

# CITY OF BAKER CITY

On the Historic Oregon Trail.  
Established 1864, Incorporated 1874

**Weekly Update May 21, 2021**

## Administration:

The Baker City Budget Board met earlier this week and unanimously approved for the proposed budget to move forward through the budget process. City Council will review the budget in June and final adoption is anticipated at the June 22 meeting. The new fiscal year begins July 1, so it must be complete before the end of June. Staff use the budget and the budget process to accomplish council goals and provide city services. The budget can be found at [HERE](#). Government finance is a little different than home or business finance. This is because state and federal laws mandate specific accounting processes and methodology for showing numbers. The intent is transparency in government accounting. In all sincerity, it makes it difficult to follow if you are not involved in the budgeting process. The document may seem a little daunting at first but take a read and if you have questions city staff can help explain what it means.

On another subject, the county received COVID funds to assist businesses. Here is the information: **2021 Extreme 100% Shut Down Baker County Businesses Grant Application**. All applications and supporting documents due by midnight May 23rd. The program is available for Oregon based businesses impacted by COVID-19 with 100% shut down during "Extreme" time periods in 2021. Some exceptions may apply. See if you qualify <https://sharedsystems.dhsoha.state.or.us/.../le3461.pdf>.

Apply here <https://docs.google.com/.../1FAIpQLSeCWXpkdTkMsN.../viewform>

Please share this with any business you know that would qualify!

### Mayor:

Kerry McQuisten [mayor@bakercity.com](mailto:mayor@bakercity.com)

### Acting Mayor:

Lynette Perry [lperry@bakercity.com](mailto:lperry@bakercity.com)

### Councilors:

Shane Alderson: [salderson@bakercity.com](mailto:salderson@bakercity.com)

Joanna Dixon: [jdixon@bakercity.com](mailto:jdixon@bakercity.com)

Heather Sells: [hsells@bakercity.com](mailto:hsells@bakercity.com)

Jason Spriet: [jspriet@bakercity.com](mailto:jspriet@bakercity.com)

Johnny Waggoner Sr.: [jwaggonersr@bakercity.com](mailto:jwaggonersr@bakercity.com)

[Www.bakercity.com](http://www.bakercity.com)

## The City of Baker City is seeking volunteers for the following:

- ⇒ **HDDRC: 2 positions**
- ⇒ **Public Arts Commission: 1 position**
- ⇒ **Golf Board: 2 positions**
- ⇒ **Planning Commission: 1 position**  
(remainder of 4-year term expiring 1/2024)



**Applications are due by  
May 20, 2021.**

Positions are for a 3-year term unless noted.  
Anyone interested in volunteering should visit  
<http://bakercity.com/2149/Boards-Commissions>  
to fill out a volunteer form.

The direct link to the volunteer form page is:  
<http://bakercity.com/FormCenter/Boards-Commissions-2/Volunteer-Form-33>



**Building Department:**

	Permits Issued City	Inspections City	Permits Issued County	Inspections County
Building	3	42	5	14
Manufactured Dwelling	0	2	0	0
Electrical	17	14	9	3
Mechanical	9	20	3	8
Plumbing	5	12	3	3
Fence	4	NA	N/A	N/A
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>28</b>

**RESIDENTIAL PERMITS:**

- 13251 S. Rock Creek Lane, Baker City—New residence
- 44903 Lansford Ln, Baker City—Detached accessory structure with office
- 2217 Miller Street, Baker City—New residence
- 19036 Alpine Lane, Baker City, Pole barn
- 1935 Birst Street, Baker City—New residence
- 39076 Larch Creek Lane, Baker City—Detached garage
- 122 9th Street, Baker City—New residence

**HISTORIC DESIGN REVIEW:**  
 Next regularly scheduled meeting is June 2, 2021, at 8:00am in the Building Department Offices, if needed.

**COMMERCIAL PERMITS:**

- 46527 Cornucopia Hwy, County—New self-storage units

**City Council Agenda**

**May 25 @ 7 pm**

- Audit Report
- Fire Surplus
- Public Arts Commission Appointment
- 2nd Amendment Resolution
- Wastewater Systems Improvement Project Change Order
- Indiana Avenue Discussion

**Code Enforcement Weekly Activity**

**Property Maintenance**

- Followed up on two property maintenance cases

**Parking violations**

- Three abandoned vehicles tagged for removal
- Issued one parking citation

**Miscellaneous**

- THREE FOUND ITEMS
- Two patrol assists
- One case of graffiti

**Animal violations and complaints**

- Eleven dog running at large complaints
- One aggressive dog
- Five dogs impounded



## **Planning Department:**

### **PLANNING COMMISSION PUBLIC HEARING**

The Planning Commission held a work session on May 19<sup>th</sup> to discuss proposed revisions to the Development Code and Comprehensive Plan, including adopting a new Housing Needs Analysis.

