

CITY OF BAKER CITY

On the Historic Oregon Trail.
Established 1864, Incorporated 1874

Weekly Update January 29, 2021

Administration:

The generosity of Americans is awe inspiring. Americans consistently rise to the call when there are those in need. Individuals donate time, money, and resources. Businesses large and small generously share resources and products across this great nation and in distant lands. Contrary to the national news narrative, we all witness men, women, and children of all races, faiths, and backgrounds join together in the betterment of communities.

It has been my pleasure to see firsthand the generosity of citizens, businesses, and organizations during hurricanes, floods, landslides, blizzards, and quiet times. Baker City has already shown just how generous the good people of this city and valley can be. Thank you to the Leo Alder Memorial Pathway committee for your generous donation to Central Park. Thank you to the artists who beautify our city with murals, sculptures, and vinyl wraps. Thank you to those who provide access across their land so the city can construct new wastewater treatment facilities. Thank you to citizens who volunteer time without compensation to serve on city boards and committees, we have no shortage of openings. Thank you to those citizens working to buy benches for our parks.

I invite each citizen of Baker City to consider how you can make this a better place to live. However large or small your donation of time, resources, or money may be, it is greatly appreciated.

Looking for Volunteers!!

2021-2022 City Council

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:

- ⇒ **HDDRC: 3 positions available**
- ⇒ **Tree Board: 2 positions available**
- ⇒ **Golf Board: 2 positions available**
- ⇒ **Public Works Advisory Committee:
3 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.

The direct link to the volunteer form page is:

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

Mayor:

Kerry McQuisten mayor@bakercity.com

Acting 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

www.bakercity.com



Planning Department:

PLANNING COMMISSION PUBLIC HEARING

The next regularly scheduled Planning Commission meeting will be February 17, 2021.

APPLICATIONS

- An ±1,945 square foot addition was approved at 3825 23rd Street in the Industrial Zone.
- A detached garage was approved at 1916 Plum Street in the Residential Medium-Density (R-MD) Zone.
- A daycare was approved at 1925 16th Street in the Residential Medium-Density (R-MD) Zone.
- A shed was approved at 3755 Court Street in the Residential Medium-Density (R-MD) Zone.
- A residential addition was approved at 3495 9th Drive in the Residential Medium-Density (R-MD) Zone.
- A three-parcel partition was approved for a ±6.03-acre parcel located southeast of the intersection of Auburn Avenue & 20th Street in the Residential Medium-Density (R-MD) Zone. The appeal period for the decision ends on February 9, 2021 at 5p.m.

Finance Department

Utilities

- Fourteen customers signed up for new water/wastewater service and fourteen customers disconnected service from January 15th thru January 27th. This includes all service changes.
- Zone 7 was billed January 19th and included 564 residential and 26 commercial accounts. Of those accounts, 165 (28%) are signed up for direct payment and 31 (5%) are signed up for ebilling.
- Zone 3 was billed January 22nd and included 501 residential and 52 commercial accounts. Of those accounts, 125 (23%) are signed up for direct payment and 37 (7%) are signed up for ebilling.
- Zone 8 was billed January 26th and included 472 residential and 20 commercial accounts. Of those accounts, 131 (27%) are signed up for direct payment and 19 (4%) are signed up for ebilling.
- From January 18th through January 26th, forty-six residential customers (Zones 1, 2, 3, 6 and 7) were scheduled to have their water turned off for non-pay (over 60 days past due). Nine of those customers actually had their service turned off until their past due balance was paid. Of those nine, seven have paid their past due balance and their service is back on; one was turned back on in the property owner's name; and one has not yet contacted the City.

Payroll

Seventy-four employees were paid today including two paid volunteer firefighters, a part-time plumbing inspector, a part-time building inspector/plan reviewer, and a part-time patrol officer. Of those 74 employees, 67 or 91% are signed up for direct deposit.

Accounts Payable

The second of two accounts payable runs for January was generated January 27th.



