

# CITY OF BAKER CITY

On the Historic Oregon Trail.  
Established 1864, Incorporated 1874

## Weekly Update March 9, 2018

Photo: Basecamp Baker

### Administration:

The City Council met this week in a work session to look at the City's Capital Plans for the next three years. They concentrated on the remainder of this fiscal year and the 2018-19 year. They talked a good deal about the Mountain Water Line and the timetable for this year's work as well as issues and challenges for the coming years. They also had a good conversation regarding the upcoming wastewater upgrade and renovation. The timetable for this project is the next four years and the challenge is the need to have enough resources to complete the project in that time frame.

The Council will look at adopting the Capital Plans at the next Council meeting and pursuing the rate discussion. The Council as also indicated that they will attend the Baker City Tree Board meeting to discuss the changes to the Tree Ordinance. That meeting is scheduled for Wednesday March 14<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 in the Council Chambers.

The weather is warming and the snow in the City is receding rapidly. Have a great weekend.

### City Council

#### Agenda

#### March 13th

- 2017 Financial Audit
- Tree Ordinance
- Capital Projects Funding



### Finance:

As of March 1<sup>st</sup> the City has received \$3,101,243 in current year property taxes and \$80,865 in prior year property taxes.

#### **Utilities**

- ◆ Nine customers signed up for new water/wastewater service and ten customers disconnected service from March 2<sup>nd</sup> to March 8<sup>th</sup>. This includes all service changes.
- ◆ Zone 5 was billed February 27<sup>th</sup> which included 458 residential and 17 commercial accounts. Of those accounts 120 or 25% are signed up for direct payment.
- ◆ Zone 1 was billed today which includes 93 residential and 252 commercial accounts. Of those accounts 61 or 18% are signed up for direct payment.
- ◆ Twenty-six residential customers (Zones 4, 5 and 8) were scheduled to have their water turned off for non-pay (over 60 days past due) only one was actually 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 9<sup>th</sup>.

#### **Accounts Receivable**

Monthly accounts receivable billings were sent March 9<sup>th</sup>.

The billings were as follows:



Property & Weed Abatement	\$1,820
Cemetery	\$1,749
Wastewater Maintenance & Dumping Fee	\$19,334
Lien Searches	\$1,120
Ambulance	\$417,450
Airport Hangar Rent & Ground Lease	\$4,911
Community Development Support	\$14,667
Street Patching & Misc.	\$1,231
Golf Course Equipment Lease	\$5,394
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$467,676</b>



**Building Department:**

	Permits Issued City	Inspections City	Permits Issued County	Inspections County
Building	3	2	0	7
Manufactured Dwelling	0	0	0	0
Electrical	7	8	5	3
Mechanical	0	0	1	2
Plumbing	0	0	0	1
Fence	1	NA	N/A	N/A
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>13</b>

**RESIDENTIAL PERMITS:**

- 1410 14th Street, Baker City—Demolition of manufactured home on site.

**COMMERCIAL PERMITS:**

- 2431 11th Street, Baker City—Modification of an existing cell tower.
- 2100 13th Street, Baker City—Construction of a gravel retaining structure.

**HISTORIC DESIGN REVIEW:** Next regularly scheduled meeting is March 14, 2018 at 8:00 a.m. in the Building Department Offices.

**Planning Department:**

**Public Meetings**

On March 21<sup>st</sup>, 2018, the Planning Commission will hold a public work session to discuss potentially re-zoning specific properties throughout the city which have existing structures and uses that are not consistent with the current zoning allowances. The purpose of this work session was to create a scope for areas that could be considered for a future re-zone. Once a scope of potential areas is developed, the next step will be outreach to determine interest and concerns.

The Commission will also discuss the development of standards and language for the proposed creation of a Residential-Professional District. This district is intended to act as a buffer between the uses of the Central-Commercial district and surrounding residential zones, providing a desirable mix of residential and light commercial land uses in the center of the city.

The public is encouraged to attend future work sessions and hearings and provide input on both matters.

**Land Use Decisions & Projects**

- ◆ An application was approved for a ±1,583 square foot single-family dwelling with a ±440 square foot attached garage, at 961 Walnut Street in the Residential High – Density (R-HD) Zone.
- ◆ An application was approved for a ±768 square foot garage, at 1700 4<sup>th</sup> Street 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 February 27th through March 5th the Fire Department responded to a total of **37** emergency alarms.

