

CITY OF BAKER CITY

On the Historic Oregon Trail.
Established 1864, Incorporated 1874

Weekly Update April 9, 2021

Administration:

Like so many of us, each morning I drive down 10th street, turn left on Broadway, and proceed straight into the heart of Baker City. It is a short and easy drive for me to go to work. Baker City has a handful of main corridors which welcome the world into our heart, and these corridors are the first or last impression people have of this place we call home.

Baker City, Baker County and ODOT are working together on the Northern Baker Transportation Improvement Plan, which is looking to deliver a community vision to 10th street, Hughes Lane and Cedar Street. 10th Street is an important gateway into the city and deserves our attention and our best vision. The ideas of today will determine the vision of this gateway for decades to come. This corridor, this street, has seen many changes over the years and many more I am sure will come henceforth. You can find information on the project [here](#). Let your voice be heard as we establish a vision to build on and improve upon the work of those who have already invested themselves in our city. Submit your public comment [HERE](#).

City Council Agenda

April 13 @ 7 pm

- Baker Relief Nursery Presentation
- Arbor Day Proclamation
- Overlay Bid Award
- Fee Resolution
- Golf Board Ordinance
- Council Rules of Procedures
- Council Goals Discussion
- Council Committee Updates

Code Enforcement Weekly Activity

Property Maintenance

- Conducted two property inspections

Parking violations

- Tagged three vehicles for removal
- Issued three parking citations
- Followed up on five parking complaints
- Two vehicles chalked for overtime parking

Animal violations and complaints

- Four dogs running at large complaints
- One vicious dog call
- Three other animal complaints

Miscellaneous

- One patrol assist
- Two found items
- One found bicycle



Building Department:

	Permits Issued City	Inspections City	Permits Issued County	Inspections County
Building	4	29	0	7
Manufactured Dwelling	0	0	0	0
Electrical	5	8	5	4
Mechanical	1	5	1	2
Plumbing	3	7	0	0
Fence	2	NA	N/A	N/A
TOTAL	15	49	6	13

RESIDENTIAL PERMITS:

- 1519 3rd Street, Baker City—Alterations/conversions
- 2909 College Street, Baker City—New residence
- 800 Foothill Drive, Baker City—Porch Addition
- 45 Foothill Drive, Baker City—New residence

COMMERCIAL PERMITS:

None at this time

HISTORIC DESIGN REVIEW:

Next regularly scheduled meeting is April 21, 2021, at 8:00am in the Building Department Offices, if needed.

Finance Department

Utilities

- Twenty-eight customers signed up for new water/wastewater service and twenty-two customers disconnected service from March 26th thru April 7th. This includes all service changes.
- Zone 4 was billed March 23rd and included 735 residential and 61 commercial accounts. Of those accounts, 231 (29%) are signed up for direct payment and 57 (7%) are signed up for ebilling.
- Zone 8 was billed March 26th and included 473 residential and 20 commercial accounts. Of those accounts, 131 (27%) are signed up for direct payment and 21 (4%) are signed up for ebilling.
- Zone 1 was billed April 5th and included 94 residential and 258 commercial accounts. Of those accounts, 72 (20%) are signed up for direct payment and 24 (7%) are signed up for ebilling.
- From March 24th through April 6th, thirty-one residential customers (Zones 2, 4, 7 and 8) were scheduled to have their water turned off for non-pay (over 60 days past due). Five of those customers actually had their service turned off until their past due balance was paid. All five have now paid their past due balance and their service is back on.

The Finance Department is in the preliminary stages of setting up an online payment system which will allow customers to pay their utility bills online as well as access past invoices. We are looking at software options that will allow customers to sign up for email, text and calendar alerts as well as to sign up for paperless billing and setup reoccurring payments. Implementing this system will also include changes to the City’s utility billing software to allow a seamless integration between the two systems.