The Housing Needs Analysis and Buildable Lands Inventory give a current picture of the land available for new residential development, the needs for housing estimated over the next 20 years, and the constraints on the land available- such as flood zones or steep slopes. Baker City has approximately 615 acres of residentially zoned land that is not constrained and has not been developed, or fully developed. Based on the estimated growth rate, the City is projected to need between 235-460 more homes by 2040. The estimate includes a variety of types of homes based on estimated needs, including single-family dwellings, townhomes, duplexes, triplexes, quadplexes, and apartments. The City has enough residentially zoned land to meet that need - there is enough residential land for just under 2,500 additional homes.



The proposed revisions include: correcting errors in the Development Code, modifying wall sign area in the General-Commercial zone, easing restrictions for duplexes & accessory dwelling units, modifying location requirements for self-service storage facilities, updating the Housing chapter of the Comprehensive Plan and adding a new Housing Needs Analysis. For more information, review documents online at <http://bakercity.com/2157/Planning-Department>, visit the Planning Department at 1995 Third Street, or call 541-523-8219.

### **APPLICATIONS**

- An application for a duplex was approved at 2920 and 2930 Carter Street in the Residential – Medium Density (R-MD) Zone, along with a concurrent floodplain development permit.
- A basement apartment was approved at 2005 Washington Avenue in the Central Commercial (C-C) Zone.
- An attached deck with ramp was approved at 2406 2<sup>nd</sup> Street in the Residential – High Density (R-HD) Zone.
- A shop and office addition were approved in conjunction with an existing Industrial service at 365 Elm Street in the General Industrial (I) Zone.
- An accessory structure was approved at 1474 Auburn Avenue in the Residential – Medium Density (R-MD) Zone.
- A floodplain development permit was approved for a new residence at 2217 Miller Avenue. The property is located in the Residential – High Density (R-HD) Zone.
- A commercial building addition was approved at 42056 Best Frontage Road in the General Commercial (C-G) Zone. The property is the site of the UPS package sorting facility.
- A commercial building addition and patio was approved at 2915 10<sup>th</sup> Street in the General Commercial (C-G) Zone. The property is the site of the Eagle Cap Bar & Grill.



*"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 the previous two weeks, BCPD opened 102 new cases and responded to 441 calls, making several arrests for outstanding warrants and detainees.
- ★ On Thursday, May 6, 2021 the Baker County Narcotics Enforcement Team with assistance from the BENT (Blue Mountain Narcotics Enforcement Team), the Oregon State Police and patrol officers from the Baker City Police Dept. executed a search warrant on an individual, vehicle and hotel room in Baker City, Oregon at about 2:00 pm. This arrest was a culmination of an ongoing investigation initiated by the Baker County Narcotics Enforcement Team into methamphetamine and heroin distribution as well as crimes involving firearms in the Baker County area and surrounding jurisdictions. As a result of the investigation, about 2 pounds of suspected methamphetamine and over twenty thousand dollars was located, along with other items indicative of narcotics trafficking. In addition to the narcotics and cash, officers found a stolen 9mm handgun and ammunition.

Tom Raymond Carroll, age 37, was transported to the Baker County Jail and lodged for unlawful delivery of methamphetamine, felon in possession of a firearm, theft by receiving, money laundering and engaging in financial transaction in property derived from unlawful activity.

Mr. Carroll is a corrections offender and is currently on post-prison supervision for drug and firearms offenses. He was being supervised out of Malheur County, Oregon.

The Baker County Narcotics Enforcement Team is comprised of members from the Baker City Police Department and is supported by the Baker County Sheriff's Office, the Baker County District Attorney's Office and the Oregon State Police.

The BENT team is comprised of members from the Pendleton Police Dept., Oregon State Police, Boardman Police Dept., Morrow County Sheriff's Office, Milton-Freewater Police Department, Umatilla Tribal Police Dept., Hermiston Police Dept., United States National Guard and the FBI.

The mission of these drug task force teams is to disrupt and/or dismantle mid-to-upper level drug trafficking individuals and organizations as well as provide valuable intelligence and investigative resources to all law enforcement in regards to unlawful criminal activity. Detectives Assigned to these teams not only investigate narcotics trafficking, but play a major role in major crime team cases.