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

FIRE DEPARTMENT

During the week of **January 19th** through **January 25th** the **Fire Department** responded to a total of **43** emergency alarms.

AMBULANCE OPERATIONS		EMERGENCY CALL BACKS		FIRE REPORTS	
City Calls	33	Request for Cover	3	General Alarms	0
Rural Calls	7	Arrived for Cover	0	Dispatched Alarms	3
Patient Transported	23			TOTAL FIRE RESPONSES	3
No Patient Trip	17				
TOTAL MEDIC RESPONSES	40	TRAINING/MAINTENANCE/ FIRE PREVENTION INSPECTIONS/ COMMUNITY EVENTS			
Airport Transfers	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 9 Burn Permits Issued • 27 hrs of Station & Equipment Maintenance • 14 hrs of Fire Training • 25 hrs of EMS Training • 0 hrs of Safety Training • 0 hrs Community Events • 0 hrs Fire Prevention Inspections 			
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)	0				
Quads (4 calls at once)	0				
Public Assist	0				

New Year, New Burn Permit
FREE burn permits are available in person at the Fire Station.

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 this past week, BCPD was particularly busy, opening 60 new cases and responded to 183 calls, making several arrests for outstanding warrants and detainers. Following numerous complaints and at the request of the owners, BCPD staff assisted with securing a property at the request of the owners. The following press release was issued in response to this incident:

On Wednesday, January 27, 2021, the Baker City Police Department conducted an operation in conjunction with the homeowner at 1226 Washington Avenue in Baker City, Oregon in which numerous individuals were trespassed from the residence per the homeowner's request.

For the past year, the home has been an area of concern to law enforcement and neighbors due to transient, low-level criminal activity, drug use and general city ordinance nuisance violations. Since 2020, the Baker City Police has responded to the residence in excess of 40 times to deal with issues like harassment, disorderly conduct, trespassing, drug use and outstanding warrants.

On this date, seven individuals were removed from the home. The following individuals were cited and released on the listed charges.

- *Chuck Briney, transient, age 27 was cited to appear for a probation violation.*
- *Kyle Waldron, transient, age 35 was cited to appear for fail to appear on original charges of criminal trespass and theft out of Union County.*
- *Brandon Radle, transient, age, 33 was cited and released for fail to appear on an original charge of possession of methamphetamine.*

The home will be boarded up and anyone found to be on or within the property will be subject to criminal trespass.

★ The Baker County Sheriff's Office Dispatch Center has implemented a new answering center to better serve callers while prioritizing the most critical calls.

When calling the BCSO Dispatch business line (541-523-6415 or 541-523-3644), you will reach an automated answering system. This will allow you to choose the division, service or employee that you are trying to reach with the push of a button.

This system will greatly increase efficiency as Dispatchers answer critical 911 calls. Prior to the implementation of this system, Dispatchers routinely answered 911 and business line calls simultaneously which would divert resources from critical incidents. This system allows the primary focus of the Dispatcher to be on 911 calls, which often involve matters of life or death. This change will take effect immediately. We appreciate your patience as these changes are implemented.



★ 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 five new property cases
- Conducted six inspections on property violations
- Followed up on three previous complaints

Parking violations

- Seven vehicles were tagged for removal
- Issued four parking citations
- Followed up on two parking complaints
- Issued two warnings for parking violations

Animal violations and complaints

- Responded to two dogs running at large
- Followed up on one barking dog complaint

Miscellaneous

- One Officer assist
- Two community contacts
- ONE FOUND PROPERTY CASE

Public Works: Shop



We performed a tune-up and replaced the serpentine belt.



We installed a block heater on this rig.



We took this rig to Legacy Ford to have a door latch fixed per a recall.



We finished the 1000 hour service and repaired the front grill and right side step. This rig is back in service.



Public Works: Street Department



The winter storm warning earlier this week didn't have much of an effect on Baker City Streets. A little over an inch fell overnight. A two man crew took care of salting and sanding many locations in town along with plowing the Leo Adler Pathway.



