

**LAC LA BICHE COUNTY
SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING
MCARTHUR PLACE, LAC LA BICHE**

July 29, 2025-2:00 p.m.

Minutes of the Lac La Biche County Special Council Meeting held July 29, 2025 at 2:00 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER Mayor Reutov called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m.

PRESENT	Paul Reutov	Mayor
	John Mondal	Councillor
	Kevin Paré	Councillor
	Lorin Tkachuk	Councillor
	Charlyn Moore	Councillor
	Jason Stedman	Councillor/Deputy Mayor
	Sterling Johnson	Councillor (<i>Participated electronically</i>)
	Colette Borgun	Councillor
	Darlene Beniuk	Councillor

STAFF IN ATTENDANCE	Manny Deol	Chief Administrative Officer
	Kashif Ijaz	GM, Strategy & Community Growth
	Mackenzie Zilinski	Senior Executive Assistant
	Heather Reid	Lead Legislative Officer

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

25.328

MOVED

To adopt the July 29, 2025 Special Council Meeting agenda as presented.

For (9): Mayor Reutov, Councillor Borgun, Councillor Moore, Councillor Mondal, Councillor Beniuk, Councillor Paré, Deputy Mayor Stedman, Councillor Tkachuk, and Councillor Johnson

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

NEW BUSINESS

3.1 Agricultural State of Emergency

25.329 **MOVED**

That Lac La Biche County Council declare a state of Agricultural Disaster due to drought.

For (9): Mayor Reutov, Councillor Borgun, Councillor Moore, Councillor Mondal, Councillor Beniuk, Councillor Paré, Deputy Mayor Stedman, Councillor Tkachuk, and Councillor Johnson

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

CLOSED SESSION

25.330 **MOVED**

To go into Closed Session at 2:11 p.m. pursuant to the Access to Information Act for the following:

- Intergovernmental Relations (s.26 ATIA, s.29 ATIA, s.32 ATIA)

For (9): Mayor Reutov, Councillor Borgun, Councillor Moore, Councillor Mondal, Councillor Beniuk, Councillor Paré, Deputy Mayor Stedman, Councillor Tkachuk, and Councillor Johnson

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

4.1 Intergovernmental Relations (s.26, 29, 32 ATIA)

The following Members of Administration were present during Closed Session for presenting and recording purposes: Manny Deol, Kashif Ijaz, Mackenzie Zilinski and Heather Reid.

Councillor Tkachuk exited Chambers at 2:18 p.m. and returned to Chambers at 2:19 p.m.

RETURN TO REGULAR MEETING

July 29, 2025

Special Council Meeting

25.331

MOVED

To return to Open Session at 2:35 p.m.

For (9): Mayor Reutov, Councillor Borgun, Councillor Moore, Councillor Mondal, Councillor Beniuk, Councillor Paré, Deputy Mayor Stedman, Councillor Tkachuk, and Councillor Johnson

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF CLOSED SESSION

5.1 Intergovernmental Relations (s.26, 29, 32 ATIA)

25.332

MOVED

That Council directs Administration to post Council's statement including Council member signatures, as written below, to the Lac La Biche County website and social media pages.

Lac La Biche County Council wishes to strongly emphasize that any statements or opinions expressed by individual members of Council such as those made during the July 22, 2025 Regular Council Meeting, are solely their own. These comments are unacceptable and will not be tolerated. These individual views do not reflect the collective position of Council or the values of the broader Lac La Biche County community.

While Council Members have the right to express personal views as part of healthy democratic debate, Council firmly rejects any comments that diminish the County's commitment to truth, reconciliation and mutual respect.

Council reaffirms its respect for the histories, cultures and contributions of all Indigenous peoples, including First Nations and Métis Settlements. We recognize the vital contributions of Indigenous peoples to our region

and affirm that these partnerships are grounded in shared values, trust, and ongoing dialogue. These principles are foundational to who we are as a community.

We also wish to clarify that with recent amendments to the Municipal Government Act, Council would not have any options to sanction a Council Member. However, we take the importance of upholding our collective integrity and community relationships seriously.

We stand with our Indigenous partners today and every day, and will not allow individual comments or opinions to distract us from the path we have chosen to build a future grounded in understanding, mutual respect and meaningful Reconcili-Action together.

For (9): Mayor Reutov, Councillor Borgun, Councillor Moore, Councillor Mondal, Councillor Beniuk, Councillor Paré, Deputy Mayor Stedman, Councillor Tkachuk, and Councillor Johnson

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

25.333

MOVED

That Council demands Councillor Beniuk to issue a written and public apology for the comments she made during the July 22, 2025 Regular Council Meeting.

For (8): Mayor Reutov, Councillor Borgun, Councillor Moore, Councillor Mondal, Councillor Paré, Deputy Mayor Stedman, Councillor Tkachuk, and Councillor Johnson
Opposed (1): Councillor Beniuk

CARRIED

25.334

MOVED

To direct Administration to draft a letter on behalf of Council to the Minister of Municipal Affairs to express concerns with the removal of the Council Code of Conduct provisions from the Municipal Government Act and include the Beaver Lake Cree Nation correspondence, and further to advocate that the Province expedite the creation of the municipal ethics commissioner and associated regulations to deal with Council conduct matters.

For (8): Mayor Reutov, Councillor Borgun, Councillor Moore, Councillor Mondal, Councillor Paré, Deputy Mayor Stedman, Councillor Tkachuk, and Councillor Johnson
Opposed (1): Councillor Beniuk

CARRIED

25.335

MOVED

That Mayor Reutov shares the outcomes of the July 29, 2025 Special Council Meeting with members of the Indigenous Collaboration Committee (ICC).

For (9): Mayor Reutov, Councillor Borgun, Councillor Moore, Councillor Mondal, Councillor Beniuk, Councillor Paré, Deputy Mayor Stedman, Councillor Tkachuk, and Councillor Johnson

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Reutov adjourned the July 29, 2025 Special Council Meeting at 2:51 p.m.

Paul Reutov, Mayor

Manny Deol
Chief Administrative Officer