"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 180 calls, making several arrests for outstanding warrants and detainers.
- ★ A physical altercation that occurred in the Emergency Room at St. Alphonsus Medical Center resulted in the arrest of a subject and injury to a BCPD officer and a private security guard. The following press release was issued in response to this incident:

In the early morning hours of April 6, 2021, at around 12:15AM, Baker City Police officers were dispatched to a call of someone running over a fuel pump at Jackson's Food Mart located at 500 Campbell Street, Baker City, Oregon. When officers arrived, they found a damaged orange-in-color 2005 Honda SUV being operated by Mr. Andrew Peterman from Boise, Idaho, and a fuel pump belonging to Jackson's detached from the island and lying on the ground.

During the ensuing investigation, Peterman became uncooperative and requested to be transported to the hospital for evaluation. The ambulance was called and Peterman was transported.

At the hospital, Peterman was evaluated, released and asked to leave the building several times. He refused. Officers were already on location and hospital security was called to assist in removing Andrew from the Emergency Room. Peterman continued to refuse to leave and eventually he advanced on and punched the security guard and the police officer multiple times. A TASER device was deployed during the altercation and Peterman was eventually subdued and taken into custody.

Both the security guard and Baker City Police officer received minor injuries and were treated and released from the Emergency Room. Peterman was re-evaluated after the TASER deployment and released into the custody of the Baker City Police Department where he was then transported to and lodged in the Baker County Jail for the below listed charges:

The following person was arrested as a result of the investigation: Andrew L. Peterman (02/02/1985), 10557 W Bucktail Drive, Boise, Idaho 83714. Peterman was charged with Assaulting a Public Safety Officer, Assault in the Fourth Degree, Disorderly Conduct in the Second Degree and Criminal Trespass in the Second Degree.

- ★ Face coverings, shields and/or masks are required in the front entrance of the Baker City Police Department, which is open to the public.

Planning Department:

PLANNING COMMISSION PUBLIC HEARING

The April 21st Planning Commission meeting has been cancelled.

The next Planning Commission meeting will be held on May 19, 2021.



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

FIRE DEPARTMENT

During the week of **March 30th** through **April 5th** the Fire Department responded to a total of **53** emergency alarms.

AMBULANCE OPERATIONS

City Calls	39
Rural Calls	6
Patient Transported	32
No Patient Trip	13

TOTAL MEDIC RESPONSES

Airport Transfers	1
Out of Town Transfers Accepted	0
Out of Town Transfers Not Accepted	2
Motor Vehicle Accidents	3
Doubles (2 calls at once)	6
Triples (3 calls at once)	0
Quads (4 calls at once)	0
Public Assist	0

EMERGENCY CALL BACKS

Request for Cover	6
Arrived for Cover	0

TRAINING/MAINTENANCE/ FIRE PREVENTION

INSPECTIONS/ COMMUNITY EVENTS

- **24** Burn Permits Issued
- **23 hrs** of Station & Equipment Maintenance
- **8 hrs** of Fire Training
- **24 hrs** of EMS Training
- **0 hrs** of Safety Training
- **0 hrs** Community Events
- **0 hrs** Fire Prevention Inspections

FIRE REPORTS

General Alarms	3
Dispatched Alarms	5
TOTAL FIRE RESPONSES	8

New Year, New Burn Permit

FREE burn permits are available in person at the Fire Station.

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

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



Public Works: Shop



We started work on the chip spreader. We are replacing the gearbox and potentiometer for the front gravel gates. We are also replacing some leaking hydraulic hoses.



Left: We are working on the regen system on this dump truck.

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



Left: We worked on the radiator, both front hub assemblies and front brakes on this rig.

Right: We removed all stickers and lights on this rig so it can be sold on GovDeals.



We replaced the deep cell batteries that run the pipe camera. We also serviced this van.



Public Works Auction



The GovDeals auction concluded last Friday with good success. Several items were paid for and are already on their way to their new home.

