

REGULAR MEETING OF COUNCIL – HELD APRIL 7, 2026

Regular Meeting of the Council of the County of Barrhead No. 11 held April 7, 2026, was called to order by Reeve Munck at 9:00 a.m.

PRESENT

Reeve Erik Munck
Councillor Ray Crisler
Councillor Bill Chapman
Councillor Lorrie Jespersen
Councillor Chais Ellwein
Deputy Reeve Walter Preugschas
Councillor Tyson Bergsma

STAFF

Debbie Oyarzun, County Manager	Tamara Molzahn, Dir. Corporate Services
Pam Dodds, Executive Assistant	Tara Troock, Municipal Clerk
Layne Mullen, Development Officer	Ken Hove, Director of Infrastructure
Dawn Fedorvich, Dir. Rural Development	Adam Vanderwekken, Corporate Communications Coordinator

ATTENDEES

Brad Lussier, CPA – Greilach Lussier LLP
Sean Royer, NRCB CEO & Francisco Echegaray, Manager, Applications
Public Attendees in person and on-line for Public Hearing

Town and Country Newspaper – Barry Kerton

RECESS

Reeve Munck recessed the meeting at 9:00 a.m.

Reeve Munck reconvened the meeting at 9:09 a.m.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

- 2026-099 Moved by Deputy Reeve Preugschas that the agenda be approved as presented.
Carried Unanimously.

MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING HELD MARCH 3, 2026

- 2026-100 Moved by Councillor Ellwein that the minutes of the Regular Meeting of Council held March 3, 2026, be approved as circulated.
Carried Unanimously.

Tamara Molzahn joined the meeting at 9:12 a.m.

DELEGATION – GREILACH LUSSIER LLP (AUDITOR)

Brad Lussier for Greilach Lussier LLP met with Council and provided them an overview of the audit for the 2025 financial records for the County of Barrhead.

- 2026-101 Moved by Deputy Reeve Preugschas to move in-camera with Brad Lussier from Greilach Lussier LLP at 9:44 a.m.
Carried Unanimously.
- Debbie Oyarzun, Tamara Molzahn, Dawn Fedorvich, Pam Dodds, and Barry Kerton exited the meeting for the in-camera session at 9:45 a.m.
- 2026-102 Moved by Councillor Chapman to move out of in-camera at 9:52 a.m.
Carried Unanimously.

Debbie Oyarzun, Tamara Molzahn, Dawn Fedorvich, Pam Dodds, and Barry Kerton re-entered the meeting at 9:52 a.m.

ORIGINAL SIGNED – E. MUNCK

Reeve

ORIGINAL SIGNED – D. OYARZUN

County Manager

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2025 AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS & FINANCIAL INFORMATION RETURN (FIR)

2026-103 Moved by Deputy Reeve Preugschas that Council approve the 2025 audited Financial Statements as presented.

Carried Unanimously.

2026-104 Moved by Councillor Jespersen that Council approve the 2025 audited Financial Information Return (FIR) as presented.

Carried Unanimously.

2026-105 Moved by Councillor Bergsma that Administration publish the 2025 audited financial statements to the County website.

Carried Unanimously.

Council thanked Brad Lussier from Greilach Lussier LLP for his report and he exited the meeting at 9:55 a.m.

DIRECTOR OF CORPORATE SERVICES REPORT

2026-106 Moved by Councillor Ellwein to accept the following Director of Corporate Services reports for information:

- Cash, Investments & Taxes Receivable as of February 28, 2026
- Payments Issued for the month of January 2026
- Payments Issued for the month of February 2026
- YTD Budget Report for 2 months ending February 28, 2026
- YTD Capital Recap for period ending February 28, 2026
- Elected Official Remuneration Report as of February 28, 2026

Carried Unanimously.

Tamara Molzahn departed the meeting at 10:07 a.m.

Adam Vanderwekken joined the meeting at 10:07 a.m.

Councillor Bergsma departed the meeting a 10:22 a.m. and rejoined at 10:23 a.m.

Ken Hove joined the meeting at 10:24 a.m.

2025 STRATEGIC PLAN REPORT CARD

2026-107 Moved by Councillor Crisler that Council accept the 2025 Strategic Plan Report Card as information.

Carried Unanimously.

