

CITY OF BAKER CITY

On the Historic Oregon Trail.
Established 1864, Incorporated 1874

Weekly Update February 5, 2021

Administration:

The month of January was a busy month for City Council and city staff. February is in full swing and will prove to be slam packed as well. City Council received committee assignments and are busy working to understand their responsibilities. Council will meet this month to vision plan and set goals. These goals will guide the work and direction of the city and city staff for the near future.

Staff are also busy and working hard. Public works staff are managing the bidding and construction of the new Wastewater Treatment Facility and are preparing for this year's portion of the Mountain Pipeline Replacement Project. The Administration Department is planning how to digitally preserve historical and present-day documents and records. The Fire Department is restructuring the Battalion Chief schedules and crew rotations to provide better coverage. This restructure ensures improved accountability, training, EMT coordination, and operations within the department. As the city lengthens its stride, changes will bring better and more efficient service for citizens and raise the bar of professionalism among staff.

I invite every citizen to do the same. Raise your bar just a little. Take a moment in this warm weather to tidy up your property, sidewalk, and roadside. Pull a few weeds. Do something kind for a neighbor or someone in need. Say a kind word. Volunteer for a city committee, your church, or local non-profit. Get involved wherever you are able. Good things will happen because of you.

City Council Agenda **February 9 @ 7 pm**

- Quiet Zone Update
- Murray Smith Amendment for Services
- Fairway Drive Discussion
- Board, Committee, Commission Appts
- Common Sense Sanctuary Discussion
- Council Committee Updates

Finance Department

Utilities for January 28th to February 3rd

- ◆ Ten customers signed up for new water/wastewater service and thirteen customers disconnected service from January 28th thru February 3rd. This includes all service changes.
- ◆ Zone 4 which includes 735 residential and 61 commercial accounts was billed January 29th. Of those accounts 228 (29%) are signed up for direct payment and 69 (9%) are signed up for ebilling.
- ◆ Zone 1 which includes 94 residential and 255 commercial accounts was billed February 1st. Of those accounts 69 (20%) are signed up for direct payment and 21 (6%) are signed up for ebilling.
- ◆ Thirty-two residential customers (Zones 4 and 8) were scheduled to have their water turned off for non-pay (over 60 days past due). Five were actually turned-off until their past due balances were paid. As of February 3rd, three had paid their past due balance and had their service reinstated and two had not yet contacted the City.



Building Department:

	Permits Issued City	Inspections City	Permits Issued County	Inspections County
Building	4	10	2	15
Manufactured Dwelling	0	0	0	0
Electrical	8	13	8	21
Mechanical	10	12	11	10
Plumbing	3	3	1	3
Fence	0	NA	N/A	N/A
TOTAL	25	38	22	49

RESIDENTIAL PERMITS:

- 1916 Plum Street, Baker City—Demolition of existing detached accessory structure
- 1916 Plum Street, Baker City—Detached accessory structure
- 45744 Snake River Road, Richland—New residence
- 13023 S. Rock Creek Lane, Baker City—Elevated deck
- 215 9th Street, Baker City—Residential addition
- 2140 Balm Street, Baker City—Detached accessory structure

There are still openings for the HDDRC! Apply today!

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

COMMERCIAL PERMITS:

- 1270 Campbell Street, Baker City—New structural sign

HISTORIC DESIGN REVIEW:

Next regularly scheduled meeting is February 24, 2021 at 8:00am in the Building Department Offices.

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: 4 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



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

FIRE DEPARTMENT

During the week of **January 26th through February 1st** the Fire Department responded to a total of **53** emergency alarms.

AMBULANCE OPERATIONS		EMERGENCY CALL BACKS		FIRE REPORTS	
City Calls	43	Request for Cover	9	General Alarms	0
Rural Calls	7	Arrived for Cover	3	Dispatched Alarms	3
Patient Transported	37			TOTAL FIRE RESPONSES	3
No Patient Trip	13				
TOTAL MEDIC RESPONSES	50	TRAINING/MAINTENANCE/ FIRE PREVENTION INSPECTIONS/ COMMUNITY EVENTS			
Airport Transfers	5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 17 Burn Permits Issued • 30 hrs of Station & Equipment Maintenance • 4 hrs of Fire Training • 21 hrs of EMS Training • 0 hrs of Safety Training • 0 hrs Community Events • 1 hr Fire Prevention Inspections 			
Out of Town Transfers Accepted	1				
Out of Town Transfers Not Accepted	2				
Motor Vehicle Accidents	1				
Doubles (2 calls at once)	6				
Triples (3 calls at once)	1				
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 opened 42 new cases and responded to 173 calls, making several arrests for outstanding warrants and detainers. BCPD officers responded to and arrested two individuals following the report of a package stolen from the porch of a local residence. The following press release was issued in response to this incident:

On Saturday January 30, 2021, Baker City Police Department patrol officers responded to a report of a package being stolen from a front porch and the suspect leaving in a vehicle. About an hour later, the described vehicle was located by patrol officers in the Albertsons Parking lot in Baker City where the driver and passenger were contacted by police.

