

CITY OF BAKER CITY

On the Historic Oregon Trail.
Established 1864, Incorporated 1874

Weekly Update June 19, 2020

Administration:

The City Council will meet next week to adopt the budget that was approved by the Budget Board.

The City is finalizing the last of the power and fiber work in the Elkhorn Industrial Park in the next couple of weeks. This work was accomplished with grant funding from Business Oregon and the Governor's Regional Solutions dollars.

Union County had a severe outbreak of COVID-19 over the last week. This outbreak was the result of people not adhering to the social distance requirements. Since we have had no additional outbreaks in Baker County, it is easy to become complacent. This event so close to us reminds us that we need to be ever vigilant to protect ourselves, our families and fellow citizens.

The weather looks to return to summer like conditions. Get out and enjoy the warmer temperatures and keep up the social distancing and stay home if you do not feel well.

City Council Agenda June 23rd

- Police Contract
- Fire Contract
- Budget

Building Department:

	Permits Issued City	Inspections City	Permits Issued County	Inspections County
Building	2	8	5	16
Manufactured Dwelling	0	0	0	4
Electrical	4	7	4	7
Mechanical	7	5	2	3
Plumbing	3	2	0	3
Fence	0	NA	N/A	N/A
TOTAL	16	22	11	33

COMMERCIAL PERMITS:

- 1933 1st Street, Baker City—13' new fire line

RESIDENTIAL PERMITS:

- 37941 Hwy 414, Halfway—Cover over manufactured home, decks, porches
- 14752 Goodrich Creek Road, Baker City—New residence
- 43846 Wingville Cemetery Road, Baker City—Detached accessory structure
- 19768 Sumpter Stage Hwy, Baker City—Residential addition
- 375 Spring Garden Avenue, Baker City—Detached accessory structure
- 44081 Eagle Creek Road, Richland—Solar system install on existing structure

HISTORIC DESIGN REVIEW:

Next regularly scheduled meeting is **July 8, 2020 at 8am** in the Building Department offices

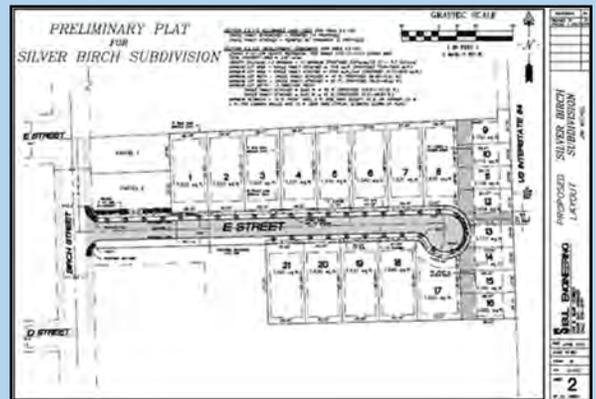


Planning Department:

PLANNING COMMISSION PUBLIC HEARING

The Baker City Planning Commission held a public hearing at the Baker County Courthouse on Wednesday, June 17, 2020. The Planning Commission made the following decisions:

- **VAR-20-017 & LUR-20-028:** Denial 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:** Approval of the 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.



APPLICATIONS

- A vicinity map was prepared for the Police Department to process a kennel permit for a residence located at 1505 Valley Avenue, in the Residential-High Density (R-HD) Zone.

For COVID-19 Updates: www.bakercountycovid19.com

Code Enforcement Weekly Activity

Property Maintenance

- Responded to three new complaints
- Followed up on four previous complaints
- Closed one case

Parking violations

- Issued one orange tag
- Responded to three new complaints
- Followed up on two previous complaints

Miscellaneous

- Fifteen miscellaneous community contacts
- Three community service stops
- FIVE FOUND ITEMS

Animal violations and complaints

- Responded to eleven animals running at large
- One dog at large citation
- Impounded three dogs
- Two animal welfare checks
- One barking complaint



Finance Department:

Utilities

- ◆ Twelve customers signed up for new water/wastewater service and nine customers disconnected service from June 5th thru June 18th. This includes all service changes.
- ◆ Zone 5 which includes 468 residential and 16 commercial accounts was billed June 9th. Of those accounts 65 (19%) are signed up for direct payment and 18 (5%) are signed up for ebilling.
- ◆ Zone 6 which includes 483 residential and 62 commercial accounts was billed June 12th. Of those accounts 115 (21%) are signed up for direct payment and 44 (8%) are signed up for ebilling.
- ◆ Zone 2 which includes 470 residential and 13 commercial accounts was billed June 16th. Of those accounts 171 (36%) are signed up for direct payment and 24 (1%) are signed up for ebilling.
- ◆ Zone 7 which includes 563 residential and 29 commercial accounts was billed today. Of those accounts 103 (18%) are signed up for direct payment and 18 (.03%) are signed up for ebilling.
- ◆ Over the past week twenty-six residential customers (Zones 2, 3, 6, and 8) were scheduled to have their water turned off for non-pay (over 60 days past due). Of those twenty-six, six were turned off. Of the six turned off, three have paid and their service has been reinstated, and three have not yet contacted the City.

Accounts Receivable

Monthly accounts receivable billings were not sent June 18th due to staffing changes for ambulance billings and miscellaneous billings. The billings were as follows:

- Lien Search Fees - \$680
- Cemetery - \$2,694
- Street Cuts and Miscellaneous - \$3,009
- Wastewater Service and Miscellaneous - \$3,863
- Ambulance - \$414,657
- Airport Hangar Rent & Ground Lease - \$4,038
- Baker County Economic Development Support - \$3,750
- Miscellaneous - \$6,227

Total Billed \$ 438,918



Finance Department:

A public meeting of the City of Baker City will be held on June 23, 2020 at 7:00 p.m. at Baker City Hall, 1655 First Street, Baker City, Oregon. The purpose of this meeting is to discuss the budget for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2020 as approved by the Baker City Budget Committee. A summary of the budget is presented below. A copy of the budget may be inspected or obtained at Baker City Hall, 1655 First Street, Baker City, Oregon between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m., or online at www.bakercity.com. This budget is for an annual budget period. This budget was prepared on a basis of accounting that is the same as the preceding year.

Contact	Telephone number	E-mail
Jeanie Dexter, Finance Director	541-524-2042	jdexter@bakercity.com

FINANCIAL SUMMARY - RESOURCES

TOTAL OF ALL FUNDS	Actual Amounts 2018-19	Adopted Budget This Year: 2019-20	Approved Budget Next Year: 2020-21
1. Beginning Fund Balance/Net Working Capital	10,566,132	11,908,794	13,051,190
2. Fees, Licenses, Permits, Fines, Assessments & Other Service Charges	7,258,302	7,365,380	7,470,022
3. Federal, State & all Other Grants, Gifts, Allocations & Donations	1,533,945	3,451,293	4,112,921
4. Revenue from Bonds & Other Debt	-	9,700,000	8,400,000
5. Interfund Transfers/Internal Service Reimbursements	2,072,378	1,749,183	1,782,518
6. All Other Resources Except Property Taxes	551,477	458,656	631,332
7. Property Taxes Estimated to be Received	3,248,212	3,585,797	3,842,682
8. Total Resources—add lines 1 through 7	25,230,446	38,219,103	39,290,665

FINANCIAL SUMMARY - REQUIREMENTS BY OBJECT CLASSIFICATION

9. Personnel Services	6,686,226	8,009,227	8,096,560
10. Materials and Services	4,910,074	18,702,450	17,199,791
11. Capital Outlay	516,851	694,219	3,254,528
12. Debt Service	123,690	123,690	123,690
13. Interfund Transfers	1,088,525	325,174	334,709
14. Contingencies	-	1,022,516	1,244,121
16. Unappropriated Ending Balance and Reserved for Future Expenditure	11,905,080	9,341,827	9,037,266
17. Total Tax Requirements—add lines 9 through 16	25,230,446	38,219,103	39,290,665