Adam Vanderwekken departed the meeting at 9:27 a.m.

RECESS

Reeve Munck recessed the meeting at 10:27 a.m.

Reeve Munck reconvened the meeting at 10:33 a.m.

PUBLIC WORKS REPORT

Ken Hove, Director of Infrastructure, reviewed the written report for Public Works & Utilities and answered questions from Council.

2026-108 Moved by Councillor Crisler that Council accepts the Public Works report for information.

Carried Unanimously.

Ken Hove departed the meeting at 10:45 a.m.

ORIGINAL SIGNED – E. MUNCK

Reeve

ORIGINAL SIGNED – D. OYARZUN

County Manager

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APPOINTMENT OF FIRE GUARDIANS – APRIL 1, 2026 TO MARCH 31, 2027

2026-109 Moved by Councillor Chapman that Council appoints the following individuals as Fire Guardians to serve the County of Barrhead under the *Forest & Prairie Protection Act* for a 1 year term ending March 31, 2027:

- Gary Hove, Fire Chief
- Ted Amos, Deputy Fire Chief
- Ken Hove, Director of Infrastructure
- Travis Wierenga, Public Works Manager
- Roy Batdorf, public member
- Norman Semler, public member
- Stephen Lyons, public member
- Don McKay, public member

Carried Unanimously.

Councillor Ellwein departed the meeting at 10:54 a.m. and rejoined at 10:55 a.m.

RESCIND POLICIES

2026-110 Moved by Deputy Reeve Preugschas that Council rescind the following policies as recommended by the Policy Committee:

- Policy 11.10-02 Tax Recovery Lands Procedure for Sale
- Policy 26.01 Bylaw Enforcement Officer
- Policy 26.06 Noise Pollution Bylaw
- Policy 26.07 Regulation and Control of Public Reserve Land
- Policy 26.09 Use and Regulation of Sewage Lagoon
- Policy 26.10 Implementation of Road Bans

Carried Unanimously.

Layne Mullen and Tara Troock joined the meeting at 10:58 a.m.

DELEGATION – NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION BOARD (NRCB)

Sean Royer, NRCB CEO, and Francisco Echegaray, NRCB Applications Manager, met with Council at this time being 10:58 a.m. explaining the role and responsibilities of NRCB and regulations for Confined Feeding Operations (CFO's) and answering questions from Council.

2026-111 Moved by Councillor Bergsma that Council accepts the report from Sean Royer, NRCB CEO, and Francisco Echegaray, NRCB Applications Manager, as information.

Carried Unanimously.

Sean Royer and Francisco Echegaray departed the meeting at 11:44 p.m.

Dawn Fedorvich, Layne Mullen, and Tara Troock left the meeting at 11:44 a.m.

IN-CAMERA SESSION

2026-112 Moved by Deputy Reeve Preugschas that Council move in-camera at 11:45 a.m. for discussion on:

- External Committee – *ATIA Sec. 29 Advice from Officials*

Carried Unanimously.

Pam Dodds and Barry Kerton exited the meeting at 11:45 a.m.

Councillor Chapman left the meeting at 12:02 p.m. and rejoined at 12:04 p.m.

2026-113 Moved by Councillor Bergsma that Council move out of in-camera at 12:13 p.m.

Carried Unanimously.

Pam Dodds and Barry Kerton rejoined the meeting at 12:13 p.m.

ORIGINAL SIGNED – E. MUNCK

Reeve

ORIGINAL SIGNED – D. OYARZUN

County Manager

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INFORMATION ITEMS

2026-114 Moved by Councillor Bergsma that Council accept the following correspondence for information:

- Invitation Barrhead & District 4-H Beef & Sheep Achievement Day – held on May 25, 2026
- Letter from Minister of Municipal Affairs RE: Assessment Model Review – dated April 1, 2026
- RMA Letter to Members RE: Hotel Policy Update – dated March 20, 2026
- 2026 Invitation West Fraser Forestry Plan Open House – Whitecourt May 5, 2026, Swan Hills May 7, 2026
- Misty Ridge Minutes – February 18, 2026

Carried Unanimously.

UPDATE TO LIBRARY BOARD APPOINTMENTS

2026-115 Moved by Councillor Bergsma that Council appoint Councillor Chapman as Council's representative to the Barrhead Library Board and the Yellowhead Regional Library Board to a term ending October 20, 2026.