This large, heavy scrap pipe is headed to John Day.

We had successful bidders from all over the state and from Montana, California, Arizona and Washington too!



Public Works: Street Department



Russian Elm Trees (an invasive species) are very prevalent throughout Baker City. On Tracy Street, they have grown very close to the edge of the asphalt and are beginning to cause problems with the driving surface.

This week, several of the trees were trimmed and a few were removed.



Tuesday was the first day this spring that an asphalt supplier in LaGrande made hot mix for Baker City. Several trenches at the following locations were patched: East Street, 3rd Street, Scenic Vista, Broadway (around a water meter repair) and Washington Avenue.

Public Works: Wastewater Department

The report of a plugged wastewater line was received for an apartment complex on 10th Street. This particular connection actually connects to an 11th Street line. Manhole lids in this area are located in gravel streets. Typically they are set about 4-5” below the surface so that they won’t be hit with the road grader when operators grade the gravel streets.



Once the manhole lids are uncovered, the Jetter truck can be moved into position to clean the line. There was no blockage found in the city mainline, so a plumber was then instructed to clean the lateral.

Two residences on a portion of Resort Avenue appear to share a common lateral. Video-inspection of the laterals from the mainline was used to try and determine the connection points.





Public Works: Wastewater Department continued



A call was received about a plugged wastewater line on Cedar Street. This particular line is located in the backyards of several residences. Access is very difficult to some of these manhole covers. There was no blockages found in the mainline, however many, many fibrous cleansing wipes were discovered in the line most likely causing the issue.

A local contractor requested assistance for a wastewater lateral repair for a business on Campbell Street. A 6" lateral had developed a major break and was in urgent need of repair. A two-man crew using the Vactor truck assisted the contractor and plumber during the repair process.



Public Works: New Services Installation

A property owner on Clark Street requested that new water and wastewater services be installed to serve their newly purchased lot. They had made this request in the fall of 2020, but with no hot mix available until nicer weather, it was agreed to wait to do the installation work this spring when the trench could be immediately patched with hot asphalt.

Some of the parts used for the installation of a 1" domestic water service.



Two crews performed the installation of both the water line and the wastewater lateral. The trench lines were patched that same day to minimize inconvenience to the public. Because of the hot temperature of the asphalt, it will be allowed to cool overnight before the street is reopened to traffic.





**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.**





WATER SYSTEM CROSS CONNECTION CONTROL PROGRAM

- ✓ **Required by the Oregon Health Authority (OHA), Drinking Water Regulations and the EPA**
- ✓ **Backflow devices are required by state and federal law to be tested annually**
- ✓ **Keeps drinking water clean and safe for you and your neighbors**

FAQs

WHY DO I NEED BACKFLOW PROTECTION?

Irrigation systems are considered non-potable water systems. Backflow protection stops animal waste, fertilizers, herbicides and pesticides from entering your drinking water system.

HOW CAN IRRIGATION WATER ENTER MY DRINKING WATER SYSTEM?

The most common way contaminated water enters a drinking water system is by back-siphonage. This can occur when water pressure is reduced during times of high volume use, ie, a shower, clothes washer and dishwasher all operating at the same time.

HOW DOES BACKFLOW PROTECTION STOP CONTAMINATION?

A properly installed and maintained backflow preventer will allow water to flow in only one direction.

WHAT IS BACKFLOW?

Backflow is the undesired reversal of the flow of liquids such as irrigation water into the drinking water system. The two forms of backflow are:

Back-siphon— the action of flow reversal caused by a reduction in line pressure

Back-pressure— the increase of water pressure caused by elevation or mechanical pumping

The installation of a backflow preventer will protect drinking water systems from possible contamination from irrigation systems.

COMMON CROSS- CONNECTION EXAMPLES

These common household and commercial connections to the public water system pose a threat to our clean water if not protected by the appropriate Backflow Prevention Assembly.