FINANCIAL SUMMARY-REQUIREMENTS AND FULL-TIME EQUIVALENT EMPLOYEES (FTE) BY ORGANIZATIONAL UNIT OR PROGRAM

Name of Organizational Unit or Program	FTE for Unit or Program		
Administration	1,154,086	1,219,093	1,246,888
FTE	5.10	5.75	5.75
Public Safety	4,153,583	4,840,448	5,688,405
FTE	34.60	33.72	33.68
Cemetery	148,377	174,452	190,732
FTE	-	-	-
Parks & Recreation	241,704	626,522	578,444
FTE	-	-	-
Airport	115,207	1,665,663	394,033
FTE	-	-	-
Planning	60,770	64,000	73,000
FTE	-	-	-
Hydro	15,459	9,772	9,774
FTE	-	-	-
Community Development	234,364	169,769	1,833,819
FTE	0.65	0.25	0.25
Transportation, Streets & Sidewalks	1,257,806	2,300,457	2,084,798
FTE*	3.50	3.50	3.50
Street Trees	5,813	27,750	27,000
FTE	-	-	-
Water	2,242,316	3,683,498	4,119,757
FTE*	13.00	13.25	13.75
Wastewater	1,423,184	11,394,383	10,996,792
FTE*	8.25	8.00	8.25
Building Inspections	330,763	460,940	433,540
FTE	2.54	2.15	2.65
Non-Departmental/Non-Program	13,847,014	11,582,356	11,613,683
FTE	3	2.25	2.25
Total Requirements	25,230,446	38,219,103	39,290,665
Total FTE	70.64	68.87	70.08

*Public Works FTEs are based on the employees home fund; however, labor is allocated between funds as needed.

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN ACTIVITIES AND SOURCES OF FINANCING

The City budgeted a 3% increase in property tax revenue based on the 2019 tax assessed values. The City will not collect the public safety fee in 2020-21. The City will continue to partner with School District 5J for two-thirds of the cost of the School Resource Officer in order to retain that position. The three-year SAFER grant cycle, which allowed the City to fund three additional fire/ems positions, will end January 7, 2021. Baker County has agreed to continue to partner with the City to fund a portion of those positions so that the City's Fire Department can continue to provide ambulance services to the County's approx. 1,600 square mile ambulance service area (ASA). The City budgeted a \$30,000 transfer from the General Fund to the State and Federal Grants Fund to provide additional matching funds for the potential purchase of 0.47 acres that will allow access to Central Park and parking for downtown events. The City is currently negotiating both the Police and Fire union contracts. Budgeted personnel increases include the Fire Union 2.0%; AFSCME 2.5%, Police Union 2% and non-represented personnel 2%. PERS rates remained the same as rates were set for a two-year period on July 1, 2019. Health insurance was budgeted to increase only 1.6% (as of January 1, 2021) due to a change in employee benefits to a new plan with a higher deductible. This budget includes the estimated construction costs of the effluent disposal and wastewater storage expansion project approved by Council and mandated by DEQ. The budget includes the continued replacement of the mountain waterline and the costs to acquire an additional water supply source. The City's water and wastewater capital plans and pavement management plan are online at <https://www.bakercity.com/2170/Public-Works>.

For more information on this budget visit the City's website at <http://www.bakercity.com/2155/Finance>.

PROPERTY TAX LEVIES

	Rate or Amount Imposed	Rate or Amount Imposed	Rate or Amount Approved
Permanent Rate Levy (Rate Limit 6.3314 Per \$1,000)	6.3314	6.3314	6.3314
Local Option Levy	0	0	0
Levy for General Obligation Bonds	0	0	0

STATEMENT OF INDEBTEDNESS

	Estimated Debt Outstanding on July 1	Estimated Debt Authorized, but not Incurred on July 1
Long Term Debt		
General Obligation Bonds	0	0
Other Bonds	0	0
Other Borrowings	1,418,424	0
Total	1,418,424	0



"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 was particularly busy, opening 48 new cases. Ten arrests were made for outstanding warrants and detainers, of which three arrests were attributed to the execution of an operation conducted by the Baker County Narcotics Enforcement Team (BCNET). The following press release was issued in response to this incident:

On June 17, 2020, the Baker County Narcotics Enforcement Team conducted an operation at 2339 East Street in Baker City, Oregon. This residence is a known high-crime activity home. As a result of this operation, thirteen individuals were detained and identified.

