

CITY OF BAKER CITY

On the Historic Oregon Trail,
Established 1864, Incorporated 1874

Weekly Update April 10, 2020

Administration:

The shelter in place is still in effect within the City and it seems to be working. As I write this we do not have a positive case of COVID-19. This shutdown of our hospitality and retail establishments is taking a real toll on these businesses. The City and the County have been working hard to try help businesses connect with the federal dollars that have been allocated. We are as frustrated as our businesses that the system is overloaded and extremely challenging. We are hopeful that the dollars to aid small businesses will be forthcoming and the employees that have been laid off will be receiving their unemployment checks.

The City Council will be holding their first Council meeting since the Governor's executive order closing restaurants, bars, gatherings of over 25 people and enhanced social distancing. The majority of the Council will meet in person with enhanced social distancing on Tuesday, April 14th with some Councilors and staff joining by ZOOM. We will be allowing a maximum of 6 members of the public into the meeting and if more want to participate, we will rotate them in and out of the meeting. The Council Meeting will be live streamed on the Baker City Website. The council meeting can be watched at <https://www.bakercity.com/2173/Council-Videos>. If any members of the public would like to submit testimony by email, let us know and it will be read into the record. If anyone has any questions, please contact my office.

Have a great weekend and keep up the social distancing.

The Sidewalk Replacement Grant

is available through
June 30th.

There is currently

\$11,052

in grant funding available
to assist you with the cost of
improving the public sidewalk
adjacent to your property.

More information can be found at
www.bakercity.com or you may call
Public Works at (541) 524-2047 and
we can email or mail you an
application packet.

City Council Agenda

April 14th

- Emergency Declaration
- Council Virtual Attendance Resolution
- Arbor Day Proclamation
- CDBG Grant Paperwork Resolution
- Budget Board Appointment
- Committee Appointment Ordinances
- TO Engineers Task Order
- Well Drilling Bid
- Fee Resolution
- Budget Resolution
- Adoption of 2020-21 City Council Goals



City Hall Update

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, City Hall is currently closed to the public.

To make a payment:

Use the dropbox for **checks or money orders** – ***NO CASH***
Call 541-523-6541 to use a credit/debit card at no additional charge
Please do not make cash payments in the dropbox



Dropbox at City Hall

To sign up for water/wastewater service:

We have placed forms outside. Please complete the forms provided and place in the dropbox.

To sign up for payment arrangements:

We have placed forms outside. Please complete the form provided and place in the dropbox

For all other services, please call 541-523-6541 and we will assist you over the phone.

Planning Department:

PLANNING COMMISSION PUBLIC HEARING

The Baker City Planning Commission will hold a public hearing at **6:00 p.m., on Wednesday, April 15, 2020, via teleconference only**, to consider the following:

- VAR-20-030: A Variance request to allow a future property line adjustment to correct a property line and accessory structure discrepancy at 3750 Campbell Street; and
- CUP-20-032: A Conditional Use Permit request to convert an existing dwelling into a real estate office at 2333 Main Street.



In response to COVID-19 and in the interest of public health and safety, the upcoming Planning Commission hearing will be available to the public via teleconference only. If you would like to participate in the teleconference, please call **1-877-820-7831** and enter in code **8204693**, when prompted.

CONTINUANCE

The Baker City Planning Commission held a public hearing via teleconference on March 25, 2020, during which time they elected to continue the public hearing for ZT-20-013 (updates to the Baker City Development Code, Comprehensive Plan and zoning map) until Wednesday, July 15th, 2020. **The date and time of the continuance will be announced on the Baker City Website and in the Baker City Herald newspaper.**

APPLICATIONS

- A sign permit was approved for a ±31 square foot wall sign at 1080 Campbell Street located in the General Commercial (C-G) Zone.



