

CITY OF BAKER CITY

On the Historic Oregon Trail.
Established 1864, Incorporated 1874

Weekly Update January 15, 2021

Administration:

City Council met this week for not only their first meeting of 2021, but for their first meeting as a new Council. Congratulations to our newly elected Mayor, Kerry McQuisten, and congratulations to our newly elected Vice-Mayor, Lynette Perry. The new City Council will be briefed on city departments and operations this coming week. They will then vision plan and set goals for the city. A City Council position requires hours of work and reading. Volumes of new information, requests, and opinions are placed before them, and expectations are set for them to make thoughtful and informed decisions. I invite every citizen of Baker City to be patient, supportive, and respectful of our Council. They are working hard to build a better Baker City. Their contact information is available on the city website for you to reach out, congratulate, or share your thoughts with them.

On the national stage, a new President of the United States will soon be inaugurated. I join with President Donald Trump and President-Elect Joe Biden in the call for a peaceful and calm inauguration and transition. The First Amendment in the Bill of Rights does not protect violence nor chaos, it does protect our rights for peaceful assembly and reads; Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the government for a redress of grievances.

2021-2022 City Council

Mayor: Kerry McQuisten mayor@bakercity.com

Vice-Mayor: Lynette Perry lperry@bakercity.com

Councilors:

Shane Alderson: salderson@bakercity.com

Joanna Dixon: jdixon@bakercity.com

Heather Sells: hsells@bakercity.com

Jason Spriet: jspriet@bakercity.com

Johnny Waggoner Sr.: jwaggonersr@bakercity.com

Next Meeting: Work Session January 19, 2021 at 5:30pm

City Hall will be
closed

Monday, January 18,
2021

in Observance of Martin
Luther King Jr. Day



Planning Department:

PLANNING COMMISSION PUBLIC HEARING

The regularly scheduled Planning Commission meeting for January 20, 2021 has been cancelled. The next regularly scheduled Planning Commission meeting will be February 17, 2021.

APPLICATIONS

- A commercial improvement to an existing self-storage facility was approved at 3485 17th Street in the General Industrial (I) Zone.
- A single-family dwelling was approved at property located within the 3100 block of Oak Street in the Residential High-Density (R-HD) Zone.
- A property line adjustment was approved between properties located within the 3100 block of Oak Street in the Residential High-Density (R-HD) Zone.

Building Department:

	Permits Issued City	Inspections City	Permits Issued County	Inspections County
Building	1	9	1	3
Manufactured Dwelling	0	0	0	0
Electrical	5	2	4	8
Mechanical	6	6	7	3
Plumbing	2	4	0	0
Fence	0	NA	N/A	N/A
TOTAL	14	21	12	14

COMMERCIAL PERMITS:

- 2170 Main Street, Baker City—Fire suppression system
- 49815 Lakeshore Drive, Oxbow—Fire suppression system

RESIDENTIAL PERMITS:

None at this time

HISTORIC DESIGN REVIEW:

Next regularly scheduled meeting is January 20, 2021 at 8:00am in the Building Department Offices.

There are still openings for the HDDRC! Apply today!

<http://bakercity.com/FormCenter/Boards-Commissions-2/Volunteer-Form-33>



Finance Department:

Utilities

- Eight customers signed up for new water/wastewater service and nine customers disconnected service from January 8th thru January 14th. This includes all service changes.
- Zone 6 was billed January 14th and included 478 residential and 56 commercial accounts. Of those accounts 125 (23%) are signed up for direct payment and 47 (9%) are signed up for ebilling.
- Zone 2 was billed today and includes 465 residential and 13 commercial accounts. Of those accounts 102 (21%) are signed up for direct payment and 22 (5%) are signed up for ebilling.
- Twelve residential customers (Zones 1 and 5) were scheduled to have their water turned off for non-pay (over 60 days past due) two were actually turned off until their past due balance was paid. One service was ended per the customer's request and the other has not yet contacted the City.

Accounts Receivable

Monthly accounts receivable billings were sent January 12th. The billings were as follows:

- Cemetery - \$3,399
- Wastewater Maintenance - \$3,006
- Water Construction and Meters - \$1,612
- Street Cuts and Street Miscellaneous - \$5,514
- Lien Searches - \$2,296
- Ambulance - \$518,006
- Airport Hangar Rent & Ground Lease - \$5,404
- Golf Course Equipment Lease Payment – \$5,660
- Miscellaneous - \$6,559

Total Billed \$ 551,456

Accounts Payable

The first of two accounts payable check runs for the month was generated January 11th.

Payroll

Draw checks were issued January 15th.



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

FIRE DEPARTMENT

During the week of **January 5th through January 11th** the Fire Department responded to a total of **32** emergency alarms.