Carried Unanimously.

2026-116 Moved by Councillor Chapman that Council appoint Cheyenne Tischer as a board member to the Barrhead Library Board for a term ending December 31, 2026.

Carried Unanimously.

COUNTY MANAGER REPORT

County Manager, Debbie Oyarzun, reviewed the CAO tracking list and noted the additional following items:

- Celebrating Rural Living – Open Skies Expo & Awards Dinner on April 11, 2026

2026-117 Moved by Councillor Chapman that Council mark resolution 2021-174 complete at of March 5, 2024 and rescind the following motions:

- 2022-448 - "direct Administration to draft a congratulatory letter for Reeve's signature to the new Minister of Municipal Affairs and provide information on County of Barrhead strategic initiatives."
- 2019-352 – "direct Administration to draft a follow up letter to the Minister of Municipal Affairs as he requested at the meeting and work with Town Administration to ensure common messaging is included."

Carried Unanimously.

2026-118 Moved by Councillor Chapman to accept the County Manager's report for information.

Carried Unanimously.

COUNCILLOR REPORTS

Councillors discussed their written reports and the following was added:

2026-119 Moved by Councillor Jespersen to accept Councillor written/verbal reports for information.

Carried Unanimously.

LUNCH RECESS

Reeve Munck recessed the meeting at 12:27 p.m.

Reeve Munck departed the meeting at 12:27 p.m.

Deputy Reeve Preugschas reconvened the meeting at 1:00 p.m.

Layne Mullen, Dawn Fedorvich, Tara Troock joined the meeting at 1:00 p.m.

ORIGINAL SIGNED – E. MUNCK

Reeve

ORIGINAL SIGNED – D. OYARZUN

County Manager

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PUBLIC HEARING FOR BYLAW 2-2026 – AMENDING LAND USE BYLAW 4-2024

Reeve Munck had previously declared a potential conflict of interest and excused himself from the hearing.

Deputy Reeve Preugschas declared the Public Hearing, which was recessed February 3, 2026, reconvened at 1:07 p.m. to provide an opportunity for public input and comment regarding proposed Bylaw No. 2-2026, Amending Land Use Bylaw 4-2024 - to add “Data Processing Facility” as a Discretionary Use in Section 12. Agricultural Land Use District (AG), subsection 12.3.

Deputy Reeve Preugschas explained the public hearing process and that it is being held in accordance with the *Municipal Government Act* and Council’s Meeting Procedures Bylaw.

Layne Mullen, Development Officer, introduced Bylaw 2-2026 which received 1st reading at the January 6, 2026, Regular Council meeting.

Deputy Reeve Preugschas asked Council if they had any questions and none were asked.

Deputy Reeve Preugschas invited the applicant, Axiom Oil & Gas Ltd., to provide information and they gave a summary of the reason for their application.

Deputy Reeve Preugschas invited the Public members to speak that had registered.

TK Mueller	Dave Mueller	Aaron Conner
Ron Kleinfeldt	Chris Nanninga	Heidi Taphorn
Dee Krysa	Bruce Wallace	Thijs de Wildt
Dianne Lepla		

Deputy Reeve Preugschas invited any Public members to speak that had not registered.

Barbara Steiner	Lorne Semler	Jeremy Hummelle
Suzanne Koopman	Amanda Peace	Jodi Williams

Correspondence - Layne Mullen, Development Officer, read the correspondence from a public member received after the deadline:

David and Esther Maludzinski

Deputy Reeve Preugschas asked Administration if they had further comments and Layne Mullen, Development Officer, responded to comments brought forward by the public and responded to questions from Council.

Deputy Reeve Preugschas asked the applicant (Axiom Oil & Gas) if they wished to provide any further comments, and they shared comments on some of the information provided by the public.

Deputy Reeve Preugschas asked Council if they had any further questions of Administration or the Applicant.

2026-120 Moved by Councillor Ellwein that the Public Hearing be closed.

Carried 6-0.

ADJOURN

2026-121 Moved by Councillor Crisler that the meeting adjourns at 2:48 p.m.

Carried 6-0.

ORIGINAL SIGNED – E. MUNCK

Reeve

ORIGINAL SIGNED – D. OYARZUN

County Manager