

# CITY OF BAKER CITY

On the Historic Oregon Trail.  
Established 1864, Incorporated 1874

*Weekly Update February 12, 2021*

## **Administration:**

This week Council sat for two and a half hours discussing city business and listening to citizens. It was a robust and open discussion. As a city manager, I appreciate when citizens take interest in their local government. Respectful discourse even in disagreement does much to build trust among citizens and their local government. Often people find they may disagree on a topic, but most everyone has honest intentions and desires to better the community and care for its people.

I appreciate those who took interest early in our history and came before us to establish our City Charter. It seems to be such a simple document yet it is filled with wisdom. Checks and balances are used to ensure everyone has a voice. It purposefully spreads out authority so that no one individual, council, or even staff have the ability to control the discussion and agenda without limit. The more time I spend in these founding documents the more I appreciate them and those who wrote them. I invite every citizen to access the City Charter on our website and read it. You might be surprised at what you find.

Next week Council will meet and establish their goals. It should prove to be a valuable night. It will be interesting to see the focus which will emerge from the discussion. Do not hesitate to get involved in your local government as these discussions move onward.

**City Hall will be closed  
Monday, February 15, 2021  
due to President's Day.**

## **Looking for Volunteers!!**

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

- ⇒ **HDDRC: 3 positions available**
- ⇒ **Tree Board: 1 position available**
- ⇒ **Public Works Advisory Committee:  
1 position available**

**Applications are due by February 17, 2021.**

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>**

## **2021-2022 City Council**

### **Mayor:**

Kerry McQuisten [mayor@bakercity.com](mailto:mayor@bakercity.com)

### **Acting Mayor:**

Lynette Perry [lperry@bakercity.com](mailto:lperry@bakercity.com)

### **Councilors:**

Shane Alderson: [salderson@bakercity.com](mailto:salderson@bakercity.com)

Joanna Dixon: [jdixon@bakercity.com](mailto:jdixon@bakercity.com)

Heather Sells: [hsells@bakercity.com](mailto:hsells@bakercity.com)

Jason Spriet: [jspriet@bakercity.com](mailto:jspriet@bakercity.com)

Johnny Waggoner Sr.:

[jwaggonersr@bakercity.com](mailto:jwaggonersr@bakercity.com)

[www.bakercity.com](http://www.bakercity.com)



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

# FIRE DEPARTMENT

During the week of February 2nd through February 8th the Fire Department responded to a total of **39** emergency alarms.

AMBULANCE OPERATIONS		EMERGENCY CALL BACKS		FIRE REPORTS	
City Calls	30	Request for Cover	9	General Alarms	1
Rural Calls	5	Arrived for Cover	4	Dispatched Alarms	3
Patient Transported	22			<b>TOTAL FIRE RESPONSES</b>	<b>4</b>
No Patient Trip	13				
<b>TOTAL MEDIC RESPONSES</b>	<b>35</b>			<b>TRAINING/MAINTENANCE/ FIRE PREVENTION INSPECTIONS/ COMMUNITY EVENTS</b>	
Airport Transfers	4			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 12 Burn Permits Issued</li> <li>• 38 hrs of Station &amp; Equipment Maintenance</li> <li>• 8 hrs of Fire Training</li> <li>• 8 hrs of EMS Training</li> <li>• 0 hrs of Safety Training</li> <li>• 0 hrs Community Events</li> <li>• 0 hrs Fire Prevention Inspections</li> </ul>	
Out of Town Transfers Accepted	2				
Out of Town Transfers Not Accepted	2				
Motor Vehicle Accidents	0				
Doubles (2 calls at once)	4				
Triples (3 calls at once)	0				
Quads (4 calls at once)	0				
Public Assist	1				

**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](mailto:sclinkenbeard@bakercity.com)



## Finance Department

### Utilities for February 4<sup>th</sup> to February 10<sup>th</sup>

- ◆ Six customers signed up for new water/wastewater service and five customers disconnected service from February 4<sup>th</sup> thru February 10<sup>th</sup>. This includes all service changes.
- ◆ Zone 5 which includes 464 residential and 16 commercial accounts was billed February 5<sup>th</sup>. Of those accounts 135 (28%) are signed up for direct payment and 42 (9%) are signed up for ebilling.
- ◆ Zone 2 which includes 464 residential and 13 commercial accounts was billed February 8<sup>th</sup>. Of those accounts 105 (22%) are signed up for direct payment and 24 (5%) are signed up for ebilling.
- ◆ Fifteen residential customers (Zones 1 and 5) 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 balances were paid. As of February 10<sup>th</sup>, all three had paid their past due balance and had their service reinstated.

