

# CITY OF BAKER CITY

On the Historic Oregon Trail.  
Established 1864, Incorporated 1874

**Weekly Update May 29, 2020**

## Administration:

It looks like a heat wave for the weekend. Grass and weeds are growing like crazy. The City is starting to get a lot of complaints about tall grass and whitetop. Let's all work with our neighbors and see if we can keep our city cleaned up. If you know of a neighbor who can't get out to take care of their yard, let us know in the City Manager's office and we will try to help.

The Budget Committee will be meeting next week to work on next year's budget. The committee will set priorities for services for the coming year.

Get out and enjoy the weekend and keep practicing your social distancing.

## **Did you know...**

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

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

## Building Department:

	Permits Issued City	Inspections City	Permits Issued County	Inspections County
Building	2	9	3	7
Manufactured Dwelling	0	0	0	0
Electrical	4	1	4	4
Mechanical	1	3	1	1
Plumbing	2	1	0	1
Fence	3	NA	N/A	N/A
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>13</b>

### **RESIDENTIAL PERMITS:**

- 2900 Carter Street, Baker City—New Duplex
- 2700 Campbell Street, Baker City—Egress window addition
- 210 Church Street, Halfway—Detached accessory structure
- 47480 Ryall Road, Halfway—Detached accessory structure
- 161 Dawson Street, Halfway—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.**

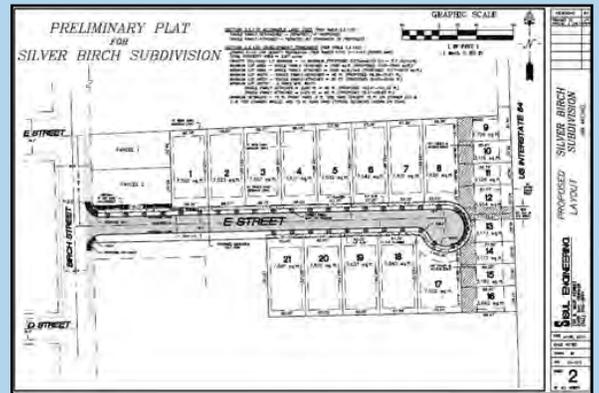


# Planning Department:

## 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 p.m., on Wednesday, June 17, 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 continuation of 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.
- **SUB-20-050:** A request by James & Carla Michel to create a 21-lot subdivision. The property is located in the 2900 block of Birch Street in the Residential Low-Density (R-LD) Zone. Access to the development is proposed via a new public street stemming from Birch Street.



In response to COVID-19, and in the interest of public health and safety, it is recommended that *you attend via teleconference if able*. To join the teleconference, please dial: **1-877-820-7831** (toll free) and use access code **8204693** when prompted. If you are having difficulties connecting to the meeting, please call Holly Kerns at 541-239-7552. If attending in person, contact the Planning Department prior to the hearing.

## APPLICATIONS

- A new single-family dwelling was approved at 2145 15<sup>th</sup> Street, located within the Residential-Medium Density (R-MD) 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 Fire Department is to provide dependable and efficient emergency services.

# FIRE DEPARTMENT

During the week of May 19th through May 25th the Fire Department responded to a total of **34** emergency alarms.

## AMBULANCE OPERATIONS

City Calls	24
Rural Calls	7
Patient Transported	14
No Patient Trip	17
<b>TOTAL MEDIC</b>	<b>31</b>

## TRAINING/MAINTENANCE/ FIRE PREVENTION

### INSPECTIONS/ COMMUNITY EVENTS

- **41 hrs** of Station & Equipment Maintenance
- **14 hrs** of Fire Training
- **4 hrs** of EMS Training
- **7 hrs** of Community Events
- **3** Burn Permits Issued



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

### EMERGENCY CALL BACKS

Request for Cover	7
Arrived for Cover	8

### FIRE REPORTS

General Alarms	0
Dispatched Alarms	3
<b>TOTAL FIRE RESPONSES</b>	<b>3</b>



**Did you know...**  
Weed Complaints or yard maintenance concerns should be reported to the Fire Department at 541-523-3711 x 508 or emailed to [sclinkenbeard@bakercity.com](mailto:sclinkenbeard@bakercity.com)

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.



*"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 29 new cases making numerous arrests for outstanding warrants and detainers. One incident involved the report of the attempted kidnapping of a 11-year-old juvenile. In response to this case, investigators spent several hours canvassing the area, reviewing surveillance video footage from a nearby business and conducting interviews with the family. Eventually, investigators received notification from the father that the juvenile had recanted his story, indicating that he had gone on a bike ride and became spooked when he saw a man walking. The juvenile ditched the bike and ran home, establishing that the attempted kidnapping hadn't taken place and that there was never any danger to the public. BCPD staff are working with the family to connect the juvenile to services and other assistance.
- ★ BCPD investigators, after receiving a tip, served a search warrant at a local residence and arrested Steven Whitney (7/16/66) on a warrant for Violation of Release Agreement. Mr. Whitney was the focus of an intensive investigation undertaken by BCPD detectives in 2017. He was initially arrested on charges of Unlawful Delivery of Methamphetamine, Unlawful Manufacturing of Methamphetamine, Unlawful Possession of Methamphetamine, Bribe Giving, Felon in Possession of a Firearm and Theft by Receiving. Mr. Whitney is currently being held at the Baker County Jail.
- ★ BCPD personnel participated in several briefing trainings, including a review of various officer safety topics and annual ethics training.

## **Public Works: Shop**



Left: We replaced a steel brake line that had rubbed through. This rig is back in service.



Right: This truck must've found an old burn pile. It had four flats with fourteen nails!

