

CITY OF BAKER CITY

On the Historic Oregon Trail.
Established 1864, Incorporated 1874

Weekly Update April 24, 2020

Administration:

The Council will be holding a virtual meeting via ZOOM on Tuesday night. The Council Chambers will be open for public comment in person if anyone wishes to provide public comments during the meeting. If citizens would like to provide written comments please send them to City Recorder Katie LaFavor at klafavor@bakercity.com by **Tuesday at 3:00pm**. The meeting will be live streamed on the Baker City website which you can find at <http://bakercity.com/2173/Council-Videos>.

The City and County are working with the State of Oregon to come up with a plan to starting opening up some of our local businesses. We are working through the myriad of issues such as availability of Personal Protective Equipment (PPEs), adequate test equipment and ways to trace confirmed cases of COVID-19 when they happen. To date, we still have no confirmed cases in Baker County. Baker County's plan for easing business restrictions will be delivered to the Governor sometime next week. Stay tuned for more information. You can always get updated information on the County's COVID-19 website at www.bakercountycovid19.com.

Have a great weekend, keep social distancing and wait for the sunshine.

City Council

Agenda

April 14th

- Liquor License: The Inland Cafe
- Budget Board Appointment
- Farmer's Market
- Non-Represented Salary Schedule
- Aquifer Storage and Recovery Well Use Report
- Sidewalk Grant

Building Department:

	Permits Issued City	Inspections City	Permits Issued County	Inspections County
Building	1	12	1	5
Manufactured Dwelling	0	0	0	1
Electrical	4	12	3	7
Mechanical	3	7	2	2
Plumbing	2	5	1	1
Fence	1	NA	N/A	N/A
TOTAL	11	36	7	16

RESIDENTIAL PERMITS:

- 207 Main Street, Richland—Residential addition
- 93 Foothill Drive, Baker City—Carpport addition

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.*



Finance Department:

Utilities

- 21 customers signed up for new water/wastewater service and 12 customers disconnected service from April 17th thru April 23rd. This includes all service changes.
- Zone 3 was billed April 21st and included 500 residential and 52 commercial accounts. Of those accounts 117 (21%) are signed up for direct payment and 34 (6%) are signed up for ebilling.
- Zone 8 was billed today and included 466 residential and 19 commercial accounts. Of those accounts 115 or 24% are signed up for direct payment and 19 (4%) are signed up for ebilling.
- This week 46 residential customers (Zones 2, 3 and 7) were scheduled to have their water turned off for non-pay (over 60 days past due) seven of those were turned off until their past due balance was paid. One was given an extension of time to pay due to a COVID-19 hardship; two have paid and their service has been reinstated; and four have not yet contacted the City.

Payroll

- Seventy-one employees were paid today including a part-time plumbing inspector, a part-time building inspector/plan reviewer, and a part-time patrol officer. Of those 71 employees, 67 or 94% are signed up for direct deposit.

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

Did you Know....

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

www.bakercountycovid19.com



Planning Department:

PLANNING COMMISSION PUBLIC HEARING

The Baker City Planning Commission will hold a public hearing at **6:00 p.m. on Wednesday, May 20, 2020, via teleconference only**, to consider the following:

- VAR-20-017 & LUR-20-028: A Class C variance request to the front and side setback requirements of the Residential – Medium Density (R-MD) Zone in order to build a ±360 square foot carport. The subject property is addressed as 2350 D Street and is also identified as Tax Lot 6000 in Section 17ab of Township 9 South, Range 40 East, W.M., Baker County, Oregon (Ref. 1670).

APPLICATIONS

- A land use review application was approved to convert the second and third stories of an existing commercial building at 2005 Washington Avenue into a residence. The property is located in the Central-Commercial (C-C) Zone and the Baker City Historic District.
- An accessory structure was approved at 960 E Street. The property is located within the Residential Low-Density (R-LD) Zone.
- An accessory structure was approved at 2356 Carter Street. The property is located within the Residential High-Density (R-HD) Zone.
- An attached deck was approved at 2245 Indiana Avenue in the Residential High-Density (R-HD) Zone. The project also required approval of a floodplain development permit, as the property is located within an identified floodplain.



Code Enforcement Weekly Activity

Property Maintenance

- Responded to four new complaints
- Followed up on ten previous complaints
- Issued eight property maintenance citations
- Issued three citation for RV/Camping
- Closed three cases

Miscellaneous

- Nineteen miscellaneous community contacts
- Two community service stops

Parking violations

- Issued one citation
- Responded to eleven new complaints
- Followed up on ten previous complaints
- Issued three written warnings

Animal violations and complaints

- Responded to three animals running at large
- Two Dangerous Dog follow ups



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

FIRE DEPARTMENT

During the week of April 14th through April 20th the Fire Department responded to a total of **27** emergency alarms.

AMBULANCE OPERATIONS

City Calls	21
Rural Calls	4
Patient Transported	14
No Patient Trip	11

TOTAL MEDIC RESPONSES 25

TRAINING/MAINTENANCE/ FIRE PREVENTION

INSPECTIONS/ COMMUNITY EVENTS

- 48 hrs of Station & Equipment Maintenance
- 1 hr of Fire Training
- 24 hrs of EMS Training
- 1 Fire Prevention Inspection
- 2 hrs of Community Events
- 18 Burn Permits Issued



EMERGENCY CALL BACKS

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

Request for Cover	5
Arrived for Cover	7

FIRE REPORTS

General Alarms	0
Dispatched Alarms	2
TOTAL FIRE RESPONSES	2

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>



"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."