## AMBULANCE OPERATIONS

City Calls	26
Rural Calls	7
Patient Transported	22
No Patient Trip	11

## TOTAL MEDIC RESPONSES 33



Airport Transfers	3
Out of Town Transfers Accepted	3
Out of Town Transfers Assigned	0
Motor Vehicle Accidents	0
Doubles (2 calls at once)	5
Triples (3 calls at once)	1
Public Assists	0

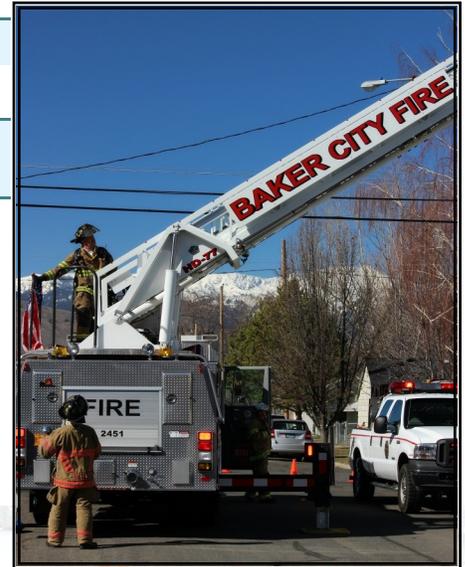
## FIRE REPORTS

General Alarms	0
Dispatched Alarms	4

## TOTAL FIRE RESPONSES 4



10th Street—Dumpster Fire  
23rd Street—False Alarm



## EMERGENCY CALL BACKS

Requests for Cover	8
Persons Arrived for Cover	7
Incidents Not Covered	1

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

- 43 hrs of Station and Equipment Maintenance
- 47 hrs of Fire/EMS or Safety Training
- 4 hrs of Community Events



The Fire Department provides free blood pressure readings at the Senior Center every Tuesday, at 11 am. Don't miss the next check on March 13th.



*"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**

★ BCPD handled over 180 incidents and opened 33 new cases this past week. Among those cases:

- BCPD personnel investigated a Furnishing Alcohol to a Minor case, where two 20 year old females were treated for alcohol poisoning.
- BCPD personnel investigated seven reported thefts and frauds.
- BCPD personnel investigated two runaways from homes in our community. One, a 14 year old girl and the other was a 15 year old girl.
- BCPD personnel arrested one individual for an outstanding warrant.
- BCPD personnel investigated a stolen car report from Boise and confirmed the car had been in Baker City, but fled prior to our executing a search warrant on the property where the car was being kept. That car was later recovered in Ontario and the suspect has fled.

★ Chief Lohner and Lt. Newman participated in a review of the Umpqua Community College Shooting, which was facilitated by agents from the FBI.

★ Lt. Newman met with an ODOT employee and Sheriff's Office Deputy to discuss an upcoming "Distracted Driving" event, where patrol officers, deputies and troopers will look to educate driver's about distracted driving.

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

★ BCPD Administrative Assistant / Car Seat Technician Phoebe Wachtel continues to assist families with car seat installations each week.

### **Code Enforcement Weekly Activity**

#### **Animal Violations and Complaints**

- 2 dogs at large returned to owner
- 1 dog bite case
- 1 animal welfare check
- Followed up on 1 animal complaint
- Followed up on 1 livestock complaint
- 1 dangerous dog hearing
- Issued 9 citations for dangerous dog violations

#### **Parking Violations and Complaints**

- Issued 4 parking citations
- Orange tagged 3 abandoned vehicles
- Followed up on 3 parking complaints
- 1 abandoned vehicle impounded

#### **Miscellaneous**

- Followed up on 1 TUP complaint
- 1 found Item



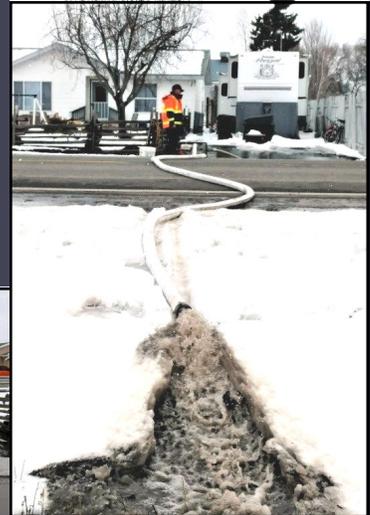
## Public Works: Water Department

There always seems to be considerable activity in the Water Department. At the end of last week there was a water leak reported on the East side of Cedar Street. Dennis responded to the site and began pumping water away from the area.

