



# The WEEKLY

January 14, 2022

The latest news, views, and announcements of Baker City.

## INSIDE

### Boards and Commissions

Several openings on boards and commissions with the City.

### Jobs!

Fire Department is still hiring!

### Snow Removal Tips

Accumulation of snow, frozen pipes, and general information.

## UPCOMING MEETINGS

January 25th – 6:00pm  
City Council Meeting  
Work Session

January 25th – 7:00pm  
City Council Meeting  
Regular Session

February 8th – 7:00pm  
City Council Meeting  
Regular Session



## City Manager's Message

Jonathan Cannon

City Council met this week with a short and light agenda. Even with a short and light agenda the evening was highlighted by the swearing in and badge pinning of firefighter Foss. Firefighters from the department showed their support for firefighter Foss by attending the badge pinning. We welcome him to the department.

The state of Oregon recently passed laws which require municipalities to provide internet and streaming access to certain public meetings. We currently have this ability, but as many know it has some limitations. We are working hard to comply with state law and improve our offerings in this regard. You will notice if attending our meetings, new TV monitors hanging on the wall where information is presented during the meeting. We are also working with our website provider to improve meeting documents and video access to our meetings. Next year we anticipated improving the video quality as well. It will take several months for citizens watching online to begin seeing the differences, but the changes are coming.

I have mentioned another important change which is the city's financial software. That change is officially underway. It will take close to a year to make the transition. The finance department is working diligently with the transition team. Minimizing disruptions to our citizens interactions with finance is a key priority for us. We will make every effort to minimize disruptions and incidents where finance is unavailable to provide service. Thank you for your understanding as we improve the city finances.

City Hall will be closed Monday in observance of Martin Luther King Day. Have a great weekend.



**“If you can’t fly, run; if you can’t run, walk; if you can’t walk, crawl; but by all means keep moving.” – Martin Luther King Jr.**

Dallas Brockett

We continue to work on several projects throughout the City. City Council Chambers Updates, Server Project, and the annual report is around the corner. Even with all the projects, just like the quote says above, no matter what, we must keep moving forward.

We are starting to work with our website redesign team to make our website better for our citizens. We are also working on making our live streaming of council meetings more robust and dependable.

Hope everyone has a great weekend!

Dallas Brockett, City Recorder



## We are hiring!

Human Resources

We still have various jobs available at the city! Feel free to go to our website [ [www.bakercity.com](http://www.bakercity.com) ] for more information on the following job opportunities.

### Firefighter/EMT

The City of Baker City is accepting applications for the position of Firefighter/EMT in the Fire Department. For a complete announcement, position description and application, please click on the links below or contact Stacy Spriet in Human Resources. Salary range is \$4,532-\$5,098 per month plus excellent benefits.

*The City of Baker City provides employment opportunity to all qualified employees and applicants, without unlawful regard to race, color, religion, gender, sexual orientation, national origin, age, disability, genetic information, veteran's status, or any other status protected by applicable federal, Oregon, or local law. Our EEO policy applies to all aspects of the employment relationship—including, but not limited to, recruitment, hiring, compensation, promotion, demotion, transfer, disciplinary action, layoff, recall, and termination of employment.*

## Finance/Utilities

### Here is a list of stats for utilities from 01/06/22 to 01/12/22:

- Ten customers signed up for new water/wastewater service and twelve customer disconnected service from January 6th thru January 12th. This includes all service changes.
- Zone 1 was billed January 7th and included 97 residential and 256 commercial accounts. Of those accounts, 75 (21%) are signed up for direct payment and 26 (7%) are signed up for ebilling.
- Zone 6 was billed January 10th and included 485 residential and 61 commercial accounts. Of those accounts, 132 (24%) are signed up for direct payment and 47 (9%) are signed up for ebilling.
- 12 residential customers (Zones 1 and 5) were scheduled to have their water turned off for non-pay (over 60 days past due) all 12 customers paid their bills, and no services were turned off.



## DOXO Update

### 01/06/22 to 01/012/2022:

- As of 1/5/22 there were 629 customers who had signed up to use DOXO to pay their utility bills, as of 1/12/22, there were 640 total customers signed up.
- From 1/6-1/12, a total of 70 payments, in the amount of \$6,378.76, were made.

### To pay your utility bill online:

1. Visit [www.bakercity.com](http://www.bakercity.com)
2. Locate the “Pay Your Bill” icon on the homepage
3. Small fee for credit cards/debit cards – No fee for checking accounts!