- ★ Effective July 1, 2021, Detective Shannon Regan will be reassigned/promoted to Detective Sergeant. She will directly supervise two detectives, the Code Enforcement Officer and School Resource Officer. Detective Regan is a twenty-year veteran of the Baker City Police Department having served as the Department's Code Enforcement Officer, Evidence Technician, Patrol Officer, School Resource Officer and Person Crimes Detective. Detective Regan also serves as the Northeast Oregon Regional SWAT Crisis Negotiation Team Leader. Please join us in congratulating Detective Regan on her recent promotion.



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

# FIRE DEPARTMENT

During the week of **May 11th** through **May 17th** the Fire Department responded to a total of **41** emergency alarms.

AMBULANCE OPERATIONS		EMERGENCY CALL BACKS		FIRE REPORTS	
City Calls	26	Request for Cover	14	General Alarms	0
Rural Calls	7	Arrived for Cover	1	Dispatched Alarms	8
Patient Transported	26	<b>TOTAL FIRE RESPONSES</b>			
No Patient Trip	7	<b>8</b>			
<b>TOTAL MEDIC RESPONSES</b>		<b>33</b>			
<b>TRAINING/MAINTENANCE/ FIRE PREVENTION INSPECTIONS/ COMMUNITY EVENTS</b>					
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>8</b> Burn Permits Issued</li> <li>• <b>60 hrs</b> of Station &amp; Equipment Maintenance</li> <li>• <b>0 hrs</b> of Fire Training</li> <li>• <b>4 hrs</b> of EMS Training</li> <li>• <b>0 hrs</b> of Safety Training</li> <li>• <b>0 hrs</b> Community Events</li> <li>• <b>0 hrs</b> Fire Prevention Inspections</li> </ul>					
Airport Transfers	1	<b>Weed Complaint and Abatement</b> Weed Complaints or yard maintenance concerns should be reported to the Fire Department at <b>541-523-3711 x 508</b> or emailed to <a href="mailto:sclinkenbeard@bakercity.com" style="color: white;">sclinkenbeard@bakercity.com</a>			
Out of Town Transfers Accepted	0				
Out of Town Transfers Not Accepted	3				
Motor Vehicle Accidents	0				
Doubles (2 calls at once)	6				
Triples (3 calls at once)	0				
Quads (4 calls at once)	0				
Public Assist	0				

## Burn Ban Update

Due to the consistent wind, dryness and warm weather coming, it has been decided to set a mandated start date for this year's burn ban.

**Effective June 1, 2021, a city-wide burn ban will be in effect.**

This burn ban will remain until appropriate weather conditions arrive.

If you have any questions or concerns, please call 541-523-3711





# Public Works: Shop



Left: This roller had a burnt glow plug and bad relay. The parts were replaced and this rig is back in service.



Right: We replaced the seals in the hoist and topped off the oil.



Left: This truck had a vibration. We found the front drive shaft universal joint was out along with a bad left front hub bearing. Repairs have been made.



Right: This truck won't start due to bad batteries. Parts have been ordered and this rig will be fixed next week.



Left: The starter solenoid was bad on the auxiliary motor. Parts have been replaced and this rig is back to work.



Right: Due to a stuck expansion valve, the a/c isn't working. Parts have been ordered.



We serviced the shop air compressor and it is back online.

We are charging the batteries and repairing the snow plow mount on this rig.



We received this service truck and mounted the work lights, a strobe light, a 6000 watt inverter and wired in the 7-way trailer plug plug-in. It is now in service.



## Public Works: Wastewater Department



Several wastewater lines in town were cleaned this week, especially those that have been identified as needing to be cleaned on a 1, 2 or 6-month frequency.



A house on Birch Street had not had water service for over a dozen years. We dye tested the lines to verify connection to the city Wastewater collection system.

After waiting for several minutes at the downstream manhole, the fluorescent green dye appeared showing connectivity.



## Public Works: Water Department



A crew hiked into Goodrich Reservoir to check on the reservoir level, snow conditions and to assess the water flow.

The snow and ice covering has turned to a soft layer of slush.



Two water leaks were repaired this week. On Court Avenue between 4th and 5th Streets a leak developed where the copper line connected to a brass fitting. A short section of the copper service line was replaced to eliminate the leak.

The other leak was on Carter Street between 10th and 11th Streets. The 12" cast iron mainline began leaking at the connection where two pieces of pipe join together. Packing material and a bell clamp were used to stop the leak.