As a result of the investigation, officers located the stolen package in the vehicle and the passenger, KYLE ANDREW WALDRON, age 35 was arrested for Theft II and Criminal Trespass II. During this incident, Baker City Police also recognized that Mr. WALDRON was the same individual in a video surveillance from Safeway in which the suspect had committed Burglary II and Theft II from Safeway in Baker City earlier in the month. In addition to the above charges for the stolen package, he was also lodged on the Burglary II and Theft II from the earlier Safeway case.

During the officer's investigation into the stolen package, the driver of the vehicle, PEARL NAOMI ADAIR, age 40, was found to be in possession of a user amount of methamphetamine. She was cited and released.

★ The Drug Addiction Treatment and Recovery Act (Ballot Measure 110) reduces the penalty of possessing small amounts of illegal drugs in Oregon. Starting on February 1, 2021:

- ◇ Instead of getting arrested, people will get a citation.
- ◇ Citations may have a \$100 fine.
- ◇ People can complete a health assessment to avoid paying the fine.

More information regarding this measure can be found on the Oregon Health Authority website: <https://www.oregon.gov/oha/HSD/AMH/Pages/Measure110.aspx>.

★ 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 two new property cases
- Conducted four inspections on property violations
- Followed up on three previous complaints

Parking violations

- Three vehicles were tagged for removal
- Issued two parking citations
- Followed up on four parking complaints

Animal violations and complaints

- Responded to two dogs running at large
- Approved one livestock permit

Miscellaneous

- One officer assist
- TWO FOUND BICYCLES



Planning Department:

PLANNING COMMISSION PUBLIC HEARING

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

APPLICATIONS

- A replacement accessory structure was approved in the General Commercial Zone located north-west of the intersection of 10th and Church Streets.
- A land partition was approved in the Residential-Medium Density (R-MD) Zone located at 3060 Place Street.
- A property line adjustment was approved between two properties addressed as 720 & 730 H Street in the Residential-Low Density (R-LD) Zone.
- A two parcel re-plat was approved for property addressed as 3210 K Street in the General-Industrial (I) Zone. The appeal period for this decision ends at 5:00pm on February 15, 2021.
- A wall sign and projecting sign were approved at 1919 Washington Avenue in the Central Commercial (C-C) Zone. The property is also located within the Baker City Historic District.

Public Works: Washington & Plum

With the upcoming Washington overlay project scheduled for this summer, the first of three water line crossings was completed this week. 97' of the old 4" cast iron mainline across Washington Avenue was replaced on Tuesday with new 6" Ductile iron pipe.



The asphalt surface was pulverized using the asphalt zipper unit attached to the front end loader.



Water sprayed into the air as the mainline was breached using a demolition saw.



Excavation continued on schedule.

Hand excavation was performed around underground utilities to prevent any damage.





Public Works: Washington & Plum continued



Left: A portion of the old, brittle cast iron pipe had to be carefully removed from under a large phone communication conduit and direct bury cable.

Right: A water service tap was pre-attached onto the new 6" pipe prior to the length of the pipe being installed into the system.

Bottom left: The section of 4" pipe which was removed on Tuesday had been previously repaired at least two times in the past.

Bottom right: The new mainline was successfully installed and all 23 residences were back in service by noon on the same day.



The crossing will be patched using hot asphalt once it is available.



Public Works: Warehouse



Left: A photo of the recently organized construction sign/barricade storage area.



Middle and Right: Once the pipe/storage area was organized, staff worked to grade and resurface a portion of the warehouse yard. The area was leveled and excess material was removed. Recycled asphalt grindings were then placed to form a firm base. Once this work is complete, the outside storage materials will be properly organized.

Public Works: Stormwater Department



Well over a hundred stormwater catch basins were cleaned this week. Some of the catch basins were partially frozen and needed to be thawed using high pressure water.



Public Works: Street Department



A resident reported that a tree on Walnut had grown to the point where it is affecting the travelling path of vehicles. Members of the Tree Board have been contacted for advice.



Street sweeping continued this week with the unseasonably warm winter weather.



Recycled asphalt grindings were used to fill in potholes on Walnut Street.

Public Works: Water Department



Left: Repair work had to be performed on a water meter service on "H" Street which had not been used for several years. As you can see, the meter had cracked and split. Thankfully, service was in the off position.

Right: Approximately half of the water valves in town were opened and closed to keep them operational. If water valves are not "exercised" regularly, they will cease and become useless.



Public Works: Wastewater Department



A local resident called to report that their wastewater lateral had been plugged for several days. Public Works used a camera to inspect and a local drain cleaner was hired to clean the line from a clean out near the house. Once the blockage was dislodged it was observed that sheetrock residue consisting of putty and saturated sheet rocks chunks had somehow made its way to the drain during a recent house remodel.





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.