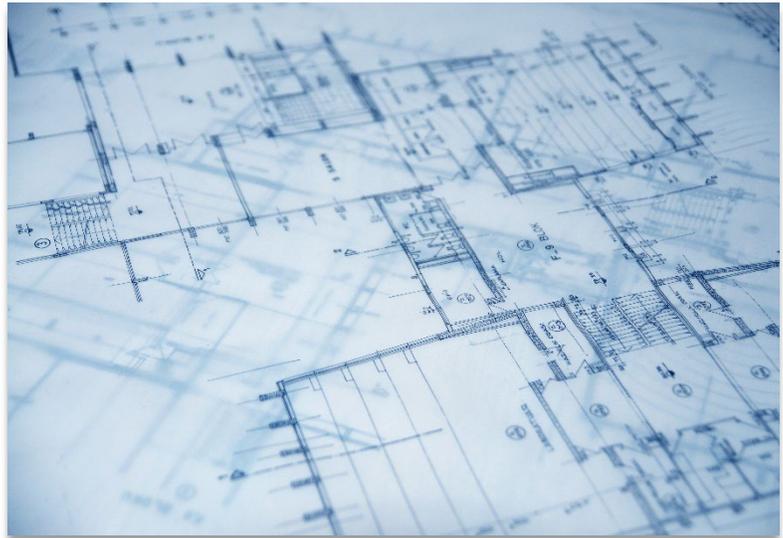
## Planning Department

### PUBLIC HEARINGS

The regularly scheduled Planning Commission hearing for January 19, 2022, was cancelled.

The Planning Commission and City Council will hold a joint work session on January 25, 2022, at 6:00 p.m., to discuss the Northern Baker Transportation Improvement Plan (NBTIP) and associated updates to both the Baker City Development Code and Comprehensive Plan. This meeting will be held in the City Council Chambers at Baker City Hall, 1665 1st Street, Baker City.

For more information, please visit:  
<http://bakercity.com/2289/NBTIP> .



### APPLICATIONS

- A Notice of Decision was sent to neighboring property owners, regarding a proposed minor partition at 2039 Clark Street, located in the Residential-High Density (R-HD) Zone.

### Now Hiring!

We're hiring a Planner! If you have an interest in shaping the community, enjoy working in a dynamic environment and have a passion for helping people, check out our job announcement at

<http://www.l.bakercounty.org/JobPostings.nsf/xView.w.xsp>.

Police Department



### K9 Drug Prevention Fundraiser

There is still time to purchase raffle tickets for the Baker City Police Department K9 Drug Prevention Fundraiser, but they are going fast!

Purchase a ticket in support of the BCPD K9 program and drug prevention efforts in our community, for a chance to win.

Grand Prize, a 2021 Can-Am Maverick XDS RR Turbo!

Second place prize is a Tikka 300 Win. Mag hunting rifle, donated by Patton Excavation, complete with a Vortex Viper® 6.5-20x50 Rifle Scope donated by D&B Supply.

Third place prize is a Traeger Pro 780 donated by Lew Bros Les Schwab.

Only 500 tickets will be sold, \$100.00 per ticket, and can be purchased at the Baker City Police Department, Cliff's Saws and Cycles and Carole's Mad Dog Restaurant and Saloon in Sumpter, Oregon. Must be 18 or older to purchase ticket. The drawing will be held February 13, 2023.

Fire Department



**MAINTENANCE/TRAINING/ FIRE PREVENTION – INSPECTIONS/ COMMUNITY EVENTS**

32.0 Hrs.	Station and vehicle maintenance
32.0 Hrs.	Fire training
8.0 Hrs.	EMS training
0 Hrs.	Safety training
4 Hrs.	Fire Prevention/Inspections
0 Hrs.	Community Events

