

# CITY OF BAKER CITY

On the Historic Oregon Trail.  
Established 1864, Incorporated 1874

## **Weekly Update May 1, 2020**

### Administration:

The month of May is starting out with spectacular weather. As we enter our sixth week of the closures and issues surrounding the COVID-19 pandemic and Baker County has yet to see a confirmed case of the virus, many of our businesses and citizens are wondering if we are all doing the right thing and when will we return to normal. We are all in uncharted territory and your State and County officials are trying to navigate this extreme event and balance the health of our citizens and the economic vitality of businesses, non-profit organizations, independent workers and citizens. We realize that the longer this event draws out, the more questions will be asked about what is the right thing to do to get us back to normal. We are hearing from citizens on both sides of this issue and from my perspective, everyone has legitimate points and concerns. All that we would ask is that we all stick together, listen to our health experts and make our decisions and our rhetoric based on facts and not innuendo and half truths.

If you are able, get out in the yard and enjoy the spring weather this weekend. Remember to keep up the social distancing and support our local businesses whenever possible.

### Building Department:

	Permits Issued City	Inspections City	Permits Issued County	Inspections County
Building	1	8	2	7
Manufactured Dwelling	0	0	0	0
Electrical	3	9	6	2
Mechanical	3	2	3	1
Plumbing	5	5	0	2
Fence	1	NA	N/A	N/A
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>

#### **RESIDENTIAL PERMITS:**

- 15871 High Country Lane, Baker City—New residence
- 44150 S Window Road, County—Detached accessory structure

#### **COMMERCIAL PERMITS:**

- 1933 1st Street, Baker City—Interior structural work

#### **HISTORIC DESIGN REVIEW:**

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

**The meeting will be held at City Hall in the Council Chambers located on the second floor.**



## Finance Department:

### Budget Committee Meetings

During the April 28<sup>th</sup> City Council meeting, City Council voted to postpone the 2020-21 budget hearings scheduled for the week of May 18<sup>th</sup>. **These meeting were tentatively rescheduled for the week of June 1<sup>st</sup>.**

With the postponement of the budget hearings and the cancellation of the March interim budget meeting due to the Governor’s COVID-19 restrictions, the City has tentatively rescheduled the interim budget meeting to be held (possibly via Zoom) on May 19<sup>th</sup>. This meeting is intended for budget training and for review of the City’s financial condition. No deliberations of the 2020-21 budget may take place during this meeting.

### Utilities

- ◆ Ten customers signed up for new water/wastewater service and four customers disconnected service from April 24<sup>th</sup> thru April 30<sup>th</sup>. This includes all service changes.
- ◆ Zone 4 was billed April 28<sup>th</sup> and included 730 residential and 60 commercial accounts. Of those accounts 211 (27%) are signed up for direct payment and 64 (8%) are signed up for ebilling.
- ◆ This week is one of the four billing skip weeks (per zone) each year; therefore, only one zone was billed this week.
- ◆ This week 13 residential customers (Zone 8) were scheduled to have their water turned off for non-pay (over 60 days past due) four of those were turned off until their past due balance was paid. Of those four, three have paid and their service has been reinstated and one is expected to pay later today.

## 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

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

**[Www.bakercountycovid19.com](http://www.bakercountycovid19.com)**



## Planning Department:

### PLANNING COMMISSION PUBLIC HEARING

The Baker City Planning Commission will hold a public hearing at the **Baker County Courthouse**, 1995 Third Street, Baker City, Oregon, at **6:00 p.m., on Wednesday, May 20, 2020**. This meeting will take place primarily via teleconference; however, in conformance with social distancing standards related to COVID-19, a limited number of people could be allowed to attend in person at any given time. The Planning Commission will 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).
- SDR-20-045: A request by David Hays, on behalf of property owner, 52 LLC, to construct a 16-unit, multi-family housing development. The subject property is identified as Tax Lots 500 & 800 in Section 16bd of Township 9 South, Range 40 East, W.M., Baker County, Oregon (Refs. 580 & 590).