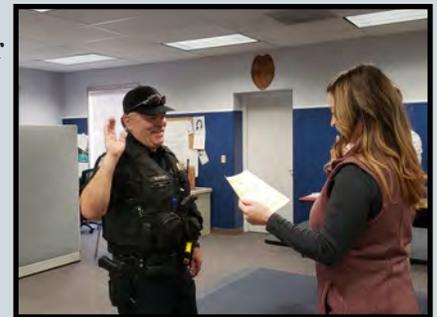
POLICE DEPARTMENT

★ During this past week, BCPD opened 25 new cases including the investigation into an unattended death of a local resident. The following press release was issued in response to this incident:

On April 16, 2020 at approximately 4:30 PM, Baker City Police Officers were called to 2020 Elm Street, #8, Baker City after a family acquaintance found Marcelle Elizabeth Miners, 51 years of age unresponsive in her apartment. Miners was pronounced deceased by the Baker County Medical Examiner.

The cause of death at this point is undetermined. There is no indication of foul play and the cause of death will be released after toxicology results are known.

★ Please join BCPD in welcoming back Officer Rand Weaver! Officer Weaver, a veteran of the Department for over 15 years, retired earlier this month and has since come back to the Department in his previous role as a Patrol Officer. In addition to working as a patrol officer, Officer Weaver has also served as the Department's K9 Handler and Firearms Instructor. We're especially glad to have Officer Weaver back and made it all official by having him sworn in as a member of the Baker City Police Department!



★ BCPD personnel participated in several briefing trainings, including a review of various Officer Safety topics and annual sexual harassment prevention training.

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.





Public Works: Shop



Left: The battery was dead on this rig. We charged it, tested it and returned it to BCPD.



Right: We repaired the air sensor switch and the rear throttle control on this rig.



Left: We replaced two fuel valves in the high pressure fuel rail. We also serviced the engine and performed a safety check.



Right: We serviced and performed a safety check on this truck.



Left: We performed a computer controlled regeneration and this rig is back to sweeping.



Right: Scott built a new driver's side interior door handle that was ripped out. This rig is back in service.

Public Works: Water Department—Mountain Pipeline Project



Several truckloads of 24" PVC pipe arrived this week. The trucks travelled up Elk Creek Road to a designated area to be offloaded. From there, the pipe will be shuttled to its final installation destination using both the 1986 Ex-military drive truck and the CAT grader with attached trailer.



Here you see Craig moving bundles of the 24" PVC pipe from one of the semi-trucks to the temporary stockpile site.





Public Works: Water Department continued

The Court Street water main line replacement project was completed. Unfortunately when water pressure was lowered on Court Street during part of the decommissioning process, it caused for a water leak to occur on Washington Street, approximately 400' away!



Left: Excavation to decommission the old 6" cast iron line on Court Street.

Right: Using the hydraulic "breaker" to snap a piece of the old pipe. Pressure is reduced during this process in order to keep the piping from blowing apart until the old pipe can be secured.



Left: Blain and Dennis releasing pressure from the line at the 8th and Court Street hydrant.

Right: It was quite a surprise when water starting coming up through cracks in the asphalt on Washington Street. The leak supplied a large amount of water from a 2" line.



Left: This map shows the location of the leak. There was a leak in this same vicinity in 2017.

Right: Justin and Riley excavated down to the 2" cast iron pipe to uncover the broken pipe

Below: This shows the pipe section that was leaking and then subsequently removed.



Three Cheers to our Baker High School Class of 2020!

We will be turning the clock Purple and Gold each weekend through the remaining school year to support you!



Public Works: Wastewater Department



There appeared to be a slight problem with the pumps at the wastewater treatment plant. The chart recorder registered inconsistent influent flows. There may have been a blockage in the pumps causing the issue.

Water in the 36" concrete line had raised to sufficient elevation that the back-up Thompson pump was triggered and began pumping.

Karl applied herbicides to dike embankments while paying close attention to avoid nesting birds.



Many different species of birds are found to frequent the nearly 100 acres of surface water at the wastewater treatment plant.



A resident on Valley Street has been having problems recently. A portion of her lateral from the house to beyond the sidewalk was replaced last week by a plumber. There still remained a 6' section of Orangeburg pipe which was in deplorable condition.



Blain used the jackhammer to cut through the asphalt.

Then Blain and Nate used the vactor truck to precisely hydro-excavate down to the lateral.



This photo shows the inside of the orangeburg pipe. You can see the large bulges inside the pipe which can easily interrupt flow.

The new PVC was installed the same morning and wastewater service was restored to the resident.





Public Works: Wastewater Department continued



Some additional work was performed at the “H” Street lift station. To raise awareness to the subterranean structure, four plastic delimiters were bolted to the concrete lid.



Public Works: Street Department



Rick and Jake patrolled the downtown garbage cans and emptied any of those which were used. There are approximately 60 garbage cans which Public Works and the Parks Department maintains.

This week, asphalt became available in LaGrande. Street patching repair work is set to begin Tuesday of next week.

Public Works: Parks Department



A third concrete pour was scheduled for Geiser-Pollman Park Project Tuesday.

11.5 yards of concrete was placed and finished as shown.

The next pour is scheduled for Friday, April 24.

