



CITY OF BAKER CITY

On the Historic Oregon Trail.
Established 1864, Incorporated 1874

Weekly Update December 4, 2020

Administration:

The downtown area is looking quite festive. A big thank you to the Public Works crews for all their efforts in putting up the Community Christmas Tree and the decorations and banners throughout the commercial districts. During this COVID crisis, it is very inviting to come downtown and support our local businesses and feel some of that Christmas spirit. Let's all try to SHOP LOCAL!!!

The last two days, Baker County had 29 positive COVID cases which is a record number for us. Our hospitality industry is in extreme peril and we are hopeful that we can allocate some additional dollars to help them get through this tough economic period. I am serving on the County committee that has State funding to help these impacted businesses. If you are a business that has suffered losses from COVID, PLEASE contact bakercountyedc@gmail.com or call 541-519-5377 to get an application.

Everyone have a safe weekend. Please wear your face coverings, limit your social contacts and keep up the social distancing so that we can keep our at risk population safe and our businesses and schools open.

Planning Department:

PLANNING COMMISSION PUBLIC HEARING

The next regularly scheduled Baker City Planning Commission meeting is December 16, 2020.

APPLICATIONS

- ◆ A property line adjustment was approved between property addressed as 1840 Resort Street and an adjacent vacant lot in the Central-Commercial (C-C) Zone.
- ◆ A single-family dwelling and an accessory structure was approved at 3060 Place Street in the Residential Medium-Density (R-MD) Zone.
- ◆ A single-family dwelling was approved near the southwest corner of H street and unopened Oak Street in the Residential High-Density (R-HD) Zone.



Finance Department:

Utilities

Zones 3 and 4 have now received the extra 1 unit (750 gallons) in the water base rate to cover the water used to flush out water lines after the fire incident on October 27th. The remaining zones will have the one unit added to their winter accumulated base units since those meters will not be read again until spring. For those zones, this one-unit adjustment to the base units will reduce any units billed over base for the spring read by one unit. One unit is equivalent to 750 gallons and a 95¢ water charge.

- ◆ Twenty-three customers signed up for new water/wastewater service and twenty-seven customers disconnected service from November 20th thru December 3rd. This includes all service changes.
- ◆ Zone 8 was billed November 16th and included 474 residential and 20 commercial accounts. Of those accounts 129 (26%) are signed up for direct payment and 20 (4%) are signed up for ebilling.
- ◆ Zone 4 was billed December 1st and included 735 residential and 61 commercial accounts. Of those accounts 220 (28%) are signed up for direct payment and 66 (8%) are signed up for ebilling.
- ◆ Zone 5 was billed today and includes 461 residential and 16 commercial accounts. Of those accounts 129 (27%) are signed up for direct payment and 40 (8%) are signed up for ebilling.
- ◆ Over the past two weeks, fifty-seven residential customers (Zones 3, 7 and 8) were scheduled to have their water turned off for non-pay (over 60 days past due) three were actually turned off until their past due balance was paid. All three have had their service reinstated.

Payroll

Seventy-five employees were paid November 27th including a part-time plumbing inspector, a part-time building inspector/plan reviewer, a part-time patrol officer, and 4 paid part-time “volunteer” firefighters. Of those 75 employees, 69 or 92% are signed up for direct deposit.

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 2.16%. 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 \$13,741 (including current interest due).
- Twenty-two 2014 Resort Street Underground Utility LIDs were billed November 24th. 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 \$96,823 (including current interest due).



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POLICE DEPARTMENT

- ★ During the past two weeks, BCPD opened 51 new cases and responded to 276 calls, making several arrests for outstanding warrants and detainers.
- ★ On December 1, 2020, Detectives from the Baker City Police Department received information that two wanted individuals were in Baker City and possibly hiding out at a local motel. Surveillance was set up on the motel and at approximately 10:30 am, Detectives saw Danny Ray Dial (dob: 02/17/1991) leave the motel in a green Buick sedan. Uniformed Officers from Baker City PD attempted to stop the vehicle, wherein a pursuit resulted that lasted approximately 30 minutes. The pursuit went into Baker County and speeds reached approximately 90 mph. Deputies from Baker County Sheriff's Office, Baker County Parole and Probation Officers and Troopers and Detectives from the Oregon State Police assisted with the pursuit.

Danny Ray Dial returned back into the city limits of Baker City and travelled at low speeds through the city, ultimately pulling into Jackson's Shell Station on Campbell Street and was taken into custody without incident.

Danny Ray Dial (dob:02/17/1991) was arrested on the following charges;

- Lake County warrants for Probation Violation x2, Assault IV and Attempt to Elude.
- Baker City PD charges of Felony Pursuit, Reckless Driving, Driving While Suspended, Switched Vehicle License.

Danny Ray Dial was also wanted by the Oregon State Police listing Probable Cause for arrest on Robbery I, Burglary I, Assault II, Unauthorized Use of a Motor Vehicle and drug charges.

Detectives received additional information that Joseph William Dial (dob: 02/17/1991) was currently hiding out at 2390 19th Street, Baker City. Detectives, Deputies and State Troopers surrounded the residence and Joseph William Dial surrendered without incident. Joseph Dial was arrested for;

- Lake County Probation Violation Warrant
- Felon in Possession of a Weapon
- Unlawful Pointing a Firearm at Another
- Reckless Endangering

Both Dial brothers were lodged at the Baker County Jail on the above listed warrant charges. Local charges will be submitted to the Baker County District Attorney's Office for possible Grand Jury indictment.



