

CITY OF BAKER CITY

On the Historic Oregon Trail
Established 1864, Incorporated 1874

Weekly Update March 5, 2021

Administration:

March is gearing up to be an eventful month for the City and County. City Council will hold two regular meetings, one budget training, and a joint City County meeting. Between March and June, meetings will be held to finalize the budget for the upcoming fiscal year which begins July 1st. The City's budget is reviewed by department heads, the city manager, the finance director, the Budget Board, and the City Council. The end goal is for City Council to adopt the budget by the end of June.

As soon as the new budget is adopted and the fiscal year begins on July 1, the Finance Department turns its attention to preparing the audit reports for the previous fiscal year. It is a never-ending cycle for the city which consumes countless hours of time. Numerous unfunded state mandates, council goals, expectations of citizens, and basic "keep the lights on" elements make up a city budget. It is a careful balance between competing values and expectations placed on government that council must ultimately consider.

On a local level like we have here in Baker City, the dollars are, and should be, spent with care and concern. It seems there are never enough dollars to satisfy all of the important needs. If you are interested in seeing the process or participating, then join in and get involved. You can attend budget meetings or volunteer on a committee. The budget process is fascinating and may even surprise you.

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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City Council Agenda

March 9 @ 7 pm

- Audit Report
- 2021 Capital Plans
- 2021 Pavement Plans
- Public Works Surplus
- Board Appointments: PWAC
- Council Rules of Procedures
- Emergency Declaration Discussion
- Council Committee Updates



Planning Department:

PLANNING COMMISSION PUBLIC HEARING

The Planning Commission meeting for March 17, 2021 has been cancelled. The next Planning Commission meeting will be April 21.

APPLICATIONS

- A temporary office trailer was issued at 3700 23rd Street for Simplot in the General Industrial (I) Zone.
- A projecting sign was permitted at 1828 Main Street in the Central-Commercial (C-C) Zone and within the Baker City Historic District.
- A detached garage was approved at 1815 Chestnut Street in the Residential Medium-Density (R-MD) Zone.
- A property line adjustment was approved at 275 Campbell Street in the General Commercial (C-G) Zone.
- A temporary use permit was issued at 2389 Baker Street to allow the occupation of an RV while a new home is being built in the Residential High-Density (R-HD) Zone.



Baker City Police Department

1768 Auburn Ave • Baker City, OR 97814-0650
 541-524-2014 Voice/TDD 541-524-2023 Fax
 24 hours Dispatch 541-523-3644

PRESS RELEASE

March 5, 2021

The Baker City Police Department would like input from the community on what they perceive are major issues involving safety in Baker City. Community involvement lets BCPD better understand on how to deliver our services, target problem areas and provide better service to the community through a partnership.

Baker City Police Department is asking the community to participate in a survey so we can identify community concerns, allocate resources in a more efficient manner and create a safer community for all. The survey can be found at <https://s.surveypplanet.com/eQRJNcie>. The survey link will be posted on the department's Facebook page and in the Baker City Manager's weekly newsletter.

Raymond Duman
Interim Police Administrator
Baker City Police Department



"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 33 new cases and responded to 164 calls, making several arrests for outstanding warrants and detainers. Officers made an arrest after responding to a disturbance. The following press release was issued in response to this incident:

On March 2, 2021 at approximately 0755 hours, Baker City Police Officers responded to an incident at 3150 Grove Street in Baker City. The victim had called Baker County 911 and reported, Raleigh Rust had kicked in her front door and was attempting to gain access to her bedroom where the victim had taken refuge. BCPD Officers entered the house and took Raleigh David Rust, dob 11/10/1974, into custody without incident. The victim had a prior Restraining Order issued against Rust. Rust caused approximately \$700.00 in damage to the front door and bedroom door of the victim's residence.

It was also determined Rust had entered an adjacent vacant residence at 3115 Grove Street through a window and damaged a Nelson Real Estate sign. The estimated damage to the window and sign is \$600.00. Rust was lodged at the Baker County Jail on the following charges: Burglary I, Criminal Trespass I, Violation of a Restraining Order, Violation of a Release Agreement, Criminal Mischief II x 2 and Harassment.

- ★ 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 three property maintenance cases
- Opened one new property maintenance case

Animal violations and complaints

- One livestock running at large complaint
- Four dogs running at large complaints
- Two citations for livestock at large
- One citation for dog at large

Parking violations

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

Miscellaneous

- Two community contacts
- One found bicycle
- Two assists with disabled vehicles blocking the roadway



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

FIRE DEPARTMENT

During the week of February 23rd through March 1st the Fire Department responded to a total of **38** emergency alarms.