01/04/2021-01/10/2022

**EMERGENCY RESPONSES**

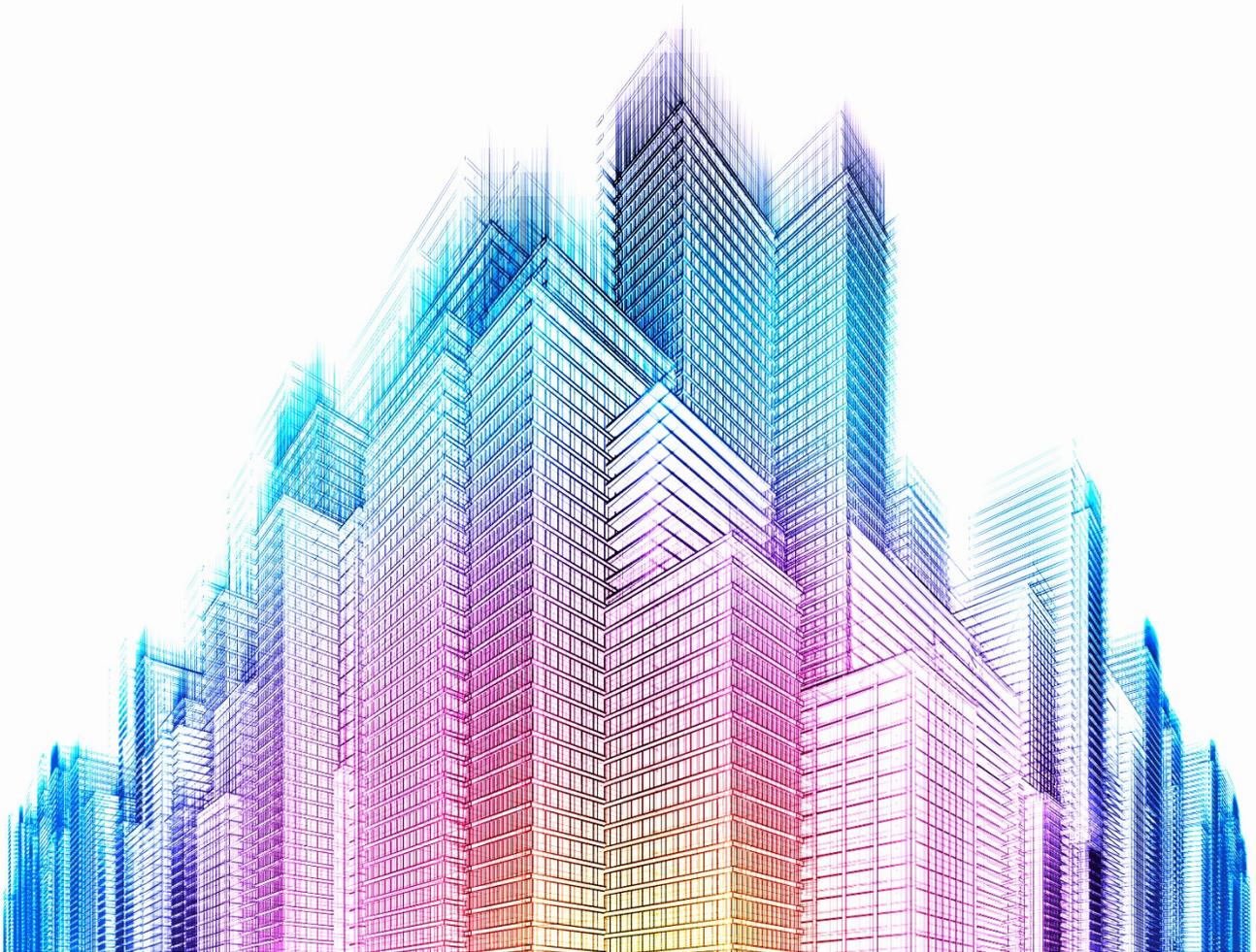
The Baker City Fire Department responded to a total of 41 emergency alarms detailed as follows:

<b>FIRE REPORTS</b>	07
General alarms	0
Dispatched alarms	07
<b>EMERGENCY MEDICAL</b>	33
In-City Responses	26
Out of City Responses	07
Transports	23
No Transports	08
Airport Transfers	01
Out of town transfers accepted	01
Out of town Transfers rejected	03
MVA's	00
Doubles (2 simultaneous)	01
Triples (3 simultaneous)	00
Quads (4 simultaneous)	00
MCI's	00
Public assist	00
<b>Emergency Call Back</b>	
Requests for cover	11
# of staff requested	16
Staff response for cover	04
No staff response for cover	08

**Building Department**

The Building Department has wrapped up the 2021 year. We are happy to report that the Department provided services to a record number of contractors and citizens this past year, with a 6-14% increase in permit issuance over the past three years. We look forward to another great year of service to our community.

