

CITY OF BAKER CITY

On the Historic Oregon Trail.
Established 1864, Incorporated 1874

Weekly Update April 2 2021

Administration:

March in Baker City closed with a combined meeting with City Council and the County Commissioners. The city and county have agreements in place from ambulance services, transient lodging tax and 911 dispatch, to building inspections, planning and more. There is great value in the two entities sharing resources and coordinating efforts when appropriate. I found it interesting to hear the sample 911 call presented by Sheriff Ash during this week's meeting. The unseen individuals who sit in the 911 dispatch center and answer thousands of calls each year have a difficult job and they play a critical role in our community. I have only needed to dial 911 a handful of times in my life. In fact, once here in Baker City to report a fire. It was nice to know 911 was there and able to dispatch help. Thank you to our dispatch center!

As March closed its door and April welcomed us with April Fool's Day, the weather turned splendid. It has been nice to leave my coat on its hook and walk outside. The weather may taunt and tease us for a while longer with chilly mornings or even more snow this winter and spring, but for today, I am going to enjoy the beautiful sky and warm sun.

Finance Department

Utilities

- ◆ Seven customers signed up for new water/wastewater service and six customers disconnected service from March 18th thru March 25th. This includes all service changes.
- ◆ Zone 3 was billed March 19th and included 500 residential and 52 commercial accounts. Of those accounts, 123 (22%) are signed up for direct payment and 39 (7%) are signed up for ebilling
- ◆ Zone 7 was billed March 23rd and included 563 residential and 26 commercial accounts. Of those accounts, 169 (29%) are signed up for direct payment and 34 (6%) are signed up for ebilling.
- ◆ From March 17th through March 23rd, twenty-eight residential customers (Zones 3 and 6) were scheduled to have their water turned off for non-pay (over 60 days past due). Three of those customers actually had their service turned off until their past due balance was paid. All three have now paid their past due balance and their service is back on.

Payroll

Seventy-four employees were paid on Friday, March 26, including three paid volunteer firefighters; one part-time patrol officer; and one part-time building inspector/plan reviewer. Of those 74 employees, 68 or 92% are signed up for direct deposit.

Accounts Payable

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



"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 31 new cases and responded to 178 calls, making several arrests for outstanding warrants and detainers.
- ★ During a court hearing held earlier this month, Joshua Milton Thomas, 31, was sentenced to 28 months in prison, for the theft of two chalices, three gold places and a silver and gold crucifix taken from St. Francis de Sales Catholic Cathedral. Thomas pled guilty to first-degree aggravated theft involving the thefts from the Catholic Church and to two counts of entering motor vehicles on Kirkway Dive Thomas was arrested on the night of February 18th and charged with six counts of unauthorized entry into a motor vehicle and 13 counts of attempted entry into a motor vehicle after being found in possession of the stolen items from the Catholic Church and other items from various vehicles parked in the neighborhood of Kirkway Drive.
- ★ Detective Shannon Regan and Detective Chris Sells attended *Online Investigations for Law Enforcement* virtual training hosted by the Portland Federal Bureau of Investigation Oregon Social Media Investigations Team.
- ★ Face coverings, shields and/or masks are required in the front entrance of the Baker City Police Department, which is open to the public.

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



Planning Department:

PLANNING COMMISSION PUBLIC HEARING

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

APPLICATIONS

- A single-family dwelling and detached garage was approved on the 2900 block of College Street in the Residential Medium-Density (R-MD) Zone.
- A single-family dwelling and carport were approved on the 100 block of 9th Street in the R-MD Zone.
- A single-family dwelling with attached garage was approved at 45 Foothill Drive South in the Residential Low-Density (R-LD) Zone.
- The construction of an 80 square foot (north) entrance porch addition was approved at 3720 Birch Street in the R-LD Zone.
- The construction of a 25 square foot concrete pad in order to site incinerator at the Baker County Jail was approved. The property is addressed as 3410 K Street and is located in the General Commercial (C-G) Zone.
- A one-year extension was approved for the construction of an accessory structure at 3050 E Street in the General Industrial (I) Zone.
- A one-year extension was approved for the Major Modification of the Conditional Use Permit for the Harvest Church located at 3720 Birch Street in the R-LD Zone.
- A single-family dwelling was approved at 1935 Birch Street in the R-MD Zone.
- A residential addition was approved at 3720 Baker Street in the R-MD Zone.

