

CITY OF BAKER CITY

On the Historic Oregon Trail.
Established 1864, Incorporated 1874

Weekly Update February 26, 2021

Administration:

City Council held a meeting this week that included the topic of Transient Lodging Tax (TLT). Numerous individuals came to speak or emailed insight and opinions to Council. Some in our community may not be familiar with TLT, so here is a simplified explanation of this complex issue: TLT is a tax/fee added on to the price of lodging, sort of like a sales tax. This tax collected by lodging facilities is then administered by Baker County through an Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) with the City. Monies collected are generally spent on marketing and tourism for Baker County.

In theory TLT funds are spent to bring visitors to our fair valley and those visitors will spend the night and in turn pay the tax for their lodging which will then be used to bring other visitors to town. This means local taxpayers are not paying for marketing our community to the outside world. While in the city, visitors will patron businesses, restaurants, and spend money in numerous ways which brings dollars into town. There is a committee appointed by the County Commissioners to make recommendations on how these funds are spent. The TLT is just one more way which our citizens and business owners can be involved in the community. Take an opportunity to learn about the TLT and how it impacts you or how you might get involved with this important part of our local economy.

2021-2022 City Council

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

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Looking for Volunteers!!

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

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

Applications are due by March 3, 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>



Planning Department:

PLANNING COMMISSION PUBLIC HEARING

The next regularly scheduled Planning Commission meeting is March 17, 2021.

APPLICATIONS

- A partition request was approved to create two parcels in the Commercial General (C-G) Zone. The subject property is located north of Hughes Lane between Chico Road and Highway 30. The appeal period for this application ends March 10, 2021.
- Two self-service storage buildings were approved at 2312 14th Street for Anchor Mini Storage. The subject property is located in the General (I) and Light Industrial (LI) Zones.
- A single-family dwelling was approved at 2389 Baker Street in the Residential High-Density (R-HD). This property also received approval as a Lot-of-Record, allowing the development of one single-family dwelling.

Building Department:

	Permits Issued City	Inspections City	Permits Issued County	Inspections County
Building	2	11	2	15
Manufactured Dwelling	0	0	0	0
Electrical	7	14	5	12
Mechanical	6	10	4	17
Plumbing	1	3	1	8
Fence	0	NA	N/A	N/A
TOTAL	16	38	12	52

RESIDENTIAL PERMITS:

- 46131 Snake River Road, Richland—Replacement dwelling

COMMERCIAL PERMITS:

- 3700 23rd Street, Baker City—Balance of 196 x 77 structure
- 3835 23rd Street, Baker City—Commercial lean-to addition
- 40 W Washington St, Huntington—Light pole structure over EV charging station

HISTORIC DESIGN REVIEW:

Next regularly scheduled meeting is March 3, 2021 at 8:00am in the Building Department Offices, if needed.

There are still openings for the HDDRC! Apply today!

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



"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 30 new cases and responded to 141 calls, making several arrests for outstanding warrants and detainers. Officers made an arrest after responding to a report of an individual breaking into vehicles parked in the neighborhood of Kirkway Street. The following press release was issued in response to this incident:

On February 18, 2021 at approximately 10:15 pm, a Baker City Police Officer was flagged down by a citizen and was told that a male individual in dark clothing was attempting to gain access to the inside of vehicles on Kirkway Street.

Officers ultimately followed tracks in the snow to the Leo Adler Pathway and contacted Joshua Milton Thomas, dob: 08/12/1989. During the course of the contact with Thomas, the Officers found him to be in possession of multiple stolen items that were reportedly stolen from Saint Francis de Sales Catholic Church, Baker City; to include the Bishop's Chalice, another chalice, silver and gold Crucifix and three gold plates. The value of these items was approximately \$11,000.00.

Officers determined Thomas had gained access to at least six vehicles and attempted to gain access to 13 additional vehicles on Kirkway Street and was in possession of stolen items from those vehicles. The aggregate value of the combined stolen items was approximately \$600.00. Officers also seized a quantity of Heroin from Thomas. Additional investigation will determine if Thomas was responsible for the Burglary and Theft from the Catholic Church.

Thomas was lodged in the Baker County Jail on charges of Aggravated Theft by Receiving; Unauthorized Entry of a Motor Vehicle (6 counts); Attempted Unauthorized Entry of a Motor Vehicle (13 counts); and was cited for Unlawful Possession of Heroin.

- ★ 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 two inspections on property violations
- Followed up on four property maintenance cases
- Opened two new property maintenance cases

Parking violations

- Tagged two vehicles for removal
- Issued four parking citations
- Followed up on two parking complaints

Animal violations and complaints

- Three livestock running at large complaints
- One dog running at large complaint

Miscellaneous

- One community contact



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

FIRE DEPARTMENT

During the week of February 16th through February 22nd the Fire Department responded to a total of **45** emergency alarms.