### Accounts Payable

The first of two accounts payable runs for February was generated February 10<sup>th</sup>.

### Payroll

February draw checks will be issued February 12<sup>th</sup>.



### Dog Licenses

Due to COVID-19, the City has extended the discount period for 2021 dog licenses through March 31, 2021. Dog licenses are used to help reconnect dogs at large to their owners and are required by Ordinance for all dogs residing in the City limits. Licenses are valid through the calendar year and can be purchased for one, two or three years as long as the rabies vaccination is valid into the year the license is issued for.

## 2021 Dog Licenses



**Available until March at a reduced cost:**

- ◆ Spayed/Neutered \$ 4.50
- ◆ Not Spayed/Neutered \$ 6.00

**Current Rabies Vaccination Required**

**2022 and 2023 licenses are also available with valid rabies vaccination.**



*"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 44 new cases and responded to 186 calls, making several arrests for outstanding warrants and detainers.

- ★ K9 Handler Sergeant Wayne Chastain and K9 Capa responded to a request for assistance from the Oregon State Police. Based upon reasonable suspicion of the crime of Possession of a Controlled Substance developed during a traffic stop conducted by an OSP trooper, K9 Capa was deployed on scene and alerted to the presence of an illegal substance. The driver was detained and a search of the vehicle yielded a criminal amount of methamphetamine and items consistent with the delivery of a controlled substance. The suspect was arrested and charged with Delivery of a Controlled Substance, Methamphetamine and Possession of a Controlled Substance, Methamphetamine in excess of 2 grams.
- ★ The BCPD Evidence /Property Room received a \$500 grant from Tracker Products (an evidence and property room tracking software company) for the purpose of purchasing an incinerator. The purchase of an incinerator has been a long-term goal of evidence room staff, which to date, has raised funds for this purchase by holding an annual yard sale of items purged from the evidence room. The incinerator will be utilized to safely dispose of confiscated illicit narcotics collected as evidence in a variety of drug-related criminal cases.
- ★ Baker City Police Department is still actively working on the missing persons case of Linda Peterson. Crime Stoppers of Oregon has a link for tips and/or leads. There are currently adding \$2,500 to the reward money, increasing it to \$5,000 total for information leading to an arrest in her disappearance. Any information and/or tips can be submitted through the Crime Stoppers of Oregon website at the following link: [Oregon Crime Stoppers](#). You may remain anonymous.
- ★ 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**

- Conducted five inspections on property violations
- Followed up on five previous complaints
- Issued one citation for property violations

### **Parking violations**

- Tagged two vehicles for removal
- Issued one parking citation
- Followed up on two parking complaints
- Marked one vehicle for overtime parking downtown

### **Animal violations and complaints**

- Five livestock running at large complaints
- Denied one livestock permit
- Issued one citation w/out livestock permit
- Issued three citations for livestock at large
- Issued two citations for dog at large
- Six dogs running at large
- Two barking dog complaints

### **Miscellaneous**

- One officer assist
- ONE FOUND BICYCLE
- Four community contacts



## **Planning Department:**

### **PLANNING COMMISSION PUBLIC HEARING**

The regularly scheduled Planning Commission meeting for February 17, 2021, has been cancelled. The next Planning Commission meeting is March 17, 2021.

