

CITY OF BAKER CITY

On the Historic Oregon Trail.
Established 1864, Incorporated 1874

Weekly Update March 26, 2021

Administration:

At Tuesday's meeting, City Council passed Resolution 3881: RESOLUTION DECLARING AN ECONOMIC, MENTAL HEALTH, AND CRIMINAL ACTIVITY CRISIS DUE TO THE CURRENT COVID-RELATED STATE EMERGENCY DECLARATION AND RELATING OSHA MANDATES AND GUIDANCE. Before the meeting, Council received emails mainly in support of the resolution with a few opposed to it. During the meeting, Council listened to public comment also significantly in support of the resolution with some opposition to it. After deliberation, City Council passed the Resolution with five in favor and two opposed. The Resolution is available for viewing on the City's website in the Council Packet for March 23, 2021.

People are passionate and hold strong opinions about COVID-19. It has been a topic for City Council every month since they took office. The public has come to the meetings, filling all available seats and standing in the hallway. City hall is open, accessible, and available, and public involvement is a good thing! Unfortunately, the capacity of city hall is limited just like every other business in town. I appreciate the understanding of citizens who patiently wait to speak and for chairs to sit in. Thank you for working with us as we do our best to comply with OSHA workplace requirements and thank you to those who come and participate. Freedom to speak and share ideas is a core principle of a free society. I encourage all who come and speak to also listen and afford everyone else their freedom of speech.

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).

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

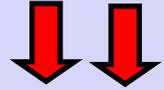
Johnny Waggoner Sr.: jwaggonersr@bakercity.com



Finance Department



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.

Now until
MARCH 31st!!

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.



Planning Department:

PLANNING COMMISSION PUBLIC HEARING

The next regularly scheduled Planning Commission meeting will be April 21.

APPLICATIONS

- A ±1,749 sq. ft. single-family dwelling was approved at 2909 College Street in the Residential Medium-Density (R-MD) Zone.
- A ±1,200 sq. ft. accessory structure (shop) was approved at 1310 D Street in the Residential High-Density (R-HD) Zone.
- A ±384 sq. ft. single-family dwelling addition was approved at 695 L Loop in the Residential Low-Density (R-LD) Zone.



"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

★ BCPD opened 19 new cases and responded to 124 calls, making several arrests for outstanding warrants and detainers.

On March 20, 2021, at 2:01 A.M. Baker County Dispatch received a report of a hit and run traffic crash at Auburn and Oak Street. The victim reported they were crashed into by a vehicle that took off after the crash.

Baker City Police arrived at the scene and learned that the victim driver, along with one of her two minor children in the car at the time of the crash, was suffering minor injuries from the traffic crash. The victim's vehicle had to be towed from the scene.

With community help along with anonymous reports, Josiah Arenas was identified as a suspect. On March 20, 2021, at about 7:45 P.M. Baker City Police located, at 2920 College Street, a silver 2008 Chevrolet Impala, related to Arenas, that had crash damage. The crash damage matched the hit and run crash related to this investigation.

At about 8:00 P.M. Josiah Arenas was contacted at 930 East Street. Officers recognized Arenas from the crash scene, as he had walked by the officers as they were investigating the crash scene. Arenas did not come forward to report he was the other driver involved. After obtaining a confession, Officers took Arenas into custody for the below listed crimes: Arenas was lodged at the Baker County Jail and charged Hit and Run (Felony); Reckless Driving and Reckless Endangering x 3.

★ Lieutenant Ty Duby has been selected as Baker City Police Department's Chief of Police effective July 1, 2021. Lt. Duby will replace Ray Duman, who is retiring after serving two years as the Department's Interim Administrator/ Chief of Police. City Manager Jon Cannon announced his decision during Tuesday night's council session. Cannon stated, "After much consideration, I believe Lt. Duby has the ability, commitment and leadership qualities to continue leading our Police Department and address the issues affecting Baker City, its residents and visitors." Lt. Duby retired from the Oregon State Police Department with 25 years of service. In 2019, Lt. Duby joined the Baker City Police Department.

"It is apparent Ray Duman, current Administrator of the Department, and Lt. Duby have worked well together over the last two years to create a very cohesive department. They re-established the Baker County Drug Task Force and have consistently looked for ways to strengthen our City Ordinances," added Cannon.

Lt. Duby has served in law enforcement for over 26 1/2 years as a Patrol Trooper, Detective, Patrol Sergeant, Criminal Division Sergeant, and current BCPD Lieutenant. "My goal for the Department is to continue to provide excellent service to this community and maintain accountability of our members", stated Lt. Duby. "I look forward to continuing to work with and lead our dedicated group of officers, detectives, and volunteers as their Chief."

★ To date we have received over 500 responses to our online survey! If you haven't had a chance to complete the survey, 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. 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.surveyplanet.com/eQRJNcie>. Thank you for your participation!



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

FIRE DEPARTMENT

During the week of March 16th through March 22nd the Fire Department responded to a total of **26** emergency alarms.

