benefited from excellent weather.

The pancake breakfast raised important funds in support of food security initiatives and collected non-perishable food donations for local food banks. The parade drew a strong turnout and featured a wide variety of floats, with the traditional candy giveaways remaining popular with residents of all ages.

Activities throughout the day also included a car show, events at the Legion, a market at the Community Hall, children's activities hosted by FCSS, and historical displays at the History Centre.

I would like to thank everyone who organized, volunteered, participated, donated, or otherwise contributed to another successful Family Fun Day. The continued support of residents, community organizations, volunteers, and local groups is what makes events like this possible."

Councillor Prince speaks of memo saying bring your concerns. Says he didn't interrupt any proceedings. Says Nobleford knew of his intentions and didn't complain.

Village Foreman Report:

Arbourist tackled 20+ trees. Fire Hydrants and main valves installed. 1 more load of gravel to be installed and signage to be installed. Trees removed. Alley scraping in prep for winter. Water and sewer operating smoothly. Patchwork will continue weather permitting. Equipment running satisfactory. Confined spaces and

first aid completed. Waiting for County grader operator for grading.

Administrators Report:

Attended the LGAA Conference, as in previous years there were great learning and networking opportunities. Distributed food bank donations from Family Fun Day to the Picture Butte Food Bank – The Village collected \$428.75 in cash, as well as 9 bags of food items during breakfast. Submitted our annual Insurance renewal forms. Had all Village fire extinguishers inspected. Municipal Affairs has contacted the Village about the Municipal Accountability Program (MAP) Review – The Village is scheduled for October 7 for review. Work continues on the Hotel site property – initial court date is set for September 11 in Calgary. Occupational Health and Safety attended the Village to conduct an annual inspection and work is continuing on the reports requested by the inspector. Admin met with Southgrow to begin the process of creating an economic development plan. The Property Tax deadline has now passed as of August 1, and penalties have been applied to accounts outstanding. Administrator Durell has contacted Lethbridge County to grade a number of our roads including Blayney Avenue, Noble Street, Brainard Street, etc. No date yet for when they will be coming. The Hydrant and Valve replacement, Queen Street waterline loop, Sewer Lagoon Sludge Survey, and Brainard to Blayney extension has now been completed. Palliser Schools will be contacted to inform them of the opening of the road for buses to now utilize for drop offs and pick ups at Baron School. The Village Auditor is now booked for our annual pre-audit, which has been set for November 10 & 12.

Correspondence:

- Southern Alberta Summer Games – Dignitary Invite
- June Bank Reconciliation
- Town of Coalhurst – Miners Days Invitation
- FCSS – Executive Summary
- FCSS – Community Needs Assessment
- Nathan Neudorf, Minister of Assisted Living and Social Services-AISH/ADAP letter
- July Bank Reconciliation
- Southgrow – Certificate of Recognition
- Barons AG Society – Turkey Bingo Request

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

Financial Reports:

Council was presented with the accounts payable and monthly statement for the months of June, July and August, 2026.

Motion made by Deputy Mayor Rempel to approve the accounts payable for the months of June, July and August, 2026.

Carried

Motion made by Deputy Mayor Rempel to approve the monthly statements for June, July and August, 2026.

Carried

Committee Reports:

- a) **ORRSC**
Nothing to report.
- b) **Green Acres**
Nothing to report.
- c) **CFLR (Community Futures Lethbridge Region)**
Nothing to report.
- d) **FCSS (Family Community and Social Services)**
Just did the executive review. No budget increase next year
- e) **Mayors and Reeves**
1 MLA in attendance. Spoke of wetlands policy and AI data centres.
- f) **Chinook Arch Library System**
Discussion about funding and being vetoed by the City of Lethbridge. Also discussed Bill C-28 and the lack of funding provided.
- g) **Ag Society**
Carmangay Library on 3 month trial in the hall starting September 1 Thursdays 3-6. Bingo callers needed. Spoke of family fun day. Mistletoe market and turkey bingo upcoming.
- h) **Emergency Advisory Committee**
Training upcoming in October and November. Tabletop exercise to be held on September 23, 2026. Held a meeting on September 2 to discuss the software options that the partnership has been exploring. Another meeting upcoming on October 5th.
- i) **Carmangay Library**
Summer programs for kids was a success.
- j) **Southgrow**
Nothing to report.