AMBULANCE OPERATIONS		EMERGENCY CALL BACKS		FIRE REPORTS	
City Calls	24	Request for Cover	9	General Alarms	1
Rural Calls	5	Arrived for Cover	6	Dispatched Alarms	2
Patient Transported	24			TOTAL FIRE RESPONSES	3
No Patient Trip	5			TRAINING/MAINTENANCE/ FIRE PREVENTION INSPECTIONS/ COMMUNITY EVENTS	
TOTAL MEDIC RESPONSES	29			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 18 Burn Permits Issued • 37 hrs of Station & Equipment Maintenance • 15.5 hrs of Fire Training • 0 hrs of EMS Training • 0 hrs of Safety Training • 0 hrs Community Events • 1 hr Fire Prevention Inspections 	
Airport Transfers	4			<div style="background-color: black; color: yellow; padding: 10px; text-align: center;"> <p>New Year, New Burn Permit</p> <p>FREE burn permits are available in person at the Fire Station.</p> </div>	
Out of Town Transfers Accepted	1				
Out of Town Transfers Not Accepted	4				
Motor Vehicle Accidents	0				
Doubles (2 calls at once)	6				
Triples (3 calls at once)	1				
Quads (4 calls at once)	0				
Public Assist	0				

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.

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



"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 the past week, BCPD opened 38 new cases and responded to 146 calls, making several arrests for outstanding warrants and detainers. Officers responded to and made arrests in three separate incidents involving domestic violence. MayDay, Inc., provides domestic violence, sexual assault, child and elder abuse crisis services throughout Baker County. If you or someone you know is experiencing domestic abuse, please reach out by calling 541-523-9472 or 541-523-4134 (crisis line). If you are in immediate danger, dial 9-1-1.
- ★ Lt. Ty Duby attended the first City Council meeting of the new year, featuring several newly sworn-in council members. On behalf of the staff of the Baker City Police Department, we would like to welcome all the new and returning City Councilors to City Council. We look forward to working with you in partnership to best serve the citizens of Baker City.
- ★ CSO Dallas Brockett has nearly completed field training and will soon be taking code enforcement/ ordinance violation complaints independently. Complaints regarding issues such as parking, property maintenance, dogs at large or other ordinance violations can be reported by calling Baker County Consolidated Dispatch at 541-523-3644.
- ★ Face coverings, shields and/or masks are required in the front entrance of the Baker City Police Department, which is open to the public.

Code Enforcement Weekly Activity

Property Maintenance

- Started 2 new property cases
- Conducted 4 inspections on property violations
- Followed up on 3 previous complaints

Animal violations and complaints

- Responded to 1 vicious dog call
- Responded to three dogs running at large
- Conducted 5 inspections for livestock permits
- Approved 3 livestock permits

Parking violations

- 3 vehicles were tagged for removal
- Issued 3 parking citations
- 1 vehicle towed
- Followed up on 2 downtown parking complaints
- 3 vehicles marked for overtime parking

Miscellaneous

- 1 Officer assist – motor vehicle crash
- 1 found bicycle
- 1 zoning violation regarding living inside a camper
- 3 community contacts



Looking for Volunteers!!

With the new year, many boards, commissions and committees have terms that have expired, leaving availability for those who are interested!

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

- ⇒ **Historic District Design Review Commission—4 positions available**
- ⇒ **Tree Board—2 positions available**
- ⇒ **Public Works Advisory Committee—3 positions available**
- ⇒ **Golf Board—2 positions available**

Positions are for a 3-year term unless noted. Anyone interested in volunteering should visit

<http://bakercity.com/2149/Boards-Commissions> to fill out a volunteer form.

You may also email admin@bakercity.com or call 541-524-2033 for more information. The direct link to the volunteer form page is:

<http://bakercity.com/FormCenter/Boards-Commissions-2/Volunteer-Form-33>

Public Works: Stormwater Department



The remaining 12” diameter PVC pipe was installed across Scenic Vista and attached to a pre-fabricated catch basin on the west side to collect stormwater runoff.



Earlier this week, several dozen catch basins in the central part of town were cleaned. Stormwater catch basins must be cleaned regularly or debris will build up inside and eventually plug the stormwater collection system. It is also important to keep these basins and lines clean because most of the stormwater drains directly into the Powder River.





Public Works: Street Department



Public Works crews salted and sanded once over the weekend and several times this week.

Several traffic accidents along I-84 caused for the closure of the freeway through Baker City. Here (above) you can see some of the trucks lined up Tuesday on Windmill Road waiting for their chance to get back on the freeway.



Public Works: Warehouse



The wooden forms were removed from the concrete footing and stem walls this week. Fill material was brought in and compacted to form a firm base adjacent to the concrete.

Next, rafters, girts, cable bracing and purlins were attached to complete the framework.



Public Works: Water Department

The double-check water backflow device which had been connected to a fire hydrant was tested to assure that none of the working components had frozen. It passed the test and is back in service.