### APPLICATIONS

- An accessory structure (greenhouse) was approved at 3335 Birch Street. The property is located within the Residential Low-Density (R-LD) Zone.
- An attached patio cover was approved at 2180 A Street. The property is located within the Residential High-Density (R-HD) Zone.
- A home occupation permit for a massage therapy business was approved at 1500 Washington Avenue in the Residential High-Density (R-HD) Zone.

## Code Enforcement Weekly Activity

### **Property Maintenance**

- Responded to three complaints
- Followed up on five previous complaints
- Followed up on ten abatements
- Issued one citation for RV/Camping
- One preventative contact

### **Miscellaneous**

- Twenty-five miscellaneous community contacts
- Four community service stops

### **Parking violations**

- Issued one orange tag
- Responded to five new complaints
- Followed up on seven previous complaints
- Issued one written warning

### **Animal violations and complaints**

- Responded to five animals running at large
- Five Dangerous Dog follow ups
- Three no livestock permit violation 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 21st through April 27th the Fire Department responded to a total of **32** emergency alarms.

## AMBULANCE OPERATIONS

City Calls	22
Rural Calls	2
Patient Transported	16
No Patient Trip	8
<b>TOTAL MEDIC</b>	<b>24</b>

## TRAINING/MAINTENANCE/ FIRE PREVENTION

### INSPECTIONS/ COMMUNITY EVENTS

- 32 hrs of Station & Equipment Maintenance
- 10 hrs of Fire Training
- 50 hrs of EMS Training
- 1 Fire Prevention Inspection
- 12 Burn Permits Issued



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

## EMERGENCY CALL BACKS

Request for Cover	1
Arrived for Cover	0

## FIRE REPORTS

General Alarms	0
Dispatched Alarms	8
<b>TOTAL FIRE RESPONSES</b>	<b>8</b>

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
- ⇒ Tree Board—2 positions available

Positions are for a 3-year term. Anyone interested in volunteering should visit [www.bakercity.com](http://www.bakercity.com) to fill out a volunteer form. You may also email [admin@bakercity.com](mailto: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 24 new cases. One case involved citing an individual for Disorderly Conduct when the suspect attempted to restrain and engaged in a verbal argument with an individual as she attempted to travel away from the subject on foot. Neither party were injured and the charge of Disorderly Conduct stemmed from multiple people in the downtown area calling dispatch, including 911, to report the disturbance.
- ★ Work to finalized the installation of the transfer switch was completed this past week by Public Works. To prevent a patrol vehicle from accidentally hitting the transfer switch when attempting to park behind the building, Public Works moved the wheel stop/ parking block forward so as to provide more of a cushion of space between a parked vehicle and the transfer switch. Plans are also under way to install a pair of bollards in front of the transfer switch to further protect it from possible damage. The installation of this transfer switch was made possible by a grant received from the Oregon Military Department Office of Emergency Management Hazard Mitigation Grant Program for the purpose of establishing backup power to the police department. This project included the placement of a cement pad and fence closure at the back of the building. This phase of the project was completed last fall by Public Works. This space will be used for the eventual placement of a generator that will provide backup power at the police department in the event of a prolonged power outage.
- ★ BCPD personnel participated in several briefing trainings, including a review of various officer safety topics.



**The Sidewalk Replacement Grant**  
is available through  
June 30<sup>th</sup>.  
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](http://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: Water Department— Pipeline Project



Justin and Brian worked to strategically place pipe along the pipeline road in preparation for installation which is scheduled to begin next week.



Here, you see Brian hauling pipe to the installation site and unloading.

## Public Works: Water Department— Reservoir



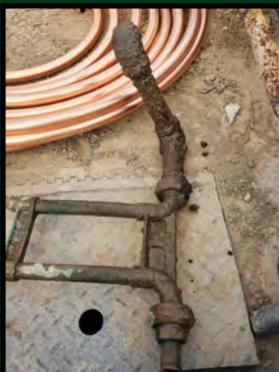
Scott has been making improvements as time has allowed at the Water Treatment plant. One of his projects is to improve turbidity sampling piping which connects to the Goodrich line near the reservoir.

