

CITY OF BAKER CITY

On the Historic Oregon Trail.
Established 1864, Incorporated 1874

Weekly Update March 19, 2021

Administration:

Today is March 19, 2021. Baker City is preparing for Tuesday's City Council meeting, reviewing the next fiscal year budget and ordering material to fix both its water and wastewater infrastructure. The city is also beginning a review of the new COVID federal stimulus package, preparing a weekly report for citizens and continuing discussions about ambulances and emergency personnel needs. The city is also coordinating with the county to review interagency agreements and the day-to-day operations surrounding Transient Lodging Tax, Ambulance Services, 911 Dispatch volumes, Economic Development and COVID expenditures.

March 19th is a busy Friday with important work which largely will go unseen and unknown in history— and that is okay. History is a funny thing. The events of history are the facts, and the reality of history is what people know, understand and remember.

Today will not be remembered the same for everyone. In North Carolina, today is the anniversary of the Battle of Bentonville 1865. In 1822, Boston, Massachusetts incorporated as a city. Nevada legalized all gambling on this day in 1931. In 1812, Spain remembers its first Spanish constitution. Michael Jordan rejoined the Chicago Bulls on this day in 1995. In 1945, Hitler issued the "Nero Decree". The Confederate SS Georgiana was destroyed 1863 and found 1965. In 2019, California enjoyed its "Superbloom" of poppies in Walker Canyon. Yokohama Japan saw the largest omelet at 1,383 sf and 160,000 eggs in 1994.

The real question is, what memory from today will impact you and those you care about?

City Council Agenda

March 23 @ 7 pm

- Small Business Development Center 2020 Economic Impact Update
- Planning Department Update: Medium City Requirements
- Airport Bid Award
- FAA CARES Grant Award
- Emergency Declaration Resolution and Proclamation
- Council Rules of Procedures
- Council Committee Updates

2021-2022 City Council

Mayor:

Kerry McQuisten mayor@bakercity.com

Acting Mayor:

Lynette Perry lperry@bakercity.com

www.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



Finance Department

Utilities

- ◆ Twelve customers signed up for new water/wastewater service and twelve customers disconnected service from March 4th thru March 17th. This includes all service changes.
- ◆ Zone 1 was billed March 5th and included 94 residential and 256 commercial accounts. Of those accounts 71 (20%) are signed up for direct payment and 24 (7%) are signed up for ebilling.
- ◆ Zone 5 was billed March 9th and included 463 residential and 16 commercial accounts. Of those accounts 134 (28%) are signed up for direct payment and 39 (8%) are signed up for ebilling.
- ◆ Zone 2 was billed March 12th and included 464 residential and 13 commercial accounts. Of those accounts 103 (22%) are signed up for direct payment and 22 (5%) are signed up for ebilling.
- ◆ Zone 6 was billed March 15th and included 480 residential and 57 commercial accounts. Of those accounts 126 (23%) are signed up for direct payment and 49 (9%) are signed up for ebilling.
- ◆ Thirty-Four residential customers (Zones 1, 5 and 2) 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 balance was paid. Three customers have paid and their services turned back on, two still have not yet contacted the City.

Accounts Receivable

Monthly accounts receivable billings were sent March 15th. The billings were as follows:

- | | |
|--|--|
| • Cemetery - \$2,998 | • Ambulance - \$673,089 |
| • Wastewater Maintenance - \$3,878 | • Airport Hangar Rent & Ground Lease - \$5,301 |
| • Water Construction and Meters - \$642 | • Miscellaneous - \$3,972 |
| • Street Cuts and Street Miscellaneous - \$5,922 | |
| • Lien Searches - \$498 | Total Billed \$ 696,300 |

Accounts Payable

The first of two accounts payable check runs for the month was generated March 10th.

Payroll

Draw checks were issued March 15th.

Diamonds in the Rough & Preserving Oregon Grants now Open

The State Historic Preservation Office is offering grants for work on historic properties and for archaeology projects. The annual [grants](#) fund up to \$20,000 in matching funds for preservation projects. Both grant programs support the goals of the [Oregon Historic Preservation Plan](#).

The [Diamonds in the Rough Grants](#) help restore or reconstruct the facades of buildings that have been heavily altered over the years. These grants return buildings to their historic appearance and potentially qualify them for historic register designation (local or national).



