

CITY OF BAKER CITY

On the Historic Oregon Trail.
Established 1864, Incorporated 1874

Weekly Update April 17, 2020

Administration:

The Council met this week for their first meeting since the COVID-19 lockdown began. They worked through a long agenda and set the stage for virtual meetings for the duration of the COVID emergency. As we approach the City's budget season, we will work on the best way to have our budget meetings while maintaining social distancing and allowing citizens to participate in the budget process.

We are finishing one month of social distancing, business closures or interruptions and the stay at home order from the Governor. To date, Baker County does not have any confirmed COVID-19 cases. We are working hard with the County to procure Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) for our businesses and citizens. We believe that these items will be key to opening some of our businesses while still protecting our citizens and valued employees throughout the County. For the latest information, please go to www.bakercountycovid19.com.

The weather looks to be nice this weekend. Get out and enjoy, and don't forget to maintain social distancing.

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

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.



Dropbox at City Hall



Finance Department:

Finance Director

As of April 1st, the City had received current year property taxes of \$3,322,836 and prior year taxes of \$227,981.

Utilities

- ◆ Six customers signed up for new water/wastewater service and one customer disconnected service from April 10th thru April 16th. This includes all service changes.
- ◆ Zone 2 was billed April 14th and included 465 residential and 13 commercial accounts. Of those accounts 104 (22%) are signed up for direct payment and 18 (4%) are signed up for ebilling.
- ◆ Zone 7 was billed today and included 559 residential and 26 commercial accounts. Of those accounts 164 (28%) are signed up for direct payment and 27 (5%) are signed up for ebilling.
- ◆ Thirteen residential customers (Zone 6) were scheduled to have their water turned off for non-pay (over 60 days past due). One of those customers actually had their service turned off but have now paid and their service has been turned back on.

Accounts Payable

The first of two accounts payable check runs for the month was paid April 13th.

Payroll

Draw checks were issued April 15th.

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 3.35%. These LIDs can be paid off at any time with interest charged through the payoff date.

- Four 2006 Elm Street LIDs were billed April 16th. The original assessment in 2006 for Elm Street improvements included 21 property owners for a total of \$252,888. The remaining balance outstanding including interest is \$16,461.
- Two 2002 Indiana Avenue LIDs were billed April 17th. The original assessment in 2002 for Indiana Avenue improvements included 111 property owners for a total of \$378,860. The remaining balance outstanding including interest is \$1,375.



Building Department:

	Permits Issued City	Inspections City	Permits Issued County	Inspections County
Building	4	5	1	7
Manufactured Dwelling	0	0	0	0
Electrical	1	4	6	4
Mechanical	3	6	1	2
Plumbing	2	1	0	3
Fence	5	NA	N/A	N/A
TOTAL	15	16	8	16

RESIDENTIAL PERMITS:

- 601 Auburn Avenue, Baker City—New residence
- 795 Scenic Vista, Baker City—New residence
- 2245 Indiana Avenue, Baker City—remodel/refinish upstairs
- 916 Ruby Street, Haines—Detached accessory structure

COMMERCIAL PERMITS:

- 3665 17th Street, Baker City—Restructure on one building

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.*



Planning Department:

PLANNING COMMISSION PUBLIC HEARING

The Baker City Planning Commission held a public hearing via teleconference on **Wednesday, April 15, 2020**, during which the following decisions were approved:

- **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.



APPLICATIONS

- A temporary use permit was approved to site an RV for occupancy for a medical hardship at 1940 Colorado Street located in the Residential-High Density (R-HD) Zone



"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

★ Please join Baker City Police Department in honoring our amazing dispatchers at Baker County Consolidated Dispatch who are always here to answer your call! April 12-18th is designated as National Public Safety Telecommunicators Week and we just want to recognize these hardworking professionals. We salute you!



- ★ During this past week, BCPD opened 19 new cases. In one reported incident of domestic violence, a suspect was arrested for assaulting his significant other in the presence of minor children. This individual was charged with Assault IV in the Presence of Minors and Strangulation.
- ★ BCPD personnel participated in several briefing trainings, including a review of various officer safety topics and annual sexual harassment prevention training.



Code Enforcement Weekly Activity

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.

Property Maintenance

- Responded to three new complaints
- Followed up on seven previous complaints
- Issued eight property maintenance citations
- Issued one citation for building/planning
- Opened one new case

Miscellaneous

- TWO FOUND ITEMS
- Seventeen miscellaneous community contacts
- One community service stop

Parking violations

- Issued one citation
- Responded to four complaints
- Followed up on two previous complaints
- Issued one written warning

Animal violations and complaints

- Responded to two animals running at large
- Issued one new livestock permit



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

FIRE DEPARTMENT

During the week of April 7th through April 13th the Fire Department responded to a total of **35** emergency alarms.

AMBULANCE OPERATIONS

City Calls	23
Rural Calls	4
Patient Transported	15
No Patient Trip	12

TOTAL MEDIC 27

Airport Transfers	0
Out of Town Transfers Accepted	0
Out of Town Transfers Not Accepted	1
Motor Vehicle Accidents	0
Doubles (2 calls at once)	7
Triples (3 calls at once)	0
Quads (4 calls at once)	0
Public Assist	0

TRAINING/MAINTENANCE/ FIRE PREVENTION

INSPECTIONS/ COMMUNITY EVENTS

- **48 hrs** of Station & Equipment Maintenance
- **15 hrs** of Fire Training
- **45 hrs** of EMS Training
- **18** Burn Permits Issued

EMERGENCY CALL BACKS

Request for Cover	5
Arrived for Cover	3

FIRE REPORTS

General Alarms	0
Dispatched Alarms	8
TOTAL FIRE RESPONSES	8

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.

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: Parks Department



With warmer weather this week, the second concrete pour in the Geiser-Pollman park was done on Thursday.



Public Works: Water Department



The plumbing work at the Elk Creek settling tank was completed earlier this week.

Existing concrete on site was pulverized using the crusher bucket. The material will be used to place around the new piping.



Next the crew of Justin and Brian began preparing the road bed for the new pipe installation.





Public Works: Water Department continued



All the new service connections on Court Street are now complete.

The main line tie-in connections at 6th and 7th Streets were also completed this week.



A new water service was installed this Wednesday on Auburn Avenue west of 17th Street.

Blain and Nate performed the work.



Public Works: Wastewater Department



So how was domestic wastewater disposed of before city wastewater lines were installed?

This is a photo of a hand-dug septic tank in the yard of a residence near the intersection of 2nd and Madison. The wastewater lateral simply ran into this hole in the ground.

When a city wastewater line was made available in this vicinity, most likely around 1920+/-, the pipe was intercepted before the septic tank and rerouted to the city wastewater line.



Public Works: Wastewater Department continued



Karl entered the manhole to cut the top of the Orangeburg pipe while Tom was the attendant. The atmosphere was constantly monitored for safety. As you can see, the oxygen content was 20.9%. The wastewater vault which is now located on the west side of Clark Street was used to access and clean the line. A blockage at 36' was temporarily removed using the jetter and a high pressure water stream. The line was then video-inspected and determined to be in poor condition.



Blain and Riley installed a wastewater lateral on Auburn west of 17th Street.



A local professional drain cleaner hired Public Works to inspect and locate a private lateral on Wednesday.

The line was found to be terra cotta (clay) and extend 5' into neighboring property before connection onto the city line in the alley.



An attempt at performing a dye test was made on Thursday for a resident on Campbell Street who has been having wastewater problems.

The brightly colored dye was not observed and it was determined that their lateral may be broken, plugged or both.