Public Works: Water Department continued



Justin and Scott travelled this week to several diversions along the watershed pipeline to adjust the water flow coming to town. Recent snows provided ample snow shoveling opportunities for the crew to access flow control valves.

Public Works: Wastewater Department



A call was received after hours about a possible wastewater main line blockage causing raw sewage to overflow a bathtub and toilet in a residence.

Public works responded immediately to the location. There was no sign of a blockage in the city main line. The line was cleaned multiple times to verify that it was clear.

The next morning a crew responded to the site to visually inspect the condition of the lateral. As you can see (above right), the lateral shows no sign of problems at the main line connection.



Left: Public Works was hired by a local plumber to inspect a lateral from the basement of a residence to the main line under the street. Roots were located with the sonde unit and locator and the spot was marked on the street surface with green paint.

Right: Public Works responded to the report of a possible blockage of a dead-end line on 21st Street. The line was successfully cleaned and no blockage was encountered.





Public Works: Shop



Left: We repaired a hose that was leaking at the hydraulic pump. We also repaired a fuel leak and serviced this rig.



Right: Brian changed the rear differential oil on this rig.



Left: Nate is servicing the engine and compressor. We are also rebuilding the #60lb jackhammer.



Right: Nate and Brian replaced a front work light, the brass sliders on the mull board and installed a company radio.



Left: We started reassembling the conveyor assembly.



Right: We serviced this truck and checked it over.



Left: We installed a new turn signal switch and right rear door latch assembly.



Right: We serviced and inspected this vehicle.



Left: We serviced and inspected this fire rig. This rig is back in service.



Right: We replaced both headlights and this vehicle is back in service.



Left: Brian and Nate serviced and checked over this backhoe.



HELP US CREATE A COMMUNITY VISION!

Northern Baker TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PLAN

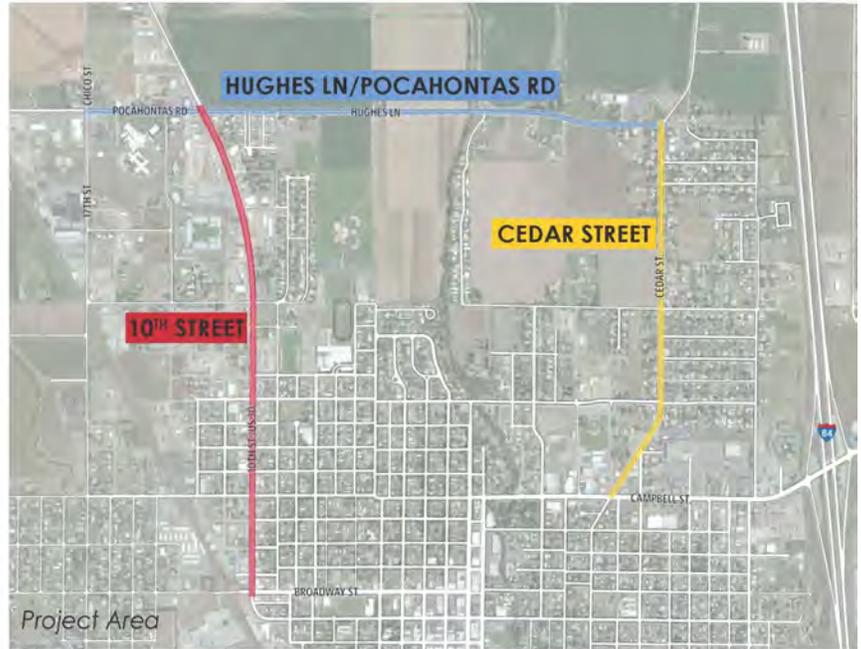
January 2021

The City is working on the Northern Baker Transportation Improvement Plan to consider roadway improvement concepts on 10th Street, Hughes Lane, and Cedar Street that meet the city's evolving needs. If you walk, bike or drive through this area, we want your input to develop the community vision and identify important transportation needs. Our goal is to foster sustainable economic growth and safe, equitable transportation choices.

The plan will consider concept designs that address current and future needs of these important roadways.

The project kicked off in fall 2020 and is anticipated to be complete in fall 2021.

Baker City operates under an EEO policy and complies with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act. Assistance is available for individuals with disabilities by calling (541) 523-6541.



Please join us for a live public meeting online.

Virtual Public Meeting

Wednesday, January 27, 2021
6:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.

Join the meeting via the link on the project website:
www.bakercity.com/2289/NBTIP

- 5:45 p.m. – Meeting opens
- 6:00 p.m. – Welcome
- 6:10 p.m. – Project presentation
- 6:30 p.m. – Project team takes comments and questions from participants

You can also view materials and leave comments on the project online open house from January 25 – February 5, 2021 at www.bakercity.com/2289/NBTIP.

CONTACT
 Michelle Owen, Public Works Director | Email: Mowen@bakercity.com | Phone: (541) 524-2031



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!

*****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.