In preparation for the water flow as a result from the upcoming well test plumping, a culvert pipe along the route was jetted. Additional pipe work will have to be completed before that section will be capable to handle the 1,800 GPM flow.



## Public Works: Wastewater Department continued



A new 8” ductile iron water mainline that was 235’ long was installed this week within the unconstructed Oak Street right of way lying south of “H” Street. A fire hydrant will be installed at the south end of the line.

Annual spring hydrant flushing began on Tuesday. This work is scheduled in spring when there is a surplus of water available. Flushing the lines removes sediment, and once completed helps maintain clarity of the water in the system.

Here you see the crew flushing a hydrant on Grace Street.



## Public Works: Street Department



Public Works assisted Cascade Natural Gas Co. by flushing dirt and other debris from the surface of Park Street in an effort to minimize dust for local residents. The gas company is in the process of relocating their main gas supply lines from the backyards of customers houses to within the street rights of way on both Park street and Idlewood Drive.



Several signs were repaired and a few new ones installed last week.



An opportunity occurred last Friday where there was excess asphalt available from a contractors project. This asphalt was used to patch the water trench crossing Washington Avenue.





## Public Works: Street Department continued



Crushed rock was placed next to the asphalt edge on a short portion of Clark Street just south of "D" Street.



A row of yellow wheel stops were placed as a buffer between the Leo Adler Baseball Field parking lot and the pathway to deter drivers from driving across the pathway to access Clark Street.



Crews are making excellent progress on removal of broken curbs, portions of sidewalks and stormwater catch basins identified for replacement.



The new curb material (recycled crushed concrete) is being placed at the proper designated grade which will provide improved drainage to new catch basins.



Special accommodations are being provided where needed, in this case two thick steel plates are being used to span an excavation and provide access.

On Washington Avenue, an ancient survey marker, possibly set by Baker County Surveyor CM Foster in 1882, as part of JP Atwood's III Addition to Baker City, was discovered at the northwest corner of Oak and Washington. Steps have been taken to preserve the land survey monument.





## **Public Works: Street Department continued**



Horizontal and vertical grade control points are being set with precision accuracy.

A contractor was hired to remove two large trees on the north side of Washington Street last week. These trees had grown so large that they had done considerable damage to the concrete sidewalk, curb and asphalt street. The stumps were ground down to allow for the construction of the new curb.



### **Trouble Paying your Water and Wastewater bills?**

**Baker City has resources to help:**

- Community Connections 541-523-6591
- Catholic Church 541-523-4521
- OR Dept. of Human Resources 541-523-5846
- Christian Church 541-523-5425
- Salvation Army 541-523-5853
- First Presbyterian Church 541-523-5201

**Please call directly for details.**

### **PARKS & RECREATION BOARD WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!**

The Parks and Recreation Advisory Board are asking for your assistance. They are conducting a community parks survey in preparation for the 2021 update of the Baker City Parks Master Plan. They would like to know what you think of our parks and pathways, as well as any improvements you would like to see. Please take a minute to complete the survey by using the web link or scanning the QR code . Thank you for helping to plan for the future of our parks!



<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/CQ2KNDC>



**WATER QUALITY REPORT & CONSERVATION TIPS – 2019 Annual Edition**

**WHAT IS IN OUR WATER?**

Contaminants that may be found in the water include inorganic compounds. These are naturally occurring contaminants (salts and metals) as a result of storm runoff, mining, and farming. In order to insure the water is safe to drink, the EPA prescribes regulation which limit the amount of certain contaminants.

**LEAD AND COPPER SAMPLE RESULTS FOR 2020**

SUBSTANCE	ANALYSIS	ACTION LEVEL	NUMBER OF SAMPLES EXCEEDING ACTION LEVEL	CONTAMINATE SOURCE
Copper	0.3200 Mg/L @ the 90 <sup>th</sup> Percentile Value	1.3 Mg/L	0	Corrosion of household plumbing.
Lead	0.0150 Mg/L @ the 90 <sup>th</sup> Percentile Value	15 Mg/L	0	Corrosion of household plumbing.

Note: 20 lead and copper samples are collected every 3 years from selected homes throughout the City. Samples were collected in August 2020. Next sample date is July 2023.