### **APPLICATIONS**

- A new home was approved at 3580 Indiana Avenue in the Residential Medium-Density (R-MD) Zone.
- An application was submitted to divide one parcel of land into two. The property is located east of Chico Street in north Baker City, identified as tax lot 901 of map 09s40e08b (Ref. 18335), and is located in the General Commercial (C-G) Zone.
- A floodplain development permit was approved for a new detached garage located at 1345 Hughes Lane in the Residential Low-Density (R-LD) Zone.
- An accessory structure (carport) was approved for 2318 2<sup>nd</sup> Street in the Residential-High Density (R-HD) Zone.

## **Public Works: Street Lights**



Public Works and OTEC cooperated together to install a new street light at the intersection of Madison Street and the Leo Adler pathway crossing.

Also, nine malfunctioning street lights were repaired Thursday by the Baker City Street Light Specialist.



## **Public Works: Stormwater Department**



Stormwater catch basins continued to be cleaned throughout town this week.

Right: A stormwater manhole and pipe system, installed around 1989, was uncovered cleaned in South Baker.





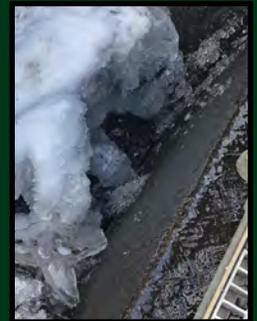
# Public Works: Water Department



A crack in the concrete wall was causing a leak at the Goodrich Diversion. The access road was plowed of snow to provide access for a pick-up to perform the repair work.

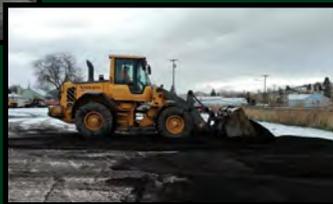


The repair work on Wednesday successfully sealed the leak.



Left: A new industrial strength metal door was installed to the warehouse water valve building.

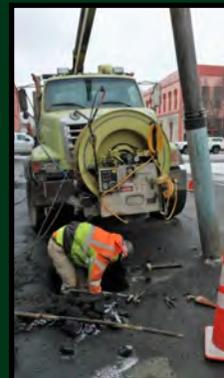
Right: The snow plow blade was attached to the 6-wheel drive military vehicle.



At the warehouse, the remaining amount of asphalt grindings needed was placed and leveled prior to construction materials being organized.



A water valve on Valley began leaking. It was taken apart and resealed twice using special packing material. This successfully stopped the leak.





# Public Works: Wastewater Department



Left: Several lines in town were cleaned this week. Here the crew is cleaning a dead end line at the intersection of "H" and Birch Streets.



Right: A contractor will be lining the inside of several wastewater pipes in town.



A resident on Court Avenue has been having wastewater issues. Upon inspection, the lateral connection protrudes into the side of the 6" terra cotta main line by over an inch. The camera was not able to pass by the protrusion. The mainline was also cracked and in danger of falling apart. It was decided to install a new section of mainline and replace the lateral.



The cast iron connection most likely was causing the blockage along with a possible reverse flow issue. There was also a severe crack in the transite portion of the lateral.

The new lateral and mainline repairs were backfilled. Speed shoring and shielding were used in the trench line to protect the workers. Once the trench was backfilled, Court Street was reopened to traffic on Thursday morning.



A manhole and 4" wastewater stub installed back in 1994 was inspected this week. The line is one of the deepest in the city—being a full 20' feet.

The image on the push-camera screen shows the end of a very short stub, where it appears the line turns and extends vertically for 15-18'.

It appears tree roots have entered the line, which will need to be cleaned if a new residence should ever need to hook up to the line.





## Public Works: Shop



This 2021 Ram 2500 crew cab 4x4 just joined the Public Work's fleet. It will be Kris Younger's building maintenance vehicle.



Left: The plastic retainers in the side box latches broke on this rig. We replaced the broken parts and the boxes are functioning as normal.



Right: We serviced this rig and checked it over. We ended up repairing some wiring that had rubbed through.



Left: We rebuilt to 60lb and 90lb jackhammer.



Right: We installed new windshield wipers on the front, rear and sides.

Left: We finished installing the exhaust on this rig.



This rig had a couple of gauges not working. While making the repairs we installed a new block heater and a new hour meter. We also found a bad u-joint while inspecting the rig.





## 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.