

CITY OF BAKER CITY

On the Historic Oregon Trail.
Established 1864, Incorporated 1874

Weekly Update June 18, 2021

Administration

It is hard to believe we are more than halfway through 2021. I imagine the rest of the year will fly by as we continue to move past COVID. People are reuniting and rebuilding friendships and connections strained by separation. I hear the excitement in the air as festivals, events, and gatherings seem to be increasing in numbers and attendance. Some things will never be the same. In some ways that is good, a little more care about spreading germs and washing hands is not bad. In some ways it is bad, as we have lost connections, empathy, and patience. As we move forward maybe a little extra kindness, a door held open, a warm smile, and a bit of patience in public will do wonders to keep Baker Valley as a unique and friendly place to live.

One change that happened during COVID is Baker City did not charge late fees for water and sewer throughout most of the COVID 19 Pandemic. The city will resume charging late fees for delinquent bills beginning August 1. Please take this opportunity to bring your account current to ensure you do not receive a late fee. If you are struggling and need assistance, the finance department can direct you to organizations which may assist you with your bills.

Thank you to Kevin Berryman and Robin Nudd for picking up the load of the weekly update each week. Good people working hard, make things happen.

City Council Agenda

July 13 @ 7 pm

- Golf Board Appointment
- City Manager Bond
- Budget Item Discussion
- Elkhorn Industrial Park Discussion
- Non-Represented Salary Schedule

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Trouble Paying your Water and Wastewater bills?

Our Community has resources to help:

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



Finance Department

UTILITIES

- Seven customers signed up for new water/wastewater service and seven customers disconnected service from July 1th thru July 7th. This includes all service changes.
- Zone 1 was billed July 2nd and included 94 residential and 260 commercial accounts. Of those accounts 72 (20%) are signed up for direct payment and 23 (6%) are signed up for ebilling.
- Zone 5 was billed July 6th and included 470 residential and 17 commercial accounts. Of those accounts 140 (29%) are signed up for direct payment and 33 (7%) are signed up for ebilling.

Twenty-five residential customers (Zone 1, 3 and 4) were scheduled to have their water turned off for non-pay (over 60 days past due) 5 were actually turned off, 3 have paid and their services have been reinstated, and 2 still has not contacted the City.

Planning Department

PLANNING COMMISSION PUBLIC HEARING

- At the June 16th public hearing, the Planning Commission made recommendations to City Council to approve revisions to the Baker City Development Code and Comprehensive Plan, including adopting a new Housing Needs Analysis. The Planning Commission and City Council will hold a joint work session on **July 20th, 2021**, to discuss these recommendations, prior to the City Council's first public hearing on the matter, which will be held on July 27th, 2021. 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.
- The regularly scheduled Planning Commission meeting for July 21st has been cancelled.

APPLICATIONS

- Two accessory buildings were approved at 3210 K Street for use as feral cat colony shelter. The property is located in the General Commercial (CG) Zone.
- Four storage buildings were approved at 3490 10th Street accessory to the existing single-family dwelling. The property is located in the General Commercial (CG) Zone.
- A Temporary Use Permit was approved for property at 3490 10th Street in the General Commercial (CG) Zone. The permit approves 27 temporary structures to be used for sheltering personal items left over from a business until items can be sold/moved or given away.

Mayor: Kerry McQuisten mayor@bakercity.com

Acting Mayor: Lynette Perry lperry@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

www.bakercity.com

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

- ⇒ **HDDRC: 1 positions**
- ⇒ **Golf Board: 2 positions**
- ⇒ **Planning Commission: 1 position**

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>



Fire Department

During the week of June 29th through July 5th the Fire Department responded to a total of **36** emergency alarms. re-

AMBULANCE OPERATIONS

City Calls	Rural Calls	Patient Transported	No Patient Trip
27	5	22	10

Airport Transfer	2
Out of Town Transfers Accepted	1
Out of Town Transfers Rejected	1
MVA's	2
Doubles (2 simultaneous responses)	7
Triples (3 simultaneous responses)	0
Public Assist	1

FIRE REPORTS

General Fire Alarms	2
2	2
TOTAL FIRE RESPONSES	4

EMERGENCY CALL BACKS

Request for Cover	13
Arrived for Cover	3

TRAINING/MAINTENANCE/FIRE PREVENTION

INSPECTIONS/COMMUNITY EVENTS

- **20 hrs of Station & Equipment Maintenance**
- **8 hrs of Fire Training**
- **11 hrs of EMS Training**

Weed Complaint & Abatement

Weed complaints or yard maintenance concerns should be reported to the Fire Department at

541-523-3711 ext. 508 or emailed to scinkenbeard@bakercity.com



Burn Ban

There is currently a city-wide burn ban in effect.