Below: We received the parts to replace the rubber bushings. We expect the repairs to be done next week.





## **Finance Department:**

### **Budget Committee Meetings**

An interim budget meeting for the budget committee was held May 19<sup>th</sup>. The budget training slideshow presented at the meeting is available at [www.bakercity.com](http://www.bakercity.com).

The 2020-21 budget meetings will be held June 1<sup>st</sup> at 6:00 pm in the City Council Chambers. Additional meetings will be held June 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, and 4<sup>th</sup> if needed. A copy of the budget document may be inspected or downloaded via the City's website at [www.bakercity.com](http://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](mailto:publiccomment@bakercity.com) by 4:00 p.m. June 1<sup>st</sup>. These comments will be read aloud during the applicable public hearing on June 1<sup>st</sup>. 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](mailto:publiccomment@bakercity.com).

### **Utilities**

- ◆ Twenty customers signed up for new water/wastewater service and sixteen customers disconnected service from May 15<sup>th</sup> thru May 28<sup>th</sup>. This includes all service changes.
- ◆ Zone 7 was billed May 19<sup>th</sup> and included 564 residential and 29 commercial accounts. Of those accounts 170 (29%) are signed up for direct payment and 30 (5%) are signed up for ebilling.
- ◆ Zone 3 was billed May 22<sup>nd</sup> and included 499 residential and 54 commercial accounts. Of those accounts 118 (21%) are signed up for direct payment and 34 (6%) are signed up for ebilling.
- ◆ Zone 8 was billed May 26<sup>th</sup> and included 473 residential and 19 commercial accounts. Of those accounts 120 (24%) are signed up for direct payment and 19 (4%) are signed up for ebilling.
- ◆ Zone 4 was billed today and included 732 residential and 63 commercial accounts. Of those accounts 211 (27%) are signed up for direct payment and 65 (8%) are signed up for ebilling.
- ◆ Over the past two weeks 60 residential customers (Zones 2, 3, 7 and 8) were scheduled to have their water turned off for non-pay (over 60 days past due) four were given an extension of time to pay due to COVID-19 hardships and eight of those were actually turned off. Of those eight turned off, one was given an extension of time to pay due to a COVID-19 hardship; five have paid and their service has been reinstated; and two have not yet contacted the City.

### **Accounts Payable**

The second of two accounts payable check runs for the month was generated May 29<sup>th</sup>.

### **Payroll**

Eighty employees were paid today including five paid volunteer firefighters, a part-time plumbing inspector, a part-time building inspector/plan reviewer, a part-time patrol officer, and four public works summer workers. Of those 80 employees, 69 or 86% are signed up for direct deposit.



## Finance Department continued:

### 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 3.16%. These LIDs can be paid off at any time with interest charged through the payoff date.

- Three 2004 Birch Street LIDs were billed today. The original assessment in 2004 for Birch Street improvements included four property owners for a total of \$90,416. The balance remaining is \$15,343 (including current interest due).
- Twenty-three 2014 Resort Street Underground Utility LIDs were billed today. The original assessment for relocating the utilities on Resort Street underground included sixty-three property owners for a total of \$294,879. The remaining balance outstanding is \$100,991 (including current interest due).

### **Weed Complaint and Abatement**

Weed Complaints or yard maintenance concerns should be reported to the Fire Department at 541-523-3711 x 508 or emailed to [sclinkenbeard@bakercity.com](mailto:sclinkenbeard@bakercity.com)

## Public Works: Wastewater Department



Two neighboring houses in the Grandview area had wastewater problems last weekend. Rick cleaned the mainline serving the two houses on Sunday and then Jake and Karl video-inspected the line Tuesday morning.

The mainline was found to be operating properly.



## Public Works: Parks Department



The surface material (artificial turf) and base material arrived Wednesday afternoon. Seven rolls of turf and several pallets were unloaded and placed in the park for installation at a later date. The truck driver didn't have a pallet jack so a series of long straps and chain were used along with a back hoe to unload the 3,000+ pound pallets.



## Public Works: Street Department



Craig traveled to LaGrande to pick up the hot asphalt so the crew of Blain, Kris, Nate, Dylan and Hunter could patch several locations throughout town this week.



A new Combination Crack fill and Mastic machine arrived this week. Crews will begin using it next week.



Heavy rains last week caused a wastewater trench on 9th Street to settle substantially. Dennis and Tom used a digging bar to verify that there was not a void underneath the asphalt. The sunken asphalt was removed and re-patched.

## Public Works: Stormwater Department



A stormwater line on 3rd Street was found to be draining slowly during the heavy rains. Roots which had grown into the line caused a partial blockage. Upon video-inspection Jake and Karl discovered that a fiber-optics line had been bored directly through the center of the stormwater main-line.

There are four different fiber-optics lines in the vicinity. The owners of the lines have been contacted.



Karl and Jake went ahead and cut the roots from the system but stayed away from the fiber-optics line.

Here you see some of the roots that were removed from the 3rd Street line.





# Public Works: Mountain Pipeline Project



Good weather helped improve conditions on the Elk Creek Settling Tank to Salmon Creek Pipeline project. Justin, Brian, Matt and Riley worked on the project.



A rotating laser level is used to keep the pipe on the designated grade.



Brian used the crusher bucket to crush rock into proper sized bedding material.



Justin attached a "ripper tooth" to the track hoe to assist in tearing through the rock.



The CAT dozer is used to smooth the road surface after the 24" pipe is precisely placed and properly backfilled.



Additional flows from Elk Creek were diverted into the Elk Creek Pipeline on Thursday. Water clarity appeared to be excellent.