Finance Department:

Utilities

- ◆ Twelve customers signed up for new water/wastewater service and nine customers disconnected service from April 3rd thru April 9th. This includes all service changes.
- ◆ Zone 1 which includes 94 residential and 254 commercial accounts was billed April 7th. Of those accounts 65 (19%) are signed up for direct payment and 18 (5%) are signed up for ebilling.
- ◆ Zone 6 which was billed today includes 479 residential and 58 commercial accounts. Of those accounts 115 (21%) are signed up for direct payment and 44 (8%) are signed up for ebilling
- ◆ Eighteen residential customers (Zones 1, 5 and 8) were scheduled to have their water turned off for non-pay (over 60 days past due). Six were turned-off until their past due balances were paid. All six have paid their past due balance and their water has been turned back on. The City is making every effort to work with those effected by COVID 19; however, we are still turning off water service when customers do not respond to turn-off notices posted on their doors.

Accounts Receivable

Monthly accounts receivable billings were sent April 10th. The billings were as follows:

- | | |
|--|---|
| • Cemetery - \$2,827 | • Property and Weed Abatement - \$935 |
| • Street Cuts and Miscellaneous - \$5,043 | • Baker County Economic Development Support - \$3,750 |
| • Wastewater Service and Miscellaneous - \$9,497 | • Miscellaneous - \$5,473 |
| • Ambulance - \$644,783 | |
| • Airport Hangar Rent & Ground Lease - \$3,944 | <u>Total Billed \$ 676,252</u> |

Accounts Payable

The first of two accounts payable check runs for the month was generated today.





Building Department:

	Permits Issued City	Inspections City	Permits Issued County	Inspections County
Building	1	5	1	5
Manufactured Dwelling	0	0	0	0
Electrical	6	3	3	3
Mechanical	2	5	1	3
Plumbing	3	3	1	2
Fence	2	NA	N/A	N/A
TOTAL	14	16	6	13

RESIDENTIAL PERMITS:

- 38792 Deer Creek Road, County—Home addition
- 1242 Dewey Avenue, Baker City—Solar structure added to home

COMMERCIAL PERMITS:

None at this time

HISTORIC DESIGN REVIEW:

Next regularly scheduled meeting is May 6 2020**, at 8:00 a.m. in the Building Department.

***Until further notice, the group will only meet if a new application is received. Please check with the Building Department for specifics.*



COVID and STIMULUS

Did you Know....

Baker County has a website dedicated to COVID-19 information.

www.bakercountycovid19.com

Also, if you are or know of someone who has very low income and doesn't have to pay taxes, the IRS has a website for guidance on receiving your stimulus payment.

<https://www.irs.gov/coronavirus/economic-impact-payments>



"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 this past week, BCPD had a particularly busy week, opening 42 new cases. BCPD executed a search warrant following the report of a theft of a stolen blue and yellow Yamaha dirt bike, which was later recovered. The investigation is ongoing. BCPD would like to remind everyone that as the weather continues to improve with sunny, warmer days on the horizon, people are looking for opportunities to be active outside, while still social distancing. This is also true of criminals who look for crimes of opportunity, such as the theft of bicycles and other items not otherwise secured. Please be especially vigilant and always lock your vehicle and safeguard valuables by securing these items and by placing them out-of-sight, if possible.
- ★ BCPD would also like to remind people that with news of stimulus payments reportedly being sent by either direct deposit or by check to qualifying Americans, this presents a prime opportunity for scammers to exploit vulnerable people in an effort to try and steal this funding. The Oregon Department of Justice, Financial Fraud/ Consumer Protection Section posted the following information regarding common tactics used by scammers to get to your personal information or steal your money:
 - ◆ The government will not contact you to ask you to pay anything up front in order to get this money. No fees. No charges. Nothing. Anyone who asks for fees up front is a scammer.
 - ◆ The government will not contact you to ask for you Social Security number, bank account, or credit card number to confirm your identity. Anyone who asks for this type of information is a scammer.
 - ◆ Anyone who tells you they can get you the money right now is a scammer.
- ★ If you spot this type of scam, please contact the Oregon Department of Justice by phone at 503-387-8442 or online at www.oregonconsumer.gov. More information is available at the following link: <https://www.doj.state.or.us/media-home/news-media-releases/scammers-may-try-to-steal-direct-payments-to-americans-for-covid-19-relief/>.
- ★ This past week, BCPD welcomed newly-sworn in Officer Timothy Finnegan to our ranks! Once social distancing restrictions are lifted, expect Officer Finnegan to be out and about meeting people and getting familiar with Baker City. Officer Finnegan is looking forward to getting started as a patrol officer and as an avid outdoorsman, he is excited to explore all the great recreational opportunities we have here in Eastern Oregon.
- ★ BCPD personnel participated in several briefing trainings, including a review of various officer safety topics and annual sexual harassment prevention training.