Building Department

	Permits Issued City	Inspections City	Permits Issued County	Inspections County
Building	0	5	5	7
Manufactured Dwelling	0	0	1	1
Electrical	3	3	1	8
Mechanical	4	1	3	1
Plumbing	1	4	2	1
Fence	0	NA	N/A	N/A
TOTAL	8	13	21	18

COMMERCIAL PERMITS:

- None

RESIDENTIAL PERMITS:

- 45868 Gover Road, Halfway – Addition of multiple decks to home
- 13755 Red Fox Lane, Baker City – New residence
- 44364 FS Road, County – Storage building
- 14028 Pine Creek, Baker City – Detached Accessory Structure
- 39966 Bear Gulch Road, Sumpter – Additions to Accessory Structure

HISTORIC DESIGN REVIEW:

Next regularly scheduled meeting is July 20, 2021, at 8:00am in the Building Department Offices, if needed.

Public Works: Wastewater Department



Public Works Crew responded to a resident on Clark Street who has been having sewer lateral blockage problems.

The main line was inspected and found to be working properly. An estimate for the repair of the lateral within the street was prepared and will be delivered this week.



Public Works: Water Department



The water level of Goodrich Reservoir was checked today.

The surrounding winter snows have nearly completely melted. The reservoir will not reach capacity this year.

Two water services were relocated recently for residences in the 2700 Block First Street.

The existing water line was found with some effort and a new water meter and meter vault were installed.



A new water service was installed, for a historic building, Thursday in the 1900 block of First Street.

The site was excavated, the water service line connected to the 6" Ductile Iron main line, the water meter and meter box was set to grade. Next, the trench was backfilled, compacted and patched.



The street was opened after the work was completed Thursday.

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>





Public Works

Public Works assisted in an O.T.E.C. underground powerline repair Wednesday near the intersection of "H" and Kirkway.



All the power was lost in the Baker Valley for a time.

Traffic was observed to be moving along at a safe speed while treating each non-working lighted intersection as if it were a 4-way stop.



Public Works: Washington Street Project

The Public Works Washington Avenue thin overlay project was completed this week. Final adjustments on water valves we made. Stormwater trenches were patched on Thursday.



Public Works: Street Department



The sinkhole that showed up on Madison Street near the Leo Adler Pathway was excavated, backfilled, compacted and the surface patched with hot asphalt this week. Cause for the underlying settlement was undetermined.

Two bumps had developed in the driving lane of Baker Street recently.

Although it appears as if a dead chicken was found under the asphalt - it is actually a tree root which was able to grow and heave the asphalt surface. The location was repaired and patched Thursday.





Contact: Michelle Owen
Director of Public Works &
City of Baker City
Phone 541-524-2031
Fax 541-524-2049

1655 First Street
PO Box 650
Baker City, OR 97814

City of Baker City



Press Release

Water Conservation is the key!

The City of Baker City is experiencing very high water usage during this hot weather. The Public Works Department is reporting that peak hour demand rates now exceed 8MGD. A typical summer water use day is approximately 4.5MGD. Water conservation will be the key to allow water supply to meet the public's water demand.

The City is implementing Stage 1 of its Water Curtailment Plan effective Monday, June 28, 2021.

This plan has four stages including Stage 1-Alert Status, Stage 2- Warning Status, Stage 3-Critical Status and Stage 4-Emergency Status.

The Alert Status requests voluntary conservation from industrial, commercial and residential customers. In addition, Public Works has specifically requested that Parks, Cemetery and the Golf Course reduce their usage to 70% of normal for irrigation.

Here are some great water conservation tips.

- *Water your lawn in the evening rather than the heat of the day when evaporation is at its greatest.
- *Water your lawn every other day, not daily.
- *Run only full loads in the washer and dishwasher
- *Turn off running water while brushing your teeth
- *Install low flow shower heads and toilets
- *Fix any water leaks

For Release after 6/24/2021



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 10th Street

Visit www.bakercity.com

We need your thoughts about how upgrades to 10th Street can best serve the businesses & our community. Idea diagrams are available on 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 10th
- 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

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