Water was pumped across Cedar Street onto an agricultural field. Once the water meter was accessible the meter was turned off. This stopped the leak.

It also meant that the broken pipe was located between the water meter and the house.

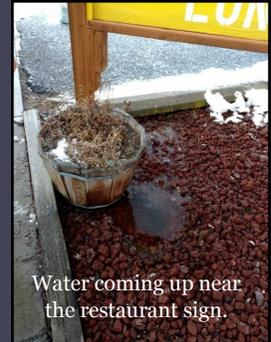
The property owner was informed of the problem. They plan to perform the repair very soon.



Another water leak was reported on Oak Street near the end of last week. Water was seen rising to the ground surface on the West side of the street.

This area "lined up" perfectly with a 1" water service line that was installed 50+/- years ago for potential future use. Through some strange course of events this service line was connected to another service line further north.

It is theorized that the lines were connected in this way to provide enough water volume to the 1" meter at the restaurant. The "corp" (corporation valve) was dug up in the street and turned off. This did not stop the leak. This necessitated additional excavation work to be done at the leak location.



Water coming up near the restaurant sign.



← Equipment being staged for the repair work and Tommy closing the street for the leak repair.

Here you can see the water spraying from the previously "crimped" service line. →



Once the repair band was in place the leak stopped. The restaurant was kept in service the entire time.



## Public Works: Water Department Continued

Valve maintenance work continued this week. Water valves must be opened and closed at least every two years to keep them from seizing. Water valves are worthless to have in the system if you can't close them to stop the flow of water when crews need to perform water line repair work, to install a new fire hydrant, or for any other reason.



Scott and Jacob worked to open and close this water valve on Boulder Drive. This particular valve is part of the 24" main line which serves most of town. It takes 92 revolutions to close and then re-open this valve.

← A magnetic valve top lifter is used to remove valve tops when performing water valve maintenance.



## Public Works: Wastewater Department

Roots were successfully removed from the 5th Street wastewater line last Friday. Karl and Nate used the jetter truck with the spring blades to cut the roots.



Here's a photo of the water operated hydraulic root saw with the spring blades attached.



### Public Works: Wastewater Department Continued



A Public Works Crew continued to clean "problem" main lines throughout town this week. Here they are working on an alley line between 12th and 13th Street.



A professional drain cleaner hired Public Works personnel to video-inspect a wastewater lateral serving a house on 2nd Street this week.

The camera head was inserted through a clean-out in the basement of the house.

Just beyond the foundation wall the pipe had shifted and dropped approximately 2". The information will be provided to the owner. The drain cleaner was billed for the service.



### Public Works: Street Department

Street sweeping is underway since the recent snow has receded from most streets. Sweeper debris is hauled to the sanitary landfill regularly. Pictured right, Nate, who has a CDL permit, is driving one of the City dump trucks to the landfill.





## Public Works: Street Lights

Monday evening a vehicle traveling on Campbell Street veered away from the eastbound lane in which it was traveling, crossed both the turn lane and the oncoming traffic lane, then hit a street light pole and the entrance sign for the local Maverick Station. Dispatch called Public works and requested assistance removing the street light pole which was blocking the entrance into the Maverick Station. Both Tommy (operating the backhoe) and Craig (ground support) responded to the scene to remove the pole.



Tuesday morning the damaged street light pole was loaded onto the Public Works flatbed and taken to the City stockpile site.

The pole is too heavily damaged to be reused as a light pole. →



The street light base remained intact except for one bolt being sheared off. Metal street light poles along Campbell Street are designed to "breakaway" when they are struck by a vehicle. The purpose of them "breaking away" is to reduce injury or possible death to the driver of the vehicle striking the pole. The breakaway design worked perfectly Monday evening.