- Baker City Building Department



Public Works:

**Weekly Update for 1/07/22 – Apologies for missing last week’s public works update!**

**Wastewater Dept.:**

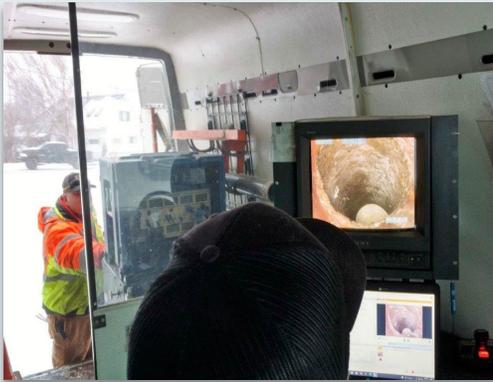
**Public Works crew replaced a 7-foot-long section of sewer lateral for a resident on Cedar Street.**

**An offset joint connection was eliminated which solved past blockage problems.**



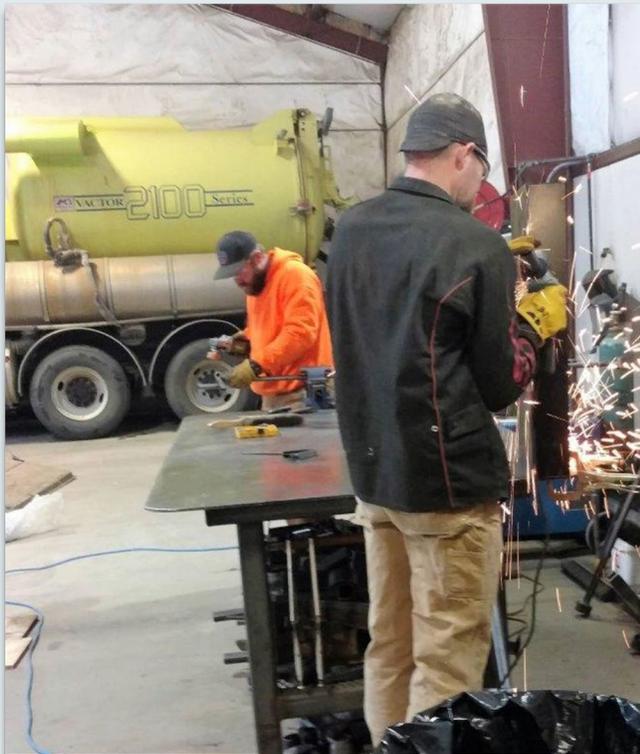
Public Works:

Wastewater Dept. Continued



A second problem that was reported was for a residence on Dewey. Upon inspection it was observed that someone had repaired the line years earlier by slipping a piece of White Plastic inside the old Concrete line as shown on the screen.

Before the heavy snows began to fall last week, several fabricating projects were completed.



## Public Works

**Snow dominated Public Works activities this week as cold temperatures gave way to warmer moist conditions. A nine-man Public Works crew began plowing downtown streets and hauling off snow berms beginning Monday night at midnight.**

Plowing snow is expected to continue through the rest of the week and possibly into the weekend. Additional manpower was utilized to plow the Leo Adler Pathway and salt and sand major intersections in town.

It appears as if two brand new School signs on Washington Avenue near Brooklyn School were purposely hit by a vehicle and broken off. Tire tracks led right up to the signs without any sign of sliding or trying to stop.



If anyone sees this type of activity, please contact the Baker City Police Dept. @ 541-523-3644 or dial 911. Both signs were repaired and reinstalled.



Public Works



A total of 178 pieces of the large diameter PVC pipe will be delivered this week for use on this summer's Mountain line pipe replacement project. The pipe is being temporarily stored on the Orchard Wood Products Property –

**Thank you to the Haberle owned business for the use of their property for the storage.**

Freezing winter conditions can cause several water related problems. Water lines can freeze in several locations, underground, inside water meter boxes, under houses, inside heated and unheated buildings, etc. A water line broke inside a building on Auburn Street this week.



A water valve on Auburn had to be located and turned off to stop the flow of water. Sometimes there are obstructions that won't easily allow access to water meters.

## Public Works



In this case a resident had parked the shell of a travel trailer directly over a water meter. The trailer acted as a roof over the meter location, not allowing any snow (which acts as an insulator) to fall onto the meter top. Freezing temperatures penetrated deep enough into the ground causing the meter to freeze and break. It is difficult to turn off the water service line in a meter box when the box is full of water and water continues to run into the box from the broken meter. You can't see the valve and must feel the shutoff valve with your fingers and then place the valve key in its proper location so the line can be turned off.