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

FIRE DEPARTMENT

During the week of March 31st through April 6th the Fire Department responded to a total of **15** emergency alarms.

AMBULANCE OPERATIONS

City Calls	11
Rural Calls	3
Patient Transported	11
No Patient Trip	3

TOTAL MEDIC 14

Airport Transfers	1
Out of Town Transfers Accepted	1
Out of Town Transfers Not Accepted	0
Motor Vehicle Accidents	1
Doubles (2 calls at once)	0
Triples (3 calls at once)	0
Quads (4 calls at once)	0
Public Assist	1

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Fire Department is POSTPONING the free blood pressure readings at the Senior Center every Tuesday, at 11 am.

We will resume once social distancing is not required.

TRAINING/MAINTENANCE/ FIRE PREVENTION

INSPECTIONS/ COMMUNITY EVENTS

- **46 hrs** of Station & Equipment Maintenance
- **2 hrs** of Safety Training
- **29 hrs** of EMS Training
- **12** Burn Permits Issued

EMERGENCY CALL BACKS

Request for Cover	3
Arrived for Cover	2

FIRE REPORTS

General Alarms	0
Dispatched Alarms	1
TOTAL FIRE RESPONSES	1

Baker City Prescription Delivery Project

Baker City – With Oregonians now under Governor Brown’s executive order to stay home, the Baker City Fire Department is following the lead of the Forest Grove Police Department and Lake Oswego Police Department in piloting a prescription medication delivery program for Baker City Residents.

Starting Monday, April 13, 2020, and continuing through the end of the emergency order, Baker City Fire Department employees will be providing a free prescription delivery service for Baker City residents. Anyone who is 60-years-old or older, or who has any serious underlying medical condition that would put them at a higher risk of severe illness due to COVID-19, can call and arrange for prescription delivery from a local Baker City pharmacy to maintain quarantine. This service will be available between 8:00 A.M. and 5:00 P.M., Monday through Friday, for the duration of the emergency order.

Participants will need to contact their pharmacy themselves to order and pay for the prescription(s). The participant will need to present valid identification to the Fire Department employee when the prescription is delivered.

During deliveries, the Fire Department employees will wear personal protective equipment and will follow social distancing guidelines to avoid spreading the virus. The employees will always be in official attire and will carry identification.

This is a pilot project, so we will monitor this program daily to ensure that it is still helpful and appropriate. If, at any point, we decide that it is no longer needed or workable, we will end this service.



Boards, Commissions and Committees

The City of Baker City is seeking volunteers for the following:

- ⇒ Public Arts Commission—1 positions available
- ⇒ Historic District Design Review Commission—2 positions available
- ⇒ Budget Board—1 position available
- ⇒ Tree Board—2 positions available

Positions are for a 3-year term. Anyone interested in volunteering should visit www.bakercity.com to fill out a volunteer form. You may also email admin@bakercity.com or call 524-2033 for more information. The direct link to the volunteer form page is: <http://bakercity.com/2149/Boards-Commissions>

Public Works: Shop



Left: This unit is getting a new rear differential seal.



Right: This truck had the driveline break where it bolts to the rear differential. We pulled it out, repaired it and this truck is back on the road.



Left: We replaced the alternator. While in the shop, we serviced this rig and performed a safety inspection.



Right: We replaced the wheel seal on this rig.

Public Works: Street Department

There are over a dozen locations on Baker City streets which need to be patched with hot asphalt. This list includes locations from wastewater lateral repairs, wastewater manhole installations, water service installations, water leak repairs and water main line installations. The amount of asphalt needed is approximately 150 tons!