*The following individuals were located at the residence: James Reedy; Margaret Lacey; Emily Speelman; Chuck Briney (**arrested** on local cite-only warrant); Alexander Wise (**arrested** on a Union County cite-only warrant); Brandon Raddle; Trevor Heath; Chad Cox (wanted out of Idaho on a non-extraditable warrant); Eliannah Banister; Jeffery Heller; Christopher Griffith (**arrested** on a cite-only warrant); Mariam (Evee) Collard; and Haden Buck. Haden Buck (25) was transported to the Baker County Jail and lodged on a Post- Prison Violation Warrant issued out of Josephine County on original charges of Burglary and Dangerous Drugs.*

The Baker County Narcotics Enforcement Team (BCNET) has not operated in the area for several years due to limited resources, but the Baker City Police Department and the Baker County Sheriff's Office, along with assistance from the Oregon State Police, have renewed their commitment to this team.

In addition to the above-mentioned operation, on May 13, 2020, BCNET in cooperation with the Oregon State Police, arrested Chet Lee Schisler (37) on charges of Felon in Possession of a Firearm, Unlawful Delivery of Methamphetamine, Unlawful Manufacture of Methamphetamine and Unlawful Possession of Methamphetamine. A firearm and about ¼ pound of Methamphetamine was seized as a result. This arrest was the result of a traffic stop conducted at South Bridge Street and Elm Street in Baker City. Schisler was lodged in the Baker County Jail. In conjunction with that case, Buddy Pfaff (34) was involved in a traffic crash on May 12th, 2020, on Interstate 84. Oregon State Police executed a search warrant on his vehicle the next day and a small amount of Methamphetamine was located. A warrant was issued on June 4, 2020, for Possession of Methamphetamine. Pfaff was contacted by Oregon State Police on June 11th and cited to appear in Baker County Circuit Court in response to the arrest warrant.

The Baker County Narcotics Enforcement Team (BCNET) will be focusing on drug, gun and violent crimes in the Baker County area. This team is comprised of members from the Baker City Police Department and the Baker County Sheriff's Office. The team is supported by the Baker County District Attorney's Office and the Oregon State Police.

★ BCPD staff and administration would like to take this opportunity to thank our community for the support and encouragement we've received over the past week. It is our honor to serve the citizens of the community and we are very thankful for your support.



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

FIRE DEPARTMENT

During the week of June 9th through June 15th the Fire Department responded to a total of **28** emergency alarms.

AMBULANCE OPERATIONS

City Calls	15
Rural Calls	6
Patient Transported	17
No Patient Trip	4

TOTAL MEDIC RESPONSES

Airport Transfers	1
Out of Town Transfers Accepted	3
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

TRAINING/MAINTENANCE/ FIRE PREVENTION

INSPECTIONS/ COMMUNITY EVENTS

- 27 hrs of Station & Equipment Maintenance
- 27 hrs of Fire Training
- 2 hrs of EMS Training
- 7 Burn Permits Issued



EMERGENCY CALL BACKS

Request for Cover	3
Arrived for Cover	2

FIRE REPORTS

General Alarms	1
Dispatched Alarms	6
TOTAL FIRE RESPONSES	7

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

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.



Public Works: Wastewater Department



Friday, Blain and Nate used the Vector truck to remove material from the intercept chamber near the sweeper debris pad.

Public Works: Geiser-Pollman Park



Kris and Nate worked to prepare the dumpster pad at the park for concrete placement.

Dennis installed a new area light inside the new playground area.



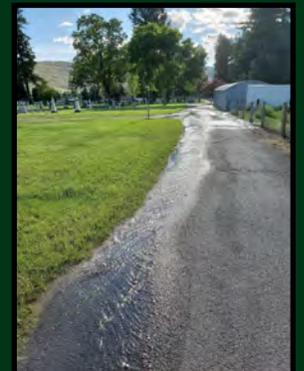
Additional clean-up work around the perimeter of the playground area was performed Thursday and Friday of this week.