Public Works: Water Department



Late Monday night, dispatch received a call about a possible water leak. Dennis responded to the site and determined that there was a water leak coming from the 8" Ductile iron water line. Blain and Nate were mobilized to perform the repair. The Oregon Utility Notification Center was called and an emergency underground locate was requested. Dennis turned down the water valves in the immediate vicinity to reduce the amount of water flowing from the leak.

Once utilities were marked, the crew excavated down to the pipe. A 1 1/4" hole was discovered. The crew used a 12" long stainless steel repair clamp to stop the leak. The area was backfilled and compacted by 4:00am Tuesday morning.



At the well drilling site, cold temperatures combined with insufficient water flow through the fire hose resulted in the supply line freezing again. The double-check backflow device was tested and found to be in excellent working condition. A wooden box was constructed to help keep the device from freezing and breaking.



Public Works: Warehouse



The CAT dozer was brought down from the water reservoir and cleaned up in preparation for its next task.





Public Works: Warehouse continued



The pipe and equipment storage building has been completed to the point where equipment and materials can now be stored out of the weather. Additional wainscot will be installed to protect the metal backwall.

Public Works: Wastewater Department

For a modest fee, Public Works provides wastewater lateral inspection services for licensed contractors, plumbers and drain cleaners.



This week a local plumber hired Public Works to inspect a lateral for a house on Campbell Street. As you can see, the inside of the lateral is in very poor condition. The pipe is made from Orangeburg pipe, which is basically layers of tarpaper. Over time, the layers become deformed and delaminate to the point where eventually the pipe will collapse.

The property owner plans to have the Orangeburg pipe replaced this spring.

Right: Several main lines in town were video-inspected this week.



The Jetter truck operates through the use of high pressure water forced down a reinforced hose through ceramic ports in the nozzle pointing back towards the truck. The force of the water allows the nozzle to “pull” up the line, scouring the inside of the wastewater pipe and blasting through any blockages.



HELP US CREATE A COMMUNITY VISION!

Northern Baker TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PLAN

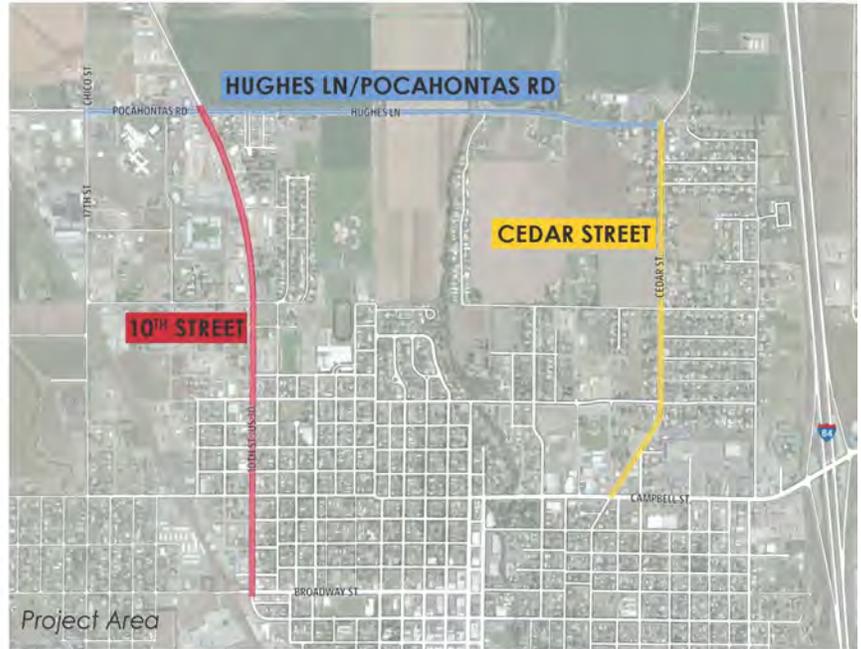
January 2021

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.