**2020 SAMPLE ANALYSIS RESULTS**

SUBSTANCE	ANALYSIS	MCL	MCLG	NUMBER OF SAMPLES	CONTAMINATE SOURCE
Fecal Coliform Bacteria	All but three samples had 20 or fewer bacterial colonies per 100	20	0	3	Naturally present in the environment
Total Coliform Bacteria	ND	Fewer than 40 samples/month= 1	0	0	Naturally present in the environment
Nitrate	<0.30	10 PPM	10 PPM	0	Fertilizer runoff, septic tank leaching, sewage leakage, erosion of natural deposits
Nitrite	<0.40	1 PPM	1 PPM	0	Fertilizer use runoff, septic tank leaching, sewage leakage, erosion of natural deposits
<b>Disinfection Residuals</b>					
Trihalomethanes (TTHM)	0.0253 PPM Avg.	0.080 PPM	NA	0	Byproduct of drinking water disinfection
Halocacetic Acids (HAA)	0.0323 PPM Avg.	0.060 PPM	NA	0	Byproduct of drinking water disinfection

**Definitions:**

PPM= Parts Per Million  
Mg/L= Milligrams/Liter

<sup>1</sup> MCL= Maximum Contaminant Level  
(the highest level of contaminant allowed in drinking water)

<sup>2</sup> MCLG= Maximum Contaminant Level Goal  
(the level of contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected health risk)

Treatment Technique = A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.

Action Level = The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.

Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal (MRDLG) = The level of a drinking water disinfectant below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MRDLGs do not reflect the benefits of the use of Disinfectants to control microbial contaminant.

Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level (MRDL) = The highest level of disinfectant allowed in drinking water. There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial contaminants.

- ◆ There were **29** synthetic organic chemicals tested for and not detected.
- ◆ There were **21** volatile organic chemicals tested for and not detected.
- ◆ The 2020 hardness value for treated water was **63 Mg/L**.
- ◆ The 2020 fluoride value for treated water was **<0.40 PPM**



◆ **Lead** — If present, elevated levels of lead can cause serious health problems, especially for pregnant women and young children. Lead in drinking water is primarily from materials and components associated with service lines and home plumbing. The City of Baker City is responsible for providing high quality drinking water, but cannot control the variety of materials used in plumbing components. When your water has been sitting for several hours, you can minimize the potential for lead exposure by flushing your tap for 30 seconds to 2 minutes before using water for drinking or cooking. If you are concerned about lead in your water, you may wish to have your water tested. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline, 1-800-426-4791 or at [www.epa.gov/safewater/lead](http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead).

- ◆ "Drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate that water poses a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791)."
- ◆ "Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immune-compromised persons such as persons with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, persons who have undergone organ transplants, people with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders, some elderly, and infants can be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. EPA/CDC guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by Cryptosporidium and other microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791)."
- ◆ **Cryptosporidium:** In January 2006, the federal EPA implemented the Long Term 2 Enhanced Surface Water Treatment Rule known as LT2. This rule required the City to perform 12 months of sampling and testing, resulting in the detection of the cryptosporidium oocyst in Baker City's surface water collection source (Watershed) in 2012. The Cryptosporidium parasite can be found in the feces of most animals. This parasite can cause gastrointestinal health issues if ingested by a healthy person, and for people with a poor immune system can cause more serious illness. Detection of the oocyst triggered the ultraviolet light treatment technique that renders the oocyst sterile and harmless to ingest.
- ◆ In 2014, the City constructed a UV Treatment Facility (UVTF) in order to comply with the EPA's Long Term 2 Enhanced Surface Water Treatment Rule (LT2). The UVTF contains (3) Wedeco LBX-1000 UV reactors which are validated for 3-log removal of *cryptosporidium* and *giardia*. The facility has a maximum treatment capacity of 12 MGD. The UVTF was granted final approval by the Oregon Health Authority on November 26, 2014 and was placed into full operation on December 1, 2014.



# 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.





**North Baker Transportation Improvement Plan**

# Wanted: Your thoughts about 10<sup>th</sup> Street

Visit [www.bakercity.com](http://www.bakercity.com)

We need your thoughts about how upgrades to 10<sup>th</sup> Street can best serve the businesses & our community. Idea diagrams are available on [www.bakercity.com](http://www.bakercity.com), and we'd appreciate your thoughts on points you do or don't like, and feedback about whether you'd like:

- Improvements to any intersections
- Sidewalks all along 10<sup>th</sup>
- A multi-use path for pedestrians and bikes
- Bike lanes
- Safer pedestrian crossings
- Parking along the street
- Aesthetic improvements like lighting or vegetation
- Other?

All design ideas can be modified to meet our community's needs, and we need to know what is important to you! Comment on the website or by emailing [mowen@bakercity.com](mailto:mowen@bakercity.com)

Questions? Call Michelle Owen at 541-524-2031 or Holly Kerns at 541-523-8219