Code Enforcement Weekly Activity

Property Maintenance

- Conducted three property inspections

Parking violations

- Tagged five abandoned vehicles for removal
- Issued one parking citation
- Followed up on three parking complaints
- Three vehicles chalked for overtime parking

Animal violations and complaints

- Five dogs running at large complaints
- One dog impounded
- One dog bite reported

Miscellaneous

- Two patrol assists
- Three found items
- Three found bicycles
- Two community contacts



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

FIRE DEPARTMENT

During the week of **March 23rd** through **March 29th** the Fire Department responded to a total of **41** emergency alarms.

AMBULANCE OPERATIONS		EMERGENCY CALL BACKS		FIRE REPORTS	
City Calls	30	Request for Cover	12	General Alarms	2
Rural Calls	8	Arrived for Cover	4	Dispatched Alarms	1
Patient Transported	32	TOTAL FIRE RESPONSES			
No Patient Trip	6	3			
TOTAL MEDIC RESPONSES	38	TRAINING/MAINTENANCE/ FIRE PREVENTION INSPECTIONS/ COMMUNITY EVENTS			
Airport Transfers	2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 27 Burn Permits Issued • 27 hrs of Station & Equipment Maintenance • 10.5 hrs of Fire Training • 18 hrs of EMS Training • 0 hrs of Safety Training • 5 hrs Community Events • 0 hrs Fire Prevention Inspections 			
Out of Town Transfers Accepted	3	<div style="background-color: black; color: yellow; padding: 5px; text-align: center;"> New Year, New Burn Permit 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 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)	7				
Triples (3 calls at once)	0				
Quads (4 calls at once)	0				
Public Assist	0				





Public Works: Well Drilling



The well drilling contractor notified Public Works that they would no longer need a constant flow of water to the well site.



Once that information was received, the temporary water line crossing of Indiana Avenue was promptly removed.

Public Works: Water Department—Goodrich



The cathodic protection stations along the buried Goodrich Pipeline are being maintained this week.

Markers are upgraded by having a 2.5” metal pipe section welded onto the existing channel iron marker and wiring being extended to a serviceable height.

Once the welding and wiring are complete, informational warning signs are attached to the welded pipe.



Public Works: Auction



Over 112 items are up for bid this week. A few more items will be added as time allows.

Here, a unique item is being prepared for sale: a prefabricated steel underground pump vault. The vault was removed from the “H” Street lift station site. It housed two mechanical pumps, motors and controls. It is 6 feet in diameter and 8 feet deep!

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

www.govdeals.com



Public Works: Wastewater Department



A local fuel station and restaurant called to report that their wastewater was not draining properly. A Public Works crew responded to the site and cleaned the private lateral which is over 200' long.

The manager of the facility also requested that the line be video inspected to check the condition.

A restaurant manager for a business on Broadway called to report a wastewater problem. A crew was dispatched to the site and cleaned the mainline under the street. No mainline blockage was found.



A professional drain cleaner hired Public Works to inspect a problematic wastewater lateral between the house and the city maintained line which was located in an alley.



A large piece of broken cast iron pipe was seen in the line.

The property owner plans to replace the lateral.

Public Works: Parks



Security cameras have been installed in both the Geiser-Pollman and Central Parks.

The camera project was funded by a Leo Adler Grant.



Public Works: Street Department



Streets continue to be swept daily. Decomposing leaves and other debris that collect over winter are gathered and temporarily deposited on a concrete pad until the pile is large enough to be hauled to the local landfill.

Every week, trash from dozens of downtown garbage cans is picked up and deposited into a dumpster at the warehouse.



Dead weeds that had been growing along the roadway at the Public Works stockpile site were burned to maintain and clean up the area.

Recent high winds took its toll on a Spruce tree that had been growing along Campbell Street. Police Dispatch called Public Works afterhours to report that the tree had blown down between 11th and 12th Streets and was blocking both lanes of traffic. A backhoe and a skilled operator responded to the site and pushed the tree off the road surface to restore travel.



For some reason, vehicles, including semi-trucks, are often directed by their GPS navigation to cross the I84 Freeway by going over the "H" Street overpass.



The big problem—is that there is not an "H" Street overpass.



This week, "End of Road" markers were installed to help inform motorists not to proceed any further.





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 *for a link*

Virtual

6:00

Join <https://www.bakercity.com/2289/NBTIP>

5:45 p.m. – Meeting

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.**