"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 157 calls, making several arrests for outstanding warrants and detainers. Officers responded to a single motor vehicle accident involving a possible intoxicated driver. The driver had struck two support poles located at 2695 Broadway Avenue, proceeded down the alleyway located between 7th and 8th Street before coming to rest against a telephone pole. After subsequent investigation, the driver was arrested for DUII and cited for Failure to Perform Duties of a Driver. The driver's BAC (Blood Alcohol Content) was .27%, more than three times the legal limit.
- ★ We want to hear from you! What are the major issues involving safety in Baker City? Take this brief survey to let us know how we're doing and how we can improve. Community involvement helps BCPD better understand how to deliver our services, target problem areas and provide better service to the community, by working in partnership with the citizens of Baker City. Participation in this survey will help us 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.surveypal.com/eQRJNcie>. Thank you for your participation!
- ★ 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. They 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

- Followed up on three property maintenance cases
- Opened two new property maintenance cases

Animal violations and complaints

- Two dogs running at large complaints
- One dog impounded
- One livestock permit denied

Parking violations

- Tagged three abandoned vehicles for removal
- Issued two parking citations

Miscellaneous

- One patrol assist
- ONE FOUND ITEM



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

FIRE DEPARTMENT

During the week of **March 9th** through **March 15th** the Fire Department responded to a total of **27** emergency alarms.

| AMBULANCE OPERATIONS | | EMERGENCY CALL BACKS | | FIRE REPORTS | |
|------------------------------------|-----------|----------------------|---|---|----------|
| City Calls | 17 | Request for Cover | 3 | General Alarms | 0 |
| Rural Calls | 5 | Arrived for Cover | 1 | Dispatched Alarms | 5 |
| Patient Transported | 11 | | | TOTAL FIRE RESPONSES | 5 |
| No Patient Trip | 11 | | | TRAINING/MAINTENANCE/ FIRE PREVENTION INSPECTIONS/ COMMUNITY EVENTS | |
| TOTAL MEDIC RESPONSES | 22 | | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 15 Burn Permits Issued • 29 hrs of Station & Equipment Maintenance • 10 hrs of Fire Training • 13 hrs of EMS Training • 0 hrs of Safety Training • 0 hrs Community Events • 0 hrs Fire Prevention Inspections | |
| Airport Transfers | 0 | | | <div style="background-color: black; color: yellow; padding: 5px; text-align: center;">New Year, New Burn Permit</div> <div style="background-color: black; color: white; padding: 5px; text-align: center;">FREE burn permits are available in person at the Fire Station.</div> <div style="background-color: blue; color: white; padding: 5px; text-align: center;">Weed Complaint and Abatement</div> <div style="background-color: red; color: white; padding: 5px; text-align: center;">Weed Complaints or yard maintenance concerns should be reported to the Fire Department at 541-523-3711 x 508 or emailed to scinkenbeard@bakercity.com</div> | |
| Out of Town Transfers Accepted | 1 | | | | |
| Out of Town Transfers Not Accepted | 1 | | | | |
| Motor Vehicle Accidents | 4 | | | | |
| Doubles (2 calls at once) | 2 | | | | |
| Triples (3 calls at once) | 0 | | | | |
| Quads (4 calls at once) | 0 | | | | |
| Public Assist | 0 | | | | |

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

- An additional dwelling (multi-family development) was approved at 3451 Broadway Street (formerly Churchill School) in the Residential Medium-Density (R-MD) zone.



Public Works: Shop



Left: We pulled the hydraulic pump and replaced the seals. We also serviced and performed a safety check.



Right: We serviced this rig and checked it over.



Left: We pressure washed, serviced and greased this rig.



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

Public Works: Auction



We have over 100 items that will be auctioned off through the GovDeals site. The auction is scheduled to begin receiving bids Friday, March 19, 2021 at 6:00 pm. The auction will run for a full two weeks to give everyone who is interested a chance to bid.

You can sign up and bid on items at: <https://www.govdeals.com/>





Public Works: Street Department



The new Cimline combination machine was used to patch potholes on Cedar and other streets in town.



Public Works: Parks

Cleanup was done around the new light/camera poles in both the Geiser Pollman and Central parks this week.



Public Works: Stormwater Department



Top Pictures: All of the catch basins in zones E and F were cleaned recently. Here, the crew is cleaning catch basins along 4th Street in South Baker.

Right: A broken catch basin along Elm Street (Hwy 30) was repaired.





Public Works: Wastewater Department



The chlorine contact chamber at the Wastewater Treatment Facility was thoroughly cleaned in preparation for the disinfection and discharge of treated wastewater. On Monday, treated reclaimed wastewater from the facility was discharged to the Powder River at a rate of 1.5 million gallons per day (MGD).

This week, a full truckload of pipe for the new reclaimed water transmission line arrived in front of City Hall. In order to keep them distinct from potable water lines, reclaimed water pipelines are colored purple, the universal symbol of recycled water.



Public Works was contacted by Cascade Gas and asked to provide assistance with a problem they encountered while relocating a natural gas service line. A Public Works crew came with a Vactor truck and was successful with helping them out of a "tight spot".

Public Works performed some investigation work on the wastewater lines at the Baker Heritage Museum.



Acceptance testing was performed on a wastewater line that was recently installed by a local contractor. All tests (video-inspection for grade, alignment and pipe integrity and pressure testing of the line and vacuum testing of a new manhole to verify water tightness) easily passed the minimum requirements.





**2021
Annual
Mt. Hope
Cemetery
Cleanup**

April 12 - April 26

**Please remove all
decorative items
during this time. Items
may be placed on
grave sites again
beginning April 27th.**

**Thank you for
your cooperation.**

