

# CITY OF BAKER CITY

On the Historic Oregon Trail  
Established 1864, Incorporated 1874

## Weekly Update March 15, 2019

### Administration:

The City Council met twice this week and dealt with the Chronic Nuisance Property ordinance, discussion on the Baker City Watershed, approved next year's Capital Plans and selected a vendor for putting broadband into the Industrial Park. They also heard a report from the Powder River Correctional Facility. They are a major employer in the City and a good community partner. The Council also cancelled the March 26<sup>th</sup> meeting so the next Council meeting will be on April 9<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm in the Council Chambers at City Hall.

Thank you to all of the voters in the Moda Assist program. It looks like we will be getting a grant for new handicapped playground equipment. Keep up the good work for the next week. Spring will officially begin next week but it looks like our temperatures will warm up prior to that. Get out and enjoy the beautiful weekend.

### City Council Agenda April 9th

- TBD



Congrats to the BHS Girls Basketball Team State Champions!

### Finance:

#### Utilities

- ◆ Ten customers signed up for new water/wastewater service and ten customers disconnected service from March 8<sup>th</sup> thru March 14<sup>th</sup>. This includes all service changes.
- ◆ Zone 6 was billed March 12<sup>th</sup> and included 480 residential and 56 commercial accounts. Of those accounts 119 (22%) are signed up for direct payment and 26 (5%) are signed up for ebilling.
- ◆ Zone 2 was billed today and included 456 residential and 13 commercial accounts. Of those accounts 90 (19%) are signed up for direct payment and 28 (6%) are signed up for ebilling.
- ◆ Twenty-eight residential customers (Zones 1, 5 and 6) were scheduled to have their water turned off for non-pay (over 60 days past due). Five of those customers actually had their service turned off until their past due balance was paid.

**Accounts Payable:** The first of two accounts payable check runs for the month was generated March 11<sup>th</sup>.

**Accounts Receivable:** Monthly accounts receivable billings were sent March 11<sup>th</sup>. The billings were as follows:



**LID Billings:** LIDs are billed every six months over a twenty year period. Interest is charged at the Local Government Investment Pool Rate plus 1% which is currently an annual rate of 2.75%. These LIDs can be paid off at any time with interest charged through the payoff date. One 2007 G Street Wastewater Extension LID was billed March 14<sup>th</sup>. The original assessment in 2007 included one property owner for a total of \$69,541. The remaining balance outstanding is \$31,851 including interest.

Cemetery	\$2,090
Wastewater Maintenance	\$257
Street Cuts & Misc.	\$4,596
Lien Searches	\$1,461
Ambulance	\$339,543
Airport Hangar Rent & Ground Lease	\$3,300
Property & Weed Abatement	\$1,576
Golf Course Equipment Lease Payment	\$5,720
Golf Cart Lease Payment	\$2,688
Baker Co. Economic Development Support	\$14,667
Misc.	\$994
<b>Total Billed:</b>	<b>\$376,892</b>



**Building Department:**

	Permits Issued City	Inspections City	Permits Issued County	Inspections County
Building	3	7	0	2
Manufactured Dwelling	0	0	0	0
Electrical	2	5	2	4
Mechanical	3	4	3	0
Plumbing	0	2	0	0
Fence	0	NA	N/A	N/A
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>

**RESIDENTIAL PERMITS:**

- 3615 Kirkway Drive, Baker City— New residence.
- 1911 15th Street, Baker City— Foundation repairs.

**COMMERCIAL PERMITS:**

- 2024 Main Street, Baker City— Interior demolition for remodel.

**HISTORIC DESIGN REVIEW:**

Next regularly scheduled meeting is March 27, 2019 at 8:00 a.m. at the Building Department Offices.

**Planning Department:**

**Public Meetings**

The next regularly scheduled Planning Commission meeting will be held on March 20<sup>th</sup>, at 7:00 p.m. and will include:

- ◆ SDR-19-014: A public hearing for a proposal to convert an existing, ±15,250-square-foot industrial building at 2345 11<sup>th</sup> Street to a mixed use building, with a ±6,180 square foot retail space, a ±1,642 square foot wood-working shop, a ±234 square foot office, a ±567 square foot warehouse, and a ±902 square foot caretaker’s unit.
- ◆ MM-19-017: A public hearing for a proposal to add ±17,168 square feet to an existing building used as a church and school, originally approved through Conditional Use Permit (90-C-2) at 3720 Birch Street.
- ◆ Work Session: A public work session for the continued discussion of revisions to the Site Design Review process.

Copies of the applications and work session materials will be available for inspection on or before March 13, 2019, at the Baker County Courthouse at 1995 3<sup>rd</sup> Street, and all materials can be viewed for no cost, or provided at a reasonable cost; digital versions can be e-mailed for free. Comments on the proposal may be submitted prior to or at the public hearing. If you have questions, please contact the Planning Department at [planning@bakercounty.org](mailto:planning@bakercounty.org) or 541-523-8219.

**Land Use Decisions & Projects**

A land use review for a ±420 square foot accessory structure was approved at 2121 4<sup>th</sup> Street, located in the Residential-High Density (R-HD) Zone.



