

CITY OF BAKER CITY

On the Historic Oregon Trail.
Established 1864, Incorporated 1874

Weekly Update May 15, 2020

Administration:

The Governor announced that Baker County's Phase One business opening plan has been accepted. Beginning today, many businesses that have been closed because of the emergency order can begin to open with restrictions and social distancing. Some of the highlights of the plan are gatherings of up to 25 people are allowed, restaurants and bars with restrictions, gyms, furniture stores, jewelry shops and non-essential retail will be allowed to reopen. They will all need to be able to keep to the six feet social distancing and practice enhanced hygiene. With the short timetable to ramp up, many businesses will need time to order inventory and work with employees to ramp up for opening. In addition, some businesses may find that the restrictions will not allow for profitability and may remain closed or for take out only.

It is important for all of us to work together and maintain our vigilance so that we keep the virus in check. The hope is that within 21 days we will be able to come up with a plan that allows for restrictions to be lifted and we can return to some level of normalcy for our businesses and citizens. Please keep supporting our local businesses as we work through these trying times and please keep practicing our social distancing and enhanced cleanliness to help our neighbors, employees and businesses succeed in their efforts to begin the road to economic recovery.

Building Department:

	Permits Issued City	Inspections City	Permits Issued County	Inspections County
Building	2	4	1	3
Manufactured Dwelling	0	0	0	0
Electrical	10	6	6	4
Mechanical	2	1	3	3
Plumbing	2	1	6	0
Fence	1	NA	N/A	N/A
TOTAL	17	12	16	10

RESIDENTIAL PERMITS:

- 18228 W Campbell Loop, Baker City—New residence
- 2536 Carter Street, Baker City—Detached accessory structure
- 2342 Mitchell Ave, Baker City—Detached accessory structure

COMMERCIAL PERMITS:

None at this time

HISTORIC DESIGN REVIEW:

To enable mandated social distancing guidelines, no new meetings will be scheduled unless a new application is received.



Finance Department:

Budget Committee Meetings

An interim budget meeting for the budget committee will be held May 19th at 6:00 pm in the City Council Chambers. Social distancing will be maintained during this meeting. 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.

The 2020-21 budget meetings will be held June 1st at 6:00 pm in the City Council Chambers. Additional meetings will be held June 2nd, 3rd, and 4th if needed. A copy of the budget document may be inspected or downloaded on or after May 26, 2020 via the City's website at www.bakercity.com. This is a public meeting where deliberation of the Budget Committee will take place. All persons who would like to submit written comment on the City's 2020-21 proposed budget or the City's possible use of State Revenue Sharing Funds may do so by submitting their comments to publiccomment@bakercity.com by **4:00 p.m. June 1st**. These comments will be read aloud during the applicable public hearing on June 1st. Any person who would like to make oral comment on the proposed programs with the Budget Committee or discuss possible uses of State Revenue Sharing Funds may appear at the meeting. Those who would like to make oral comment remotely may request a phone call during the applicable public hearing by emailing publiccomment@bakercity.com.

Utilities

- ◆ Twenty-nine customers signed up for new water/wastewater service and thirteen customers disconnected service from May 1st thru May 14th. This includes all service changes.
- ◆ Zone 5 was billed May 5th and included 464 residential and 16 commercial accounts. Of those accounts 130 (27%) are signed up for direct payment and 37 (8%) are signed up for ebilling.
- ◆ Zone 1 was billed May 8th and included 94 residential and 254 commercial accounts. Of those accounts 66 (19%) are signed up for direct payment and 18 (5%) are signed up for ebilling.
- ◆ Zone 6 was billed May 12th and included 483 residential and 62 commercial accounts. Of those accounts 117 (21%) are signed up for direct payment and 44 (8%) are signed up for ebilling.
- ◆ Zone 2 was billed today and included 470 residential and 13 commercial accounts. Of those accounts 107 (22%) are signed up for direct payment and 19 (4%) are signed up for ebilling.
- ◆ Over the past two weeks 59 residential customers (Zones 1, 4, 5 and 6) were scheduled to have their water turned off for non-pay (over 60 days past due) twelve of those were actually turned off. Two were given an extension of time to pay due to a COVID-19 hardship; four have paid and their service has been reinstated; and six have not yet contacted the City.