Tom traced the copper line and Tommy and Scott used the vactor truck to search for the connection.



## Public Works: Water Department

Tommy and Matt worked to refurbish a water service for a property owner on Valley Street. The old service connection was to a galvanized pipe. The pressurized water line was purposely frozen and the supply line was cut so that the meter setter could be replaced.





## Public Works: Water Department continued



This fire hydrant is scheduled to be replaced next week. An underground utility locate was requested and replacement work is scheduled to begin Tuesday. The existing hydrant does not have an external valve. If the hydrant were damaged and needed repair, 20 houses would not have water service.

The new hydrant (right) will have a steamer port so it will be able to supply much more water to the Fire Department should a fire occur in the area. The new hydrant will have a control valve plus an additional main line valve installed.



## Public Works: Water Department—Watershed Maintenance



Scott and Tommy worked to clear snow and fallen trees from the access roads into Marble Creek, Elk Creek and Little Mill Creek diversions.

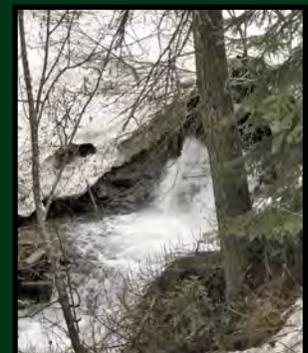
The weather this week has had large temperature and moisture ranges causing for constant adjustments in the amount of water needed to keep the town properly supplied.



Deep wet snow and several downed trees were encountered during the work.



With the heavy rain that fell Thursday night, Scott had to make a quick trip up to the Elk Creek settling tank at 8:30pm to turn down the flow of water coming to town from that drainage as it had turned turbid.





## Public Works: Parks Department

The last concrete sidewalk pour inside the Geiser-Pollman park was completed Friday.

Wood chips were placed around playground equipment at South Baker park, the exercise area near Kirkway, and Cedar Acres park.



## Public Works: Street Department



Hot asphalt was available from LaGrande this week. Several wastewater and line trenches were patched including trenches on 4th Street, Oak Street, Auburn Avenue, "D" Street and Valley Avenue.



**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



A contractor searched for a wastewater stub to serve a business near the intersection of Oak and Campbell Streets. Most wastewater stubs are installed past the edge of the sidewalk.

When the area on the back of the sidewalk was excavated, pipe was not found. After some investigative work it was surmised that the sidewalk pre-existed the construction on Oak Street (~1976).



Wastewater stubs are normally installed a year prior to the construction of the street to prevent digging up the new asphalt when needing to install a new wastewater or water service line. In this case the wastewater stub was installed just prior to the street construction work and ended just short of the sidewalk.



Left: A plugged wastewater service line was reported for a house between 5th and 6th Streets. Jake jetted the city main line to verify that it was not the cause of the problem. The main line was clear and flowing properly.

Right: Karl and Jake worked to clean the 12” wastewater line which is located on the north edge of Pocahontas Road and runs under the Union Pacific Railroad tracks.



When this line was installed in the 1990’s, it was part of an industrial park development project which now serves Behlen Manufacturing and OTEC. The line was bored under the tracks at a depth of around 13’. There was some build up in the line so now it will be scheduled to be cleaned annually to keep the flow going.

### Since March 13, The Salvation Army has provided the following in response to the COVID-19 in Baker City:

- 413 food boxes handed out, serving 881 individuals
- 10 individuals received shelter/lodging for 1 night
- 26 pieces of clothing were distributed
- 1 person helped with Energy Assistance
- 4 individuals received a fuel voucher for \$20.00

### In addition, the local Salvation Army in Baker City has:

- Moved to a curb side pickup food pantry on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 1:30pm—4:00pm.
- Delivering food boxes to all Baker County residents 60 years and older as requested.
- Handed out fresh produce 4 times in April, as opposed to the usual once a month distribution.

[www.cascade.salvationarmy.org](http://www.cascade.salvationarmy.org)