The mission of the Baker City Fire Department is to provide dependable and efficient emergency services.

# FIRE DEPARTMENT

During the week of March 5th through March 11th the Fire Department responded to a total of **32** emergency alarms. The breakdown for the responses are as follows:

## AMBULANCE OPERATIONS

City Calls	19
Rural Calls	9
Patient Transported	22
No Patient Trip	6

## TOTAL MEDIC RESPONSES **28**

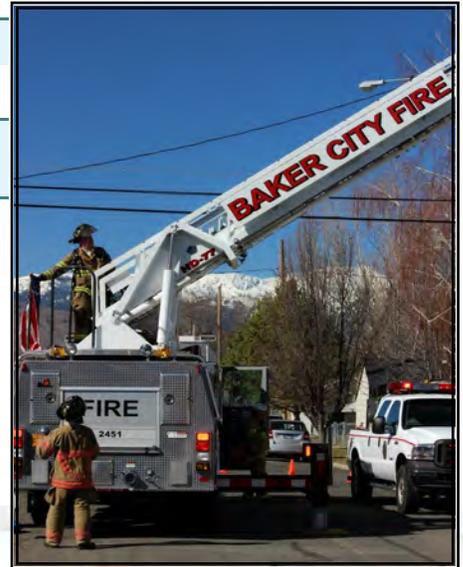


Airport Transfers	2
Out of Town Transfers Accepted	2
Out of Town Transfers Assigned	0
Motor Vehicle Accidents	1
Doubles (2 calls at once)	3
Triples (3 calls at once)	2
Public Assists	2

## FIRE REPORTS

General Alarms	1
Dispatched Alarms	3

## TOTAL FIRE RESPONSES **4**



## EMERGENCY CALL BACKS

Requests for Cover	0
Persons Arrived for Cover	0

## TRAINING/MAINTENANCE/FIRE PREVENTION INSPECTIONS/COMMUNITY EVENTS

- **68** hrs of Station and Equipment Maintenance
- **10** hrs of EMS Training
- **9** Burn Permits Issued
- **72** hrs of Fire Training



The Fire Department provides free blood pressure readings at the Senior Center. **Don't miss the next check on Tuesday, March 19th at 11 a.m.**



*"The mission of the Baker City Police is to work in partnership with our community members, to actively promote the safety and welfare of our citizens, along with enriching their quality of life through the delivery of professional police services."*

## **POLICE DEPARTMENT**

- During the past week, BCPD handled over 140 incidents and opened 32 new cases, making numerous arrests for outstanding warrants and detainers. One case involved the arrest of a suspect following a high-speed pursuit which was terminated due to safety concerns. The following press release was issued following this incident:

*On March 9, 2019 just before 5:38 PM, Baker City Police noticed a white pickup pulling a small flatbed trailer traveling at a high rate of speed, driving about 70 MPH in a 40 MPH zone on Hwy 7 north of David Eccles. The vehicle turned onto 2nd street, still heading northbound and maintained a high rate of speed as it approached Broadway Avenue. Baker City Police attempted a traffic stop, calling out a pursuit when the pickup did not stop. The pickup continued through a red light on 2nd and Broadway.*

*After the driver became more reckless in his efforts to get away from police, Baker City Police terminated the pursuit at 5:41 PM. The suspects vehicle was located abandoned a short time later at B and 9th Street. Efforts to find the suspect of the pursuit led to the discovery that the pickup was stolen from Idaho in January of this year.*

*With the help of citizens in the area, Baker County Sheriff's Deputies and Oregon State Police, the suspect, Ramon Nunez JR, was found hiding in a garage at 2539 9th Street that he had entered without permission of the home owner.*

*Arrested at 2539 9th Street: Ramon Nunez JR, on 03/09/2019 at about 5:21 PM. He is charged with: Attempt to Elude, Reckless Driving, Unlawful Use of a Motor Vehicle, Possession of a Stolen Vehicle, Criminal Trespass I, Warrant Arrest x 2 and was cited for multiple traffic violations.*

- Chief Dustin Newman and Robin Nudd, Community Development /Executive Assistant and IT Liaison for the City of Baker City, were at the Blue Mountain Community College Campus in Pendleton for the Criminal Justice Job Fair held this past week. This opportunity provided students interested in pursuing a career in criminal justice a chance to meet with various law enforcement agencies and learn about possible openings available within this field. Are you interested in a career in law enforcement? Check out the following link to the City's employment page: <http://bakercity.com/2241/Employment>.



- Gun locks are available upon request from the Baker City Police Department, located at 1768 Auburn Avenue. These locks, donated courtesy of Project ChildSafe, are available during regular business hours. Please note, the lobby is closed during the lunch hour. More information about Project ChildSafe can be found at <https://www.projectchildsafe.org/>.

- BCPD personnel participated in several briefing trainings, including a review of various officer safety topics.



## Public Works: Water Department

Sunday afternoon a potential water leak was spotted by Public Works. Water was coming out from the holes in the lid of a large water meter vault. Craig and Dennis used a small gas powered water pump to pump the water out of the meter box and then determined that there was either a water leak either in the 2" copper service line to the meter or in the 10" cast iron water main line itself.