New Business:

- a) **Meeting Procedures Bylaw Update**

Council was presented with an RFD outlining some appropriate updates to the Meeting Procedures bylaw. Discussion was held

Councillor Prince suggests:

- Strike provision allowing CAO to correct typos
- Strike public recording ban

Motion made by Mayor Bishop to direct Administration to amend the Meeting Procedures Bylaw to:

- **Remove references to the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act, and update them to the applicable Access to Information Act and Protection of Privacy Act references; and**
- **Remove the reference to Bylaw #727 - Council Code of Conduct; and**
- **Amend the organizational meeting provisions to specify that, where an organizational meeting is required after a by-election, it must be held no later than two weeks after the date of the by-election; and**
- **Clarify that Council appointments are to be considered and made at each annual organizational meeting; and**
- **Update agenda structure to change from individual committee reports to a Councillor report on all their boards and committees.**
- **Strike public recording ban**
- **Any other changes as identified.**

Carried

Motion made by Mayor Bishop to take a 5-minute recess at 8:31 pm.

Carried

Motion made by Mayor Bishop to return to the meeting at 8:44 pm.

Carried

b) National Police Federation Call to Action

Council was presented with an RFD and a letter requesting that Council consider signing the National Police Federations Call to Action to request that the Provincial Government pause the adoption of the Alberta Sheriffs Police Service and undertake consultations with stakeholders. Discussion was held

Councillor Prince says feds want to get out of provincial policing. Clinton says there is a briefing note but no policy.

Motion made by Mayor Bishop to endorse the 2026 Call to Action to the Government of Alberta regarding policing in

Alberta and authorize the Mayor to sign the Call to Action on behalf of the Village of Barons.
Carried

c) June and July Council Expense Claims

Discussion was held.

Councillor Prince abstains due to a conflict of interest.

Carried

Motion made by Deputy Mayor Rempel to deny the July claim for attendance at the Raymond 125th anniversary celebration.

Councillor Prince abstains due to conflict of interest.

Carried

Motion made by Mayor Bishop to deny the payment of the June claim for the Summer Municipal Leaders Caucus.

d) AB Munis Convention

As in previous years, Administration and a member of Council have attended the AB Municipalities Conference. Discussion was held.

Motion made by Mayor Bishop to have Mayor Bishop and Administrator Durell attend the Alberta Municipalities Conference.
Carried

e) ORRSC Agreement

Council was presented with an RFD outlining the updates to the Membership Services Agreement with the Oldman River Regional Services Commission. Discussion was held

Motion made by Councillor Prince to sign the agreement as presented.
Carried

f) Turkey Bingo Donation

Council was presented with an RFD relating to the request for donation to the Barons AG Society for their annual Turkey Bingo.

Motion made by Councillor Prince to donate \$100.00 to the Barons AG Society in support of their Turkey Bingo.
Carried

g) Feral Cats

Discussion was held.

Motion made by Mayor Bishop to instruct Administration to research other communities as to how they are managing cats at large, and to investigate Trap, Neuter, Return programs for same.
Carried

- h) Bylaw #778 – Public Hearings by Electronic Means**
Bylaw Council was presented with Bylaw #778 for their consideration. Discussion was held.

Motion made by Councillor Prince to read Bylaw #778 a first time this 8th day of September, 2026.
Carried

Motion made by Deputy Mayor Rempel to read Bylaw #778 a second time this 8th day of September, 2026.
Carried

And by UNANIMOUS CONSENT of Council, a motion made by Councillor Prince this 8th day of September, 2026.
Carried

Motion made by Deputy Mayor Rempel to read Bylaw #778 a third time this 8th day of September, 2026.
Carried

Motion made by Councillor Prince to instruct Administration to draft a bylaw amendment for Bylaw #766.
Carried

Closed Session: **a) none**

Adjournment: Adjournment of the meeting was at 9:19 p.m.

Mayor – Clinton Bishop

Administrator – Jen Durell