Public Works: Water Department



A water leak on Carter Street was repaired Friday. The pipe joint had begun leaking and rose to the surface of the ground. Nate and Blain attached a bell clamp with a rubber gasket to help seal the leak.

Dennis received a call on Sunday regarding an unrestricted flow of water at the cemetery. He responded to the site and could immediately tell that one of the water irrigation lines had ruptured. He located the control valve and turned off the water until the leak could be repaired.





Public Works: Goodrich Reservoir



An Oregon State Engineer from the Water Resources Department met with Dennis and Tom at Goodrich Reservoir to inspect the dam. The weather was cold, wet and foggy. The snow had almost completely melted around the historic Goodrich cabin.

The Reservoir was within inches of being full and will be full by this weekend.

The flow in the drain lines was checked to assure that the water was running clear and no visible sediment was coming through.



The State Inspector viewed the slope that Public Works Department Equipment Operators re-shaped last fall.

Dennis and Keith dug through a snowbank to determine water flow through the dam embankment.

The retaining wall is in perfect condition and the culvert outlet extension is working as planned.



Public Works



There was a problem early Tuesday morning around 3:30am at the City Water Treatment Plant.

An electrical malfunction involving transformers on a power pole structure caused a small fire to start on one of the poles.

Scott, Tommy and Dennis responded to the site along with the Baker City Fire Department and OTEC. The burnt piece of pole was cut off and wiring was reconnected.

THANK YOU to the BCFD and OTEC for their quick response and repair work. The burned pole was replaced the next day.



Public Works: Street Department

Dispatch called to report some offensive litter on Broadway Avenue and asked Public Works if they could remove the items.

Dennis took a backhoe to the site and Tom rolled the steel bathtub into the backhoe bucket.



Public Works crews worked most of this week to complete the surface repair on Court Avenue after the installation of the new water line. The patching would have been completed on Thursday as planned, except the asphalt supplier ran out of the necessary oil to produce the asphalt. A trip had to be made to Ontario for one load of asphalt.



Left: Justin and Brian digging out the gravel to make room for the asphalt patch.

The trench line was originally excavated at a narrower width of 40" instead of the typical 52" in order to save money on the cost of asphalt. Because of the narrow trench width, a narrow steel roller was rented to complete the work.



To make an asphalt trench patch turn out it takes a great deal of effort. Here the crew is getting the elevation of the asphalt near perfect before the hot mix is rolled to compact it.

Here is the Court Street trench line looking east from 6th Street.



Did you know....

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>



Public Works: Shop



Matt changed out the drive belt for the blower. With a little help, it is back together and ready to work.



We are installing a new pump in this truck.



Work continues on the chipper.



This truck lost its EGR and cam sensor. We made the repairs and this rig is back in service.



Scott is replacing the #5 injector. This rig should be back in service late Friday.



Have you ever considered being on City Council?

The Baker City Council will have six positions on the November ballot.

If you are interested in applying, please contact the City Recorder, Katie LaFavor at klafavor@bakercity.com, or at 541-524-2033. **Applications are being accepted now through August 25, 2020 at 4:00 pm.**

You can find the application and other related information on our website: <http://bakercity.com/2248/City-Council-Elections>



Parks and Recreation Department



The Parks Department is so fortunate to have many committed volunteers and community partners! Parks and Recreation Advisory Board members Lisa Jacoby, Loran Joseph, and Karla Macy, along with volunteers Olivia, Jack, Miles, Henry, and Otis took advantage of a sunny Wednesday afternoon to plant flowers to adorn Geiser Pollman Park and Mt. Hope Cemetery. We would like to extend our appreciation to Marian O’Connell at Eagle Cap Nursery for her generosity in donating the flowers for this project for **NINE** consecutive years! The flowers this year are especially beautiful, and will be enjoyed by all visitors to Geiser Pollman Park and Mt. Hope Cemetery!