AMBULANCE OPERATIONS		EMERGENCY CALL BACKS		FIRE REPORTS	
City Calls	34	Request for Cover	9	General Alarms	0
Rural Calls	7	Arrived for Cover	3	Dispatched Alarms	4
Patient Transported	28			TOTAL FIRE RESPONSES	4
No Patient Trip	13				
TOTAL MEDIC RESPONSES	41	TRAINING/MAINTENANCE/ FIRE PREVENTION INSPECTIONS/ COMMUNITY EVENTS			
Airport Transfers	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4 Burn Permits Issued • 42 hrs of Station & Equipment Maintenance • 3 hrs of Fire Training • 42 hrs of EMS Training • 0 hrs of Safety Training • 0 hrs Community Events • 0 hrs Fire Prevention Inspections 			
Out of Town Transfers Accepted	1				
Out of Town Transfers Not Accepted	0				
Motor Vehicle Accidents	3				
Doubles (2 calls at once)	2				
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



Finance Department

Utilities

- ◆ Eleven customers signed up for new water/wastewater service and eleven customers disconnected service from February 11th thru February 24th. This includes all service changes.
- ◆ Zone 6 was billed February 12th and included 479 residential and 57 commercial accounts. Of those accounts, 124 (23%) are signed up for direct payment and 51 (10%) are signed up for ebilling
- ◆ Zone 3 was billed February 16th and included 500 residential and 51 commercial accounts. Of those accounts, 123 (22%) are signed up for direct payment and 41 (7%) are signed up for ebilling.
- ◆ Zone 7 was billed February 19th and included 563 residential and 26 commercial accounts. Of those accounts, 168 (29%) are signed up for direct payment and 35 (6%) are signed up for ebilling.
- ◆ Zone 4 was billed February 23rd and included 735 residential and 61 commercial accounts. Of those accounts, 228 (29%) are signed up for direct payment and 70 (9%) are signed up for ebilling.
- ◆ From February 11th through February 24th, forty-three residential customers (Zones 2, 3, and 7) were scheduled to have their water turned off for non-pay (over 60 days past due). Seven of those customers actually had their service turned off until their past due balance was paid. Of those seven, five have paid their past due balance and their service is back on and two have not yet contacted the City.

Payroll

Seventy-three employees were paid today including four paid volunteer firefighters. Of those 73 employees, 67 or 94% are signed up for direct deposit.

Accounts Payable

The second of two accounts payable runs for February was generated February 25th.





Public Works: Water Department



Excavation work was done Thursday for two new fire hydrants which will be installed early next week. Both hydrants are from the 1950's and only have two 2.5" diameter hose connections. The two new hydrants will each have the two 2.5" ports and also a 5.25" diameter "steamer port" hose attachment which will be able to supply a much greater volume of water for fire protection.

Public Works: Street Light Department

A concrete street light pole was poured last Friday and was removed from its cast iron form this Thursday. The old brittle cast iron form was filled with concrete using shovels.



The special high strength concrete was tested for slump and air entrainment. Two concrete cylinders were taken for compressive testing after a 28 day cure time.

Once the concrete post is cured for several days, the form is laid flat and the post is removed from the form. The surface of this post looks to be in excellent condition with very few imperfections.





Public Works: Demo Days



Wastewater laterals were inspected on Washington Avenue this week. A state of the art video-inspection system from Ques Inc. came to town specifically for the task. The work project was considered a demonstration of the new equipment and was done at no cost to the city.

Public Works: Street Department



Several faded signs were replaced this week. These signs are located on Dewey (ODOT Hwy 7). South facing signs fade at a higher rate due to sun exposure.

The Union Pacific Railroad assisted Public Works in a clean-up effort to remove weeds from the area between the warehouse facility and the railroad tracks.



Seven to eight dump truck loads of weeds and debris were hauled away for disposal.



Asphalt excavated from water, wastewater and street projects was crushed this week into usable recycled base material.



Public Works: Wastewater Project



The contractor performing the CIPP lining work for Baker City completed their contract Friday afternoon. One of the lateral connections on 8th Street was in extremely bad condition and had to be reinstated by digging down on the outside of the mainline and replumbing the attachment. In this photo you can see an opening between the old mainline and the lateral connection. This problem was discovered ahead of time and the work was scheduled to be done immediately after the interior of the new CIPP lining had hardened sufficiently.

The asphalt was zipped.



Excavation work was performed.

The bright blue pipe is the new CIPP interior liner on the inside of the old 8” concrete pipe.



The Insert-a-tee is installed into the new CIPP liner.

The completed repair.





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.