An emergency underground utility locate was requested and the repair work scheduled to begin at 6 a.m. Monday morning.

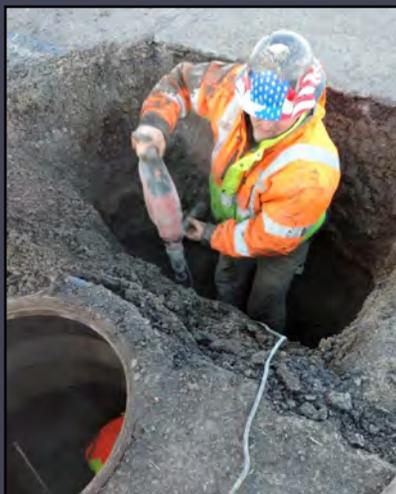


A representative from the fiber optics utility company, MCI, had to travel from Boise to mark the location of their line. As you can see in the photo the fiber optics line runs directly in line with the 10" water main line. Fortunately the fiber line is located under the water line so it was not disturbed during the water line repair work.



← Justin, Blain and Nate began work promptly to repair the leak. The leak was found to be in the top of the 2" copper service line.

Here Justin is holding the pipe showing the hole(s). Evidently weight from the edge of the concrete vault expended pressure on the top of the 2" copper pipe and eventually caused a hole to form. →



Blain and Nate used the roto-hammer to expand the hole through the concrete pipe and then used closed cell foam to protect the new piece of 2" copper to prevent a reoccurrence of the leak.

The completed repair. →

**Don't worry, the clear safety glasses** were retrieved from the hole before backfill material was placed.





## Public Works: Water Department Continued

Justin, Blain and Riley completed the ductile iron main line installation on East Street this week.



The line was pressure tested and disinfected a couple of weeks ago. Water test results were received showing that the line was properly disinfected and safe to connect into the distribution system.



Here you can see that the "solid sleeve" fitting is properly attached and locked into place with no leaks. The blue "locking" bolts are tightened to the point where their top simply snaps off the shaft part of the bolt. This verifies that the bolt was tightened to the proper torque to lock the sleeve into place.



Dennis at Public Works has been working in conjunction with Dan at the Baker County Courthouse to schedule a time to renew their water service line and water meter.

Before any work could be scheduled the crew of Justin, Blain and Riley had to use the vactor truck to expose the service line and determine what parts would be needed for the project. It was discovered that the service line and the fire protection line were connected together. As part of the project those two lines will be separated so that if the fire line has to be turned off, like for repair work, the water service line would still be able to provide water to the Courthouse. The work will be scheduled for the week of Spring Break when classes are not held at the Middle School.



## Public Works: Street Lights

A nut worked its way loose from one of the guide wires connecting a street light mast arm to the wooden pole. Dennis reattached the wire and secured it with a new nut.





## Public Works: Wastewater Department



Two sewer lateral problems were reported to Public Works this week. One in an alley between Resort and Walnut Monday morning and the other on 13th Street. Neither problem was a result of a City main line problem.

There are still some wastewater manholes which are not accessible for maintenance. Public Works personnel continue to pursue these as if each were a cold case file.



← This manhole is buried under approximately 2 feet of dirt. A 15" transite wastewater line runs east - west through this manhole. An underground utility locate was requested for this manhole and several others Wednesday so that the manhole lids can be adjusted to match the ground surface for accessibility.

Here is the location of another "cold case" manhole. →



It lies directly under the chain link fence in the backyard of houses between 8th and 9th Drive. Upon discussing the importance to maintain access to all wastewater manholes with the homeowner, it was disclosed that a favorite pet had been buried at the site under the round concrete stone. This manhole lid is not planned to be raised at this time.

## Public Works: Storm Water

When snow melts and the underlying ground is frozen water can't soak into the ground effectively. Most of the areas in town have storm water collection systems.

The area shown here is 9th Street south of Auburn Avenue. There is no storm water collection system here. A plan to improve drainage along 9th Street is being developed.





# Public Works: Shop



Wes and Scott repaired the door window switch and had new tires installed on this vehicle.



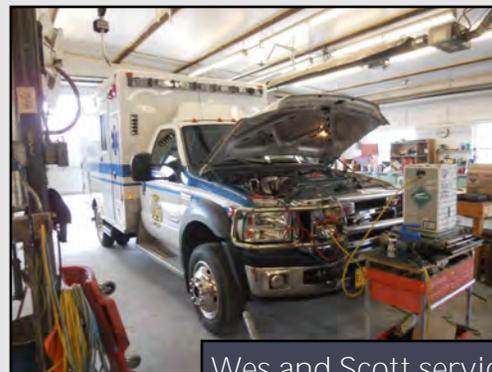
New light brackets were built for this Fire Department vehicle.



Work continues on the chip spreader. Both belts that feed gravel to the front were replaced as well as the rubber shields that hold the gravel in the bed.



Scott changed the rear brakes and rotors on this police vehicle and it is back in service.



Wes and Scott serviced and performed a safety check on this ambulance and it is back in service.