Did you know...

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

www.bakercountycovid19.com



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

FIRE DEPARTMENT

During the week of May 5th through May 11th the Fire Department responded to a total of **44** emergency alarms.

AMBULANCE OPERATIONS	TRAINING/MAINTENANCE/ FIRE PREVENTION INSPECTIONS/ COMMUNITY EVENTS
City Calls 29	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 28 hrs of Station & Equipment Maintenance • 2 hrs of EMS Training • 15 Burn Permits Issued
Rural Calls 7	
Patient Transported 28	
No Patient Trip 8	
TOTAL MEDIC 36	



Airport Transfers	0
Out of Town Transfers Accepted	3
Out of Town Transfers Not Accepted	0
Motor Vehicle Accidents	1
Doubles (2 calls at once)	8
Triples (3 calls at once)	2
Quads (4 calls at once)	0
Public Assist	0

EMERGENCY CALL BACKS	
Request for Cover	16
Arrived for Cover	10

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
- ⇒ 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>



Planning Department:

PLANNING COMMISSION PUBLIC HEARING

The Baker City Planning Commission will hold a public hearing at the **Baker County Court-house**, 1995 Third Street, Baker City, Oregon, at **6:00 pm, 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 review the following applications:

- ◇ **VAR-20-017 & LUR-20-028:** A Class C variance request to reduce the front/street setback by ±19.5 feet and reduce the side (east) setback by ±1 foot in the Residential – Medium Density (R-MD) Zone in order to build a ±360 square foot prefabricated carport. The subject property is addressed as 2350 D Street.
- ◇ **SDR-20-045:** A request by David Hays, on behalf of property owner, 52 LLC, to construct a 16-unit, multi-family housing development in the Residential – High Density (R-HD) Zone. This development will consist of three duplexes, two triplexes and one quadplex. The development is proposed to be accessed via a newly created private street off of Clark Street (south of the intersection with D Street). The subject property is located across Clark Street from the Leo Adler Baseball Field.



In response to COVID-19, and in the interest of public health and safety, it is highly recommended that you please attend via teleconference if you are able. If you are attending in person, please contact the Planning Department prior to the hearing. To join the teleconference, dial: **1-408-418-9388** (toll free). The meeting number (access code) is **967 968 262**. If there are technical problems with the conference call, staff has arranged for a backup option. The backup number is 1-253-215-8782, and the meeting number is 868 092 9441. This second line will **ONLY** be used if there are technical problems with the conference call number listed first. If you are having difficulties connecting to the meeting, please call Holly Kerns at 541-239-7552.

APPLICATIONS

- A property line adjustment was approved for 2940 Birch Street and an adjacent vacant parcel. Both properties are located in the Residential Low-Density (R-LD) Zone.
- A 1,316 square foot office addition for was approved at the Community Connections facility at 2810 Cedar Street, located in the Residential High-Density (R-HD) Zone.



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!



"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 35 new cases making numerous arrests for outstanding warrants and detainers. In one incident, BCPD staff responded to a report of reckless driving and upon contacting the suspect, it was determined that the suspect was not under the influence of alcohol or drugs, and was cited for Reckless Driving. In a separate incident involving the same individual, the suspect attempted to strike an officer-occupied patrol car. The suspect was arrested on charges of Recklessly Endangering Another Person and Attempting to Assault a Public Safety Officer. This individual was placed on a Police Officer Mental Health Hold, transported to Saint Alphonsus Medical Center and put in contact with a Mental Health Crisis worker.
- ★ Beginning this week, U.S. Census workers are expected to be in the Baker County area and may be going door-to-door. The Census workers will have a valid US Census ID badge with a current photograph, a U.S. Department of Commerce Watermark and an expiration date. They may also carry bags or other equipment with the U.S. Census Bureau logo. Questions or concerns regarding U.S. Census employees, can be directed to Baker County Dispatch by calling 541-523-6415.
- ★ BCPD personnel participated in several briefing trainings, including a review of various officer safety topics.