AMBULANCE OPERATIONS		EMERGENCY CALL BACKS		FIRE REPORTS	
City Calls	12	Request for Cover	5	General Alarms	1
Rural Calls	9	Arrived for Cover	2	Dispatched Alarms	4
Patient Transported	18	TOTAL FIRE RESPONSES			
No Patient Trip	3	5			
TOTAL MEDIC RESPONSES	21	TRAINING/MAINTENANCE/ FIRE PREVENTION INSPECTIONS/ COMMUNITY EVENTS			
Airport Transfers	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 27 Burn Permits Issued • 22 hrs of Station & Equipment Maintenance • 10 hrs of Fire Training • 7 hrs of EMS Training • 0 hrs of Safety Training • 2 hrs Community Events • 0 hrs Fire Prevention Inspections 			
Out of Town Transfers Accepted	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 Not Accepted	2				
Motor Vehicle Accidents	2				
Doubles (2 calls at once)	3				
Triples (3 calls at once)	1				
Quads (4 calls at once)	0				
Public Assist	0				





Public Works: Shop



Left: This new service truck is having a bed built. Once completed, we will finish installing the beacon and will wire the inverter and lights.



Right: We are replacing the rear axle seal.



Left: We are pulling off decals and removing the radio and computer tray off this rig. It will be sold on GovDeals.



Right: We are replacing both rear wheel bearings. This rig should be done Friday.

Public Works: Street Department



Left: Several water and wastewater trenches were filled with crushed rock to improve the ride quality until they can be permanently repaired.

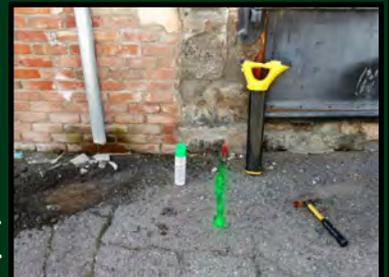


Right: Public Works assisted the 5J School District in locating buried conduit at the North Baker School Complex.

Public Works: Wastewater Department



Left: Public Works cleaned a plugged wastewater line on 6th. While the mainline was clear, it was later discovered by a professional drain cleaner that a large root mass was in the private lateral.



Right: A private lateral under a historic downtown building was traced. Green paint in the alley shows the location, which is deep underground.



Public Works: Water Department



A two-man crew travelled through wintry weather conditions to access the dam control structure at Goodrich Reservoir. The flow of water coming to town was adjusted.



This is the water diversion structure located approximately 2.5 miles below GoodRich Reservoir. Water from here gets diverted into a pipe and travels through approximately 9 miles of buried pipeline before it reaches Baker City.



This week, while schools were out for spring break, a new 8” diameter Ductile iron water line was installed on Washington Avenue near Brooklyn School. This line was installed for future use. Scheduling work during spring break greatly reduced any inconvenience to the public.

Once the new line was installed and securely braced, the new valve was opened and the line was flushed to remove any dirt or rock particles which may have entered the line.

The line was then pressure tested to 150 psi to verify there are no leaks.





Public Works: Stormwater Department



A crew worked on the north side of "D" Street to seal off an abandoned stormwater line. Sandbags were placed as a bulkhead and fresh concrete placed adjacent to the sandbags to permanently seal the line.



Officials at the Powder River Correctional Facility requested assistance with a drainage problem in their parking lot. Silt had built up inside the 8" and 10" PVC lines to the point where they would not drain.

A blockage was encountered, but was not able to be viewed. Lines were cleaned and information provided to PRCF so that a contractor could complete the needed repairs.



Public Works: Auction



110 items are now up for auction on the GovDeals website. If you search by location, put in the 97814 zip code and a range of 50 miles. It will bring up all the Baker City Public Works items.

The bidding will end at 6:00 pm on Friday, April 2, 2021.

www.govdeals.com





A COMMUNITY VISION STARTS WITH YOU!



March 2021

The City is working on the Northern Baker Transportation Improvement Plan to consider roadway improvement concepts on 10th Street, Pocahontas Road/ Hughes Lane, and Cedar Street. Our goal is to improve features of these streets and provide safe, equitable transportation choices. If you walk, bike or drive through this area, we want to your feedback on the possible transportation improvements.



MULTI-MODAL



TRAFFIC



LARGE VEHICLES



SAFETY



BUSINESS



COMMUNITY

In fall 2020, we heard about your transportation priorities and considered this feedback as we designed roadway concepts. You are invited to a project workshop on April 1 to share your input on these draft concepts. If you can't attend the workshop, you can visit the online open house between March 29 – April 9.

The project kicked off in fall 2020 and is anticipated to be complete in fall 2021.

Baker City operates under an EEO policy and complies with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act. Assistance is available for individuals with disabilities by calling 523-6541.

Please join us for a live community workshop online.

Virtual Community Workshop

Thursday, April 1, 2021
6:00 - 7:00 p.m.

Join the meeting via the link on the project website:
www.bakercity.com/2289/NBTIP

5:45 p.m. – Meeting opens
6:00 p.m. – Welcome
6:10 p.m. – Project presentation
6:30 p.m. – Participant feedback

You can also view materials and leave comments on the project online open house from March 29 – April 9, 2021 at www.bakercity.com/2289/NBTIP.

CONTACT

Michelle Owen, Public Works Director | Email: Mowen@bakercity.com | Phone: (541) 524-2031



**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.**