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POLICE DEPARTMENT continued

★ The Baker City Police Department is once again hosting, in partnership with the Salvation Army, an 'Angel Tree' decorated with Angel Tree gift tags located in the front entrance of the Department (1768 Auburn Avenue). Angel Tree gift tags are special wished-for items given during the holiday season to children in need within our community. If you would like to pick up an Angel Tree gift tag and purchase the wished-for gift for a local child, you can then return the unwrapped gift to the Police Department.

Gifts must be turned in by Friday, December 18, 2020.



*****Did you know: It is legal to salvage road killed deer and elk.*****

If you are interested in salvaging the meat from road kill deer, please call 541-524-2047 and we will put you on a call list.

Snow Season is Here!!!

Please help us with snow removal by removing all trailers, utility trailers, non-working or infrequently used vehicles and anything else that may be blocking the roads.

The City of Baker City is seeking volunteers for the following:

- ⇒ **Historic District Design Review Commission—2 positions available**
- ⇒ **Tree Board—2 positions available**

Positions are for a 3-year term unless noted. 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 Fire Department is to provide dependable and efficient emergency services.

FIRE DEPARTMENT

During the week of November 24th through November 30th the Fire Department responded to a total of **28** emergency alarms.

AMBULANCE OPERATIONS		EMERGENCY CALL BACKS		FIRE REPORTS	
City Calls	19	Request for Cover	7	General Alarms	0
Rural Calls	5	Arrived for Cover	3	Dispatched Alarms	4
Patient Transported	18			TOTAL FIRE RESPONSES	4
No Patient Trip	6				

TRAINING/MAINTENANCE/ FIRE PREVENTION

TOTAL MEDIC RESPONSES		INSPECTIONS/ COMMUNITY EVENTS	
Airport Transfers	3	• 5 Burn Permits Issued	
Out of Town Transfers Accepted	0	• 30 hrs of Station & Equipment Maintenance	
Out of Town Transfers Not Accepted	1	• 6 hrs of Fire Training	
Motor Vehicle Accidents	1	• 5 hrs of EMS Training	
Doubles (2 calls at once)	4	• 0 Hr of Safety Training	
Triples (3 calls at once)	0	• 0 hrs Community Events	
Quads (4 calls at once)	0	• 0 hrs Fire Prevention Inspections	
Public Assist	0		

The Burn Ban has been Lifted!
Remember, you still need a FREE permit, available in person at the Fire Station.

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

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



A resident on East Street has been having wastewater lateral problems for quite a while. Last week arrangements were made for installation of a new lateral. The project was started and completed on Monday. The surface of East Street will be patched with hot asphalt in March or April, once it is available from the distributor in LaGrande.



A resident on 14th Street called Public Works to let them know she was having issues with her wastewater lateral. A backhoe was used to uncover the buried manhole cover. The line was cleaned and no blockage was encountered.



Holiday Preparation



The Christmas tree, snowflake decorations and holiday wreaths were installed this week in preparation for Christmas.



Public Works: Simplot Project



Installation of city utilities were completed last week for the new Simplot development. A 2” water service was installed along the east edge of 23rd Street (aka Settler’s Loop). A 6” fire line was also installed to serve the property.



Public Works: Water Department

Water flow adjustments were made at the Elk Creek diversion this week.

Four informational signs were installed on the security fence at the Elk Creek Water Control Structure.



A new fire hydrant was installed this week at the northeast corner of 8th and Washington. It is connected to the newly installed 8” water line which replaced an old 2” cast iron line.

Here is a photo showing the old and new pipes.

Public Works: Water Department continued



Once the new line on Washington passed leak tests and standard water bacteria tests, the water service lines to residences were connected to the new line.



Once the new line was installed, older water meters were replaced with new, highly accurate digital meters.



A water leak was discovered at the Water Treatment Plant / Reservoir.

Exploratory excavation was performed and it was discovered that the water flow was coming an old abandoned 16" diameter steel water line. The line was cut off at the supply, but not disconnected at the downstream end.



Once the downstream end of the pipe was capped, water then began infiltrating back into the open pipe.

Once the repairs were completed the area was backfilled and thoroughly compacted.



Additional work was performed this week to rebuild a portion of a reinforcing wall to allow for access into existing electrical panels.



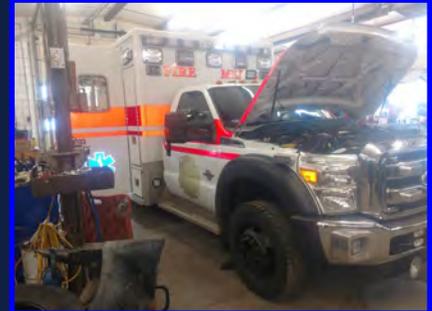


Public Works: Shop



We installed a new primer pump and are currently repairing both an engine oil and coolant leak.

This rig was taken to a Ford dealer to receive a program upgrade.



This engine received new batteries and is back in service.

We installed a new tractor protection valve.

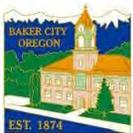


We serviced and installed winter tires on these rigs!





Public Works



It's that time of year again!

In prep for this year's snow plow season, Baker City Public Works is asking citizens to help our snow removal crews by **removing all travel or utility trailers, non-working or infrequently used vehicles and any other miscellaneous items currently being stored on the street or directly next to the street.** Our citizens play a key role in the success of our snow removal program!