Currently, asphalt isn't available from our usual supplier in LaGrande. Once asphalt becomes available, we will be getting out over several days to get caught up on the needed repairs.



Public Works: Stormwater Department



The stormwater project on 17th Street was completed on Wednesday. The atmosphere inside the CMP was tested and found to be safe for using a cutting torch.

The top of the pipe was cut out, a manhole ring was set on top, and crushed rock was spread to the surface.

An object marker was attached to the top of the concrete portion of the lid to keep vehicles from driving over the manhole.



Public Works: Water Department



Dennis and Scoot travelled via snowmobile to Marble Creek to adjust water flows. Additional water had to be brought to town this week through the inter-tie line while the Elk Creek Settling Basin construction work is in progress.

Connecting water services onto the newly installed 8" ductile iron water line continued this week.

Here Brian and Nate are working near the intersection of Court and 7th Streets.





Public Works: Water Department continued

Parts have arrived for this year's Mountain line project. The first phase is to re-plumb the Elk Creek Settling Basin so it will be able to handle improved flows.



Parts for the project began arriving last week.

The 1986 ex-military truck was used to ferry materials to the construction site.



Here is a stockpile of the parts to be assembled on site.



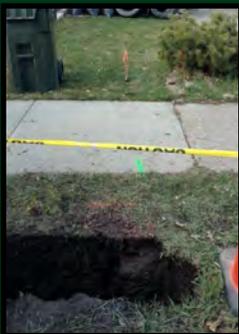
Ongoing work on the Elk Creek Settling Basin



Right: The completed plumbing work done on Thursday on the Elk Creek Settling Basin.



Public Works: Wastewater Department



A shared wastewater line was plugged. The line runs between two houses then turns left to serve a house on Spring Garden. Prior to this week, there was no access to clean the line.

The bottom of an access vault was notched out and then set over the 4" orangeburg pipe. A flat concrete lid was placed, and then a standard manhole lift rings, metal ring and lid were attached.





Public Works: Waste Department continued



Karl and Jake video inspected the line.

The line is 4" orangeburg pipe and as seen in the photo, has become "egg shaped". The line is plugged with domestic material approximately 36' from the new vault.



Concrete was placed around the 4" pipe inside the vault and then on top of vault and the sidewalk was finished.

The line will be cleaned to restore flow once the concrete has hardened sufficiently.



The wastewater lateral replacement work on Auburn Avenue was completed this week.



The main line in the alley was extended 80' and then a 6" PVC lateral was extended across Auburn to serve a house on the south side.

The alley approach was strengthened with rebar and concrete was poured.



Blain, Karl and Matt performed clean-up work before the street was reopened to traffic.





2020 Census FAQ

What is the census?

The census is a count of every person who lives in the United States and its territories. It happens every 10 years. In early 2020, you will be asked to count everyone who lives in your home as of April 1. Responding to the 2020 Census is a chance to shape your future.

What's in it for me?



Your responses inform where over \$675 billion is distributed each year to communities nationwide for clinics, schools, roads, and more.



Census data gives community leaders vital information to make decisions about building community centers, opening businesses, and planning for the future.



Responding also fulfills your civic duty because it's mandated by the U.S. Constitution. The United States has counted its population every 10 years since 1790.



Your responses are used to redraw legislative districts and determine the number of seats your state has in the U.S. House of Representatives.

Is my information safe?

Your responses to the 2020 Census are safe, secure, and protected by federal law. Your answers can only be used to produce statistics. They cannot be used against you by any government agency or court in any way—not by the FBI, not by the CIA, not by the DHS, and not by ICE.

When can I respond to the census?

In early 2020, every household in America will receive a notice to complete the census online, by phone, or by mail. In May, the U.S. Census Bureau will begin following up in person with households that have yet to respond.

What will I be asked?

You will be asked a few simple questions, like age, sex, and the number of people who live in your home, including children.

What won't be asked?

The census will never ask for Social Security numbers, bank or credit card numbers, money or donations, or anything related to political parties.

For more information, visit:

2020CENSUS.GOV

**Shape
your future
START HERE >**

United States*
**Census
2020**

D-FA-GP-EN-034