

Barrhead & District Chamber of Commerce **General Meeting Agenda**

Date: Thursday, October 17th, 2024

Time: 12:00 noon

Location: Charles Godberson Room, Agrena

1. Call to Order
 - a) 12:15pm
2. Additions to the Agenda
 - a) none
3. Adoption of Agenda
 - a) Nadia
4. Adoption of Minutes of Previous Meetings
 - a) *October 2024 Executive Meeting Minutes -Nadia*
 - b) *September 2024 General Meeting Minutes -Nadia*
5. Business Arising from the Minutes
 - a) None
6. Speaker:
 - *Phil Petkau – Chambers Benefits packages*
 - *Certified financial planner*
 - phil@inspirefinancialservices.ca
 - 780-349-9772
 - 101-10030 106 Street Westlock, AB T7N 2K4
 - *Employee benefits*
 - *Slide presentation will be sent out to all members.*
 - *Chamber Benefit Plan is run by the chamber – non-profit for over 50 years.*
 - *Non-profit means more of the premium goes to claims.*
 - *Simple, stable and smart*
 - *Benefits offered to small businesses.*
 - *33,000 plus companies signed up.*
 - *Operated by Johnston's group from Winnipeg Manitoba*
 - *Call centre- all operated in house – very low wait time and exceptional support.*
 - *Big picture: cost of health care is on the rise in the recent years which reflects health insurance plans, challenges include:*
 - *Work force is aging*
 - *Disability claims – (increase in mental health claims)*
 - *Cost of prescriptions have increased*
 - *The Chamber plan is very customizable to suit your business needs*
 - *The pricing model is different with Chamber plan vs. others*
 - *Claims that are submitted are pooled with thousands of other companies like yours to effectively cost share, partially pooled is an option vs. fully pooled depending on your companies claims history.*

- *Features included:*
 - Teladoc (24/7) access to doctors
 - Business services available such as HR and Legal professionals
 - Employee assistance program
 - No industry restriction or minimum group size
 - Owners' portal
 - Employee app is fast and easy
- Check out chamberplan.ca to get your quote today

7. Financial Update – Michelle

- a) Balance \$56,742.24 3800 outstanding

8. Committee Reports

a) *Advertising/Marketing – Kristine & Megan*

- i. *New chamber website @ 95% complete and almost ready to go live and will include online membership payments! An email will be sent out soon asking for a business logos and contact information for our website.*

b) *Economic Development – Dave*

- i. *Barrhead Chamber will be attending the LIFT trade show this Saturday at the AG barn and Bablitz hall. We will have a booth to share what Chamber does and the benefits to becoming a member! Come visit us!*

c) *Membership – Shannon*

- i. *No update*

d) *Networking & Business Activities – Josh & Nadia*

- i. *Barrhead Chamber has been discussing joining with the Weslock Chamber to combine some upcoming events such as curling and golfing.*

e) *Charitable Activities (Festival of Trees, etc.) – Michelle*

- i. *Festival of Trees will be held on Nov 30 with illusionist Chris Funk, catered by sugar and spice, Parsons auctions running the silent auction.*

f) *Mainstreet Activities – Diane*

- i. *Light up and parade December 6th, information being shared in community right now.*

g) *Careers Next Gen – Dave*

- *Career & job Fair will be held on March 18 at Bablitz hall. Exhibitors will be available to meet and greet, launching recruitment will begin next week. Great opportunity to network with employers and hopefully fill some of the job vacancies. 650 students will be going through event, as well as open to the public. So great opportunity for job seekers.*

Exhibitor Registration is now OPEN! Pembina Hills Regional Career & Job Fair 2025

- Are you recruiting and looking for specific skills? Want to help youth and job seekers explore careers?
- Exhibitor keynote presentation- Kristen Cummings on how to increase your productivity through successful employee attraction and retention strategies.
- Location: Bablitz Hall, 4802 57 Ave, Barrhead, AB
- Date: Tuesday, March 18th, 2025
- Time: 8:30am to 4:30pm
- There is no cost for exhibitors to register for a 10'x8' booth, go to [Pembina Hills Region Career and Job Fair 2025](#) to complete your registration form to secure a booth
- **Space is limited, register now!**

9. Related Organizations – Updates

a) *Business Support Network – Kristy Tuts*

- i. *Hosting a workshop next week called skills deployment, access your individual strengths in the workplace. Funding available to host a similar event in Barrhead if we are interested to reduce costs for individuals.*
- ii. *Labour market; employment vacancy decreasing over the past couple years, largely in the service sector, 7.5% unemployment rate.*

10. Town of Barrhead Update

- a) Sep 30th special council meeting was held to review and consider Bylaw 08-2024 – Neutral Space Bylaw. Moved that Council instruct Administration to proceed with the requirement for a plebiscite on proposed Bylaw 08-2024 – Neutral Space Bylaw. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY
- b) Commercial permits to end of Sep. 30, 2024 -17 permits with a value of \$14,991,200.00 compared to this time last year with 8 permits value of \$433,347.00
- c) Residential permits to end of Sep. 30, 2024 – 16 permits with a value of \$1,938,651.00 compared to this time last year with 15 permits with a value of \$757,000.00
- d) October 25th Haunted House and Pumpkin Walk will be held at the sports grounds

11. County of Barrhead Update

- a) tabled

12. Other Business/Announcements

- a) none

13. Next Meetings:

a) *General Meeting November 21st, 2024, Charles Godberson Room, Agrena*
i. *Speaker to discuss OH&S*

b) *Executive Board Meeting November 13th, 2024, Perry Law LLP*

14. Adjourn Meeting

a) 1:01pm