Code Enforcement Weekly Activity

Property Maintenance

- Responded to two new complaints
- Followed up on five previous complaints
- Responded to two RV/camping complaints
- Made one preventative contact
- Opened two new cases
- Attended ten court hearings resulting in four new court ordered abatements

Parking violations

- Issued two orange tags
- Issued one citation
- Responded to five new complaints
- Followed up on three previous complaints

Miscellaneous

- Twenty miscellaneous community contacts
- Three community service stops
- THREE FOUND ITEMS

Animal violations and complaints

- Responded to three animals running at large
- Three Dangerous Dog follow ups
- Issued one dangerous dog citation
- Two livestock permit follow ups
- Impounded one dog
- Three animal welfare checks
- Responded to four barking complaints



Public Works: Goodrich Reservoir



Earlier this week, Dennis and Scott hiked up to Goodrich Reservoir to check conditions, take water level measurements and make slight adjustments to the water flow.



Public Works: Water Department



Hydrant flushing began this week and is planned to continue until all the hydrants have been flushed.

Left: Jenn and Dennis outline the flushing plan and went over instructions with the crew.

Right: Seasonal employees Logan and Zach flushing a hydrant in the Hillcrest neighborhood.



Progress is going well on the installment of the new 24" water line at the Elk Creek Settling Tank to Salmon Creek Mountain Line project. Difficult digging was encountered through one of the recent sections.

Left: Here you see Justin using the "Breaker" to fracture the rock so it can be dug out from the trench.



The old undersized concrete pipe is visible in these two photos.





Public Works: Water Department continued



Angle points require 32 bolts, measuring 13/16" in diameter and 4" long to secure each fitting.

Besides the 24" diameter water line, a 2" electrical conduit, trace wire and red warning tape is installed within the trench. Here you see Brian unrolling the trace wire (left)

Right: The Crusher bucket is breaking rock chunks into smaller pieces suitable for bedding the PVC pipe.



A new 2" water service and a 6" fire line was installed for the historic Pythian Castle building this week. Blain, Nate and Matt worked on the project.

Above: Restoration work by contractors continued while the water lines were installed.

Right: Photos from the 2" water line installation work.



Left: Photos from the 6" water line. Embossed lettering on the old cast iron pipes had to be ground off so that the stainless steel tapping sleeve could form a water tight seal.



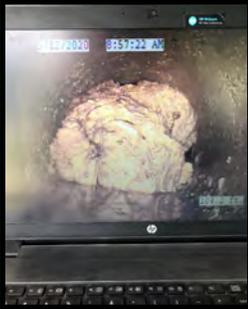
Left: Here Nate is installing the rubber gasket and 6" mega-lug fitting.

Right: The new 2" water service and 6" fire line were laid in a common trench.





Public Works: Wastewater Department



A resident called Public Works to report that their line was not flowing. Rick and Jake video-inspected the main line and discovered that a large paper wad was causing the problem. The paper dam was blasted out using the Jetter truck.



A local plumber hired Public Works to video-inspect a lateral on Wednesday.



The owner of a house on Campbell Street requested that the portion of their lateral lying between the wastewater mainline in Campbell Street and the curb be replaced with new pipe.



The asphalt surface was "zipped" using the Volvo loader with zipper attachment.

The lateral route was excavated and a new 4" PVC line was installed.



A special ABS to PVC adapter, coupler and cement was used to secure the connection.



The line that was replaced consisted of Orangeburg pipe and was beginning to fail.

The line between the house and the curb was also video-inspected and found to be in good condition.