AMBULANCE OPERATIONS		EMERGENCY CALL BACKS		FIRE REPORTS	
City Calls	27	Request for Cover	8	General Alarms	0
Rural Calls	7	Arrived for Cover	1	Dispatched Alarms	4
Patient Transported	26			TOTAL FIRE RESPONSES	4
No Patient Trip	8				
TOTAL MEDIC RESPONSES	34	TRAINING/MAINTENANCE/ FIRE PREVENTION INSPECTIONS/ COMMUNITY EVENTS			
Airport Transfers	2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 6 Burn Permits Issued • 32 hrs of Station & Equipment Maintenance • 0 hrs of Fire Training • 17 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)	5				
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



Public Works: Parks

The Parks Department has been working with Certified Master Arborist, Michael Curtiss, to assess tree health and potential hazard trees that need to be addressed in order to ensure the safety of our park visitors. He recently recommended the removal of two trees. The first is a multi-trunked Red Maple that has experienced continuous declining health in recent years. The tree experiences continued breakage and damage of the multiple tops, creating "widow makers", requiring ongoing maintenance and costs. The second is a 70' tall Box Elder. This tree shows signs of ill health and decay. This tree was leaning toward the playground, creating a severe hazard. A request for removal of both trees was submitted to the Baker City Tree Board. They approved only the removal of the Box Elder. The tree was taken down yesterday. The photos below show that this tree was clearly rotted, not only within the trunk, but also throughout the limbs. The department plans to collaborate with Mr. Curtiss to create a GIS compatible tree inventory and health assessment for all trees within Baker City Parks and Mt. Hope Cemetery. This will assist in evaluating species and location of existing new trees, and to create a planting plan for these city assets.



Preparations are underway for installation of surveillance systems in our two most utilized parks, Geiser Pollman and Central Park. Each park will have two portable observation devices (P.O.D.) installed in locations that will allow for the ability to view the entirety of the parks. The P.O.D.'s are each equipped with pan, tilt, zoom cameras that can be accessed remotely for both live viewing as well as footage playback. These systems, provided by Security Lines US, are state of the art and are utilized by several entities throughout the Pacific Northwest, including Beaverton and Gresham Police Departments, City of Grants Pass, and University of Oregon. These systems will provide a valuable resource in our efforts to reduce the unfavorable behaviors that continue to increase in these parks. This project is being funded in part by a \$18,745 grant from the Leo Adler Community Foundation. We are grateful for their ongoing partnership and support of our parks and community!





Public Works: Wastewater Department



A dye test was conducted on businesses fronting Court Avenue. Three different colors were used to distinguish where lines drain to wastewater connections in the alley.



Left: An old foundry cover from a manufacturing business years ago is located in one of the old buildings.



Right: Public Works performed a push-cam inspection for a downtown business under the direction of a local plumber.



Left: Public Works assisted a property owner on Valley Avenue to determine the cause of a wastewater line blockage.

Public Works: Street Department



A property owner contacted Public Works concerning a raised portion of asphalt on 15th Street. The street appears to be “heaved” exactly where a 30” drainage culvert crosses. There was too much snow in the ditch to see if the culvert was full of frozen water, which may have expanded causing the surface to rise. The surface is expected to recede to its original elevation once the ground thaws.



The Leo Adler Pathway was plowed as needed to allow citizens a relatively snow free route on which to walk. This section of the pathway lies between Myrtle Street and Indiana Avenue.



Public Works assisted in the closure of Resort Street while a high-lift crane was used to transport materials to the top of the Geiser Grand Hotel building.



Public Works: Street Department continued



Left: A second concrete street light pole was poured last Friday.



Right: A view of the light pole base showing the reinforcing concrete hoops.

Concrete was also used to shore up a damaged light pole on Kirkway (hauled in the backhoe bucket) and to make additional eco-blocks for future Public Works projects.



Public Works: Water Department

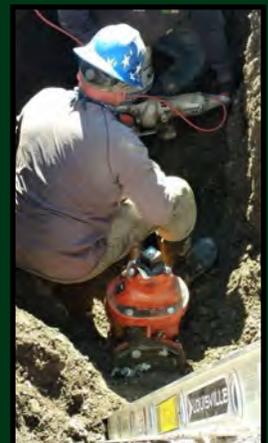


Scott travelled via snowmobile to the Elk Creek Settling Tank structure to check water flow levels. No adjustments were needed.

The access road into the Goodrich Diversion structure was plowed on Thursday to keep the road passable for 4-wheel drive vehicles.



Bottom three: Three “hot taps” were successfully performed on Monday with help from the City of LaGrande Public Works Department. Two were for new fire hydrants on Carter Street and one will be used for a new water line crossing at the Washington Avenue / Ash Street crossing.





Public Works: Wastewater Project



Left: Two new 3-port hydrants were installed this week. This one is at 11th and Carter.

Right: The installed “hot tap”, 6” N.J. x Flange valve and blocked hydrant base.



This new hydrant is at 13th and Carter.



Public Works: Shop



Left: We installed a new carrier bearing in the conveyor, and a new belt and both upper and lower rollers. This rig is back in service.

Right: We installed the flat bed, wired the truck lights and trailer light, plumbed the fuel fill hose in and are starting to mount tool boxes and a converter to run electric tools.



Left: We mounted the wheels on the plow and delivered it to the airport.

Right: We replaced the starter and this rig is back in service.



Left: The engine would die after running for a half an hour. We found a non removeable fuel filter in the tank. We were able to remove and this rig is back in service.



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.