The \$12.50 light bulb to the street light appeared to still be intact! →





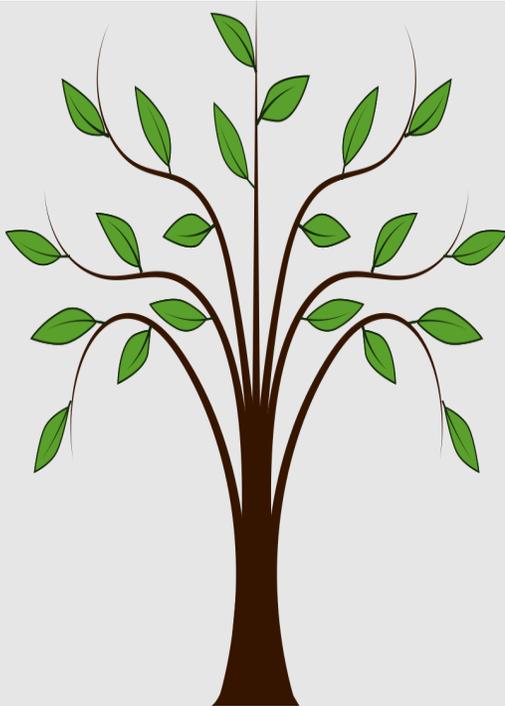
## Public Works: Street Lights Continued

There are several street light poles in town that were installed in the 1990's by contractors as part of subdivision developments. Most of these light poles are made from fiberglass and are "direct bury" type poles.

Recently it was noticed that the outside of some of the poles are beginning to decompose slightly as shown by the visible strands of fiberglass becoming loose. Work will be done this spring to coat the outside of each pole with a protective coating.



## Public Works: Silvers Tree Program



### 2017/2018 Street Tree Grant Applications for Downtown Projects are now available!

Grant applications will be accepted by the Baker City Public Works Department March 1, 2018 through March 30, 2018. Grant funds are only available to plant street trees and/or improve or construct tree wells within the downtown district within the public right-of-way area. Downtown project grant applications will be evaluated by the Tree Board and approved projects will be eligible for reimbursement. Property owners must provide a \$150 match in funds for the overall project to be considered eligible.

For a full application please click here: [2017-18 Silvers Street Tree Grant Application](#).



### Public Works: Shop



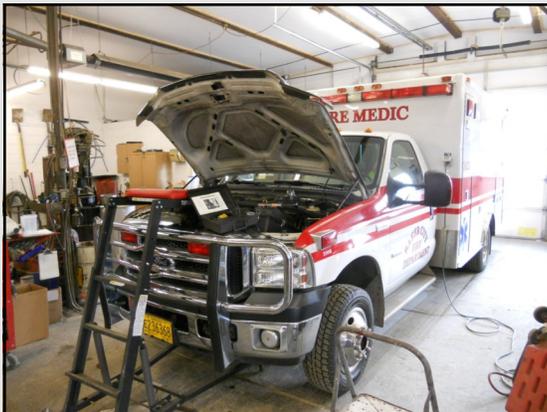
Scott F. installed a reupholstered seat and replaced the old generator with a better one from inventory.



Wes and Scott finished timing the motor and installing the injection pump. This backhoe is now back in service.



Pictured here, Brian is building a headache rack for R271. It will be finished Friday and mounted on Monday.



Scott replaced the water pump, belts, tensioner, and worked on the heater. This ambulance is now back in service.



Pictured above, Blain and Brian are replacing the rear mud flaps.



## Announcements:

Safety Focus of the Month

# March 2018

Brought to you by: Baker City Safety Committee

It's time to think about cleaning up our streets! Our roads are utilized by the local public, emergency services, visitors, Public Works and utility/construction services; we all have some responsibilities in keeping them clean and accessible. Obstacles can block traffic, water runoff and public services like water service, sewer maintenance, street sweeping and emergency equipment. Below are the most common scenarios posing safety risks.

LEVEL OF WORK REQUIRED		
EASY	MODERATE	HARDER
Keep trash cans behind the curb <u>before</u> and <u>after</u> pickup  Move street parked cars daily <b>Absolutely NO long-term parking without a permit</b>  Remove wooden blocks / ramps after driving over curb	Relocate trailers or equipment to off-street parking (storage)  Prune and dispose of brush / small, low hanging limbs extending over the curb  Keep basketball hoops well behind the curb when not in use	Prune large limbs and decorative shrubs that extend over the curb (see Baker City Ordinance 3298 below).  Consult the city tree board, and dispose of dead / rotten trees. This may require a professional tree service!

### Baker City Ordinance No. 3298 Section 94.11

"Every owner of any tree overhanging any street or right-of-way within the City shall prune the branches so that such branches shall not obstruct the light from any street lamp or obstruct the view of any street intersection or traffic control device, so that there shall be clear space of at least **eight (8) feet** above the surface of the sidewalk and **twelve (12) feet** above the surface of the street. The owner shall remove all dead, diseased or hazardous trees, or broken or decayed limbs, which constitute a menace to the safety of the public."

*Work together and take pride in our streets!!!*