Public Works

# Helpful Reminders During the Wintertime

Please remember to clear your sidewalks of snow

Don't shovel or plow snow into the street

With wintertime comes colder temperatures which can lead to frozen pipes and pipe bursts!

To help prevent frozen pipes/pipe bursts:

- Consider letting your faucet drip when temperatures are below 0°.
- If pipe is frozen be careful not to heat it up too fast, this can cause the pipe to burst.

## What to do if your water is frozen:

### During Business Hours

Public Works Department

541-524-2047

(Monday-Friday 8-5)

Public Works can assist by checking the meter to make sure it's not frozen and we can shut off water at the meter to prevent further water damage if there is a frozen pipe.

### After Hours

Baker Dispatch

541-523-3644

## Public Works

**Week of 01/07/22 to 01/14/22 Public Works Weekly Update****Street (Snow and Ice control):**

City Crews continued to Plow City Streets and pick-up snow berms. Last week, a 4-man crew plowed downtown streets midnight to 8 a.m. Monday Night (Tuesday morning) and Wednesday Night (Thursday morning), a 5-man crew worked picking up snow berms from midnight to 8 a.m. Monday night, Tuesday Night, Wednesday Night, Thursday Night and Friday Night.



Day crews plowed priority 2 and 3 streets and streets in Zones "E" and "A"



Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday, other Public Works personnel salted and sanded intersections and city streets and plowed the Leo Adler Pathway so pedestrians could have a relatively clear path on which to walk.

## Public Works

The entire Leo Adler Baseball Field Parking lot is full of piled snow and the hauling crew had to move onto the adjacent field to the west. Temperatures turned colder over the weekend, and it was decided that plowing additional residential streets would result in diminishing returns for the public.



Seven loads of 24" P.V.C. arrived last week and needed to be unloaded. A clear path had to be plowed for the truck and City Loader to be able to successfully unload the pipe.



A full semi-truck load of salt arrived this week.

Salt is mixed with gravel and then spread onto city streets to improve safety for the traveling public.

Public Works

**Wastewater:**

A local drain cleaner contacted Public works about a possible plugged sewer main line.



Upon cleaning the line, a small 3-foot-long obstruction was dislodged from the line and normal flow resumed.

Maintenance of the hose spool was done this week. The double chain drive for the spool had broken and was repaired once the parts arrived.



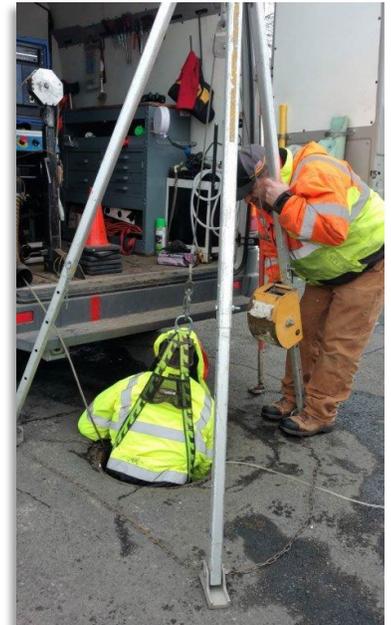
## Public Works

A business on Dewey Avenue has been experiencing sewer problems recently.



Fortunately, when Public Works installed a new Sewer main line in Dewey Ave. (O.D.O.T. Hwy. 7) in 2002, we installed additional sewer laterals at strategic locations so that the highway wouldn't have to be excavated if a lateral were to fail. This particular sewer lateral installed in 2002 worked out perfectly for the building whose lateral had become unusable.

On very rare occasions the wastewater camera becomes stuck inside a sewer main line. This happened this week in 6th Street. Fortunately, the camera was only 6 feet up the line from the manhole. The manhole was entered, and the camera dislodged and successfully retrieved.



Public Works

With the Christmas season ending - the tree, garland and wreaths were removed earlier this week.



4 1/2 Cubic Yards of concrete was delivered to the city warehouse Thursday to be used to make concrete wheel stops, eco-blocks and a 4' x 5' steel reinforced vault to be used on a sewer maintenance project.

## Have a great weekend!

### Boards and Commissions

#### We have vacancies!

As we begin the new year, there are several open spots on boards and commissions. You must be appointed to be on a board or commission with Baker City. To apply for any of the following boards and commissions, visit our website:

<https://www.bakercity.com/FormCenter/Boards-Commissions-2/Volunteer-Form-33>

Here are the following open positions:

- Budget Board (4 available)
- Historic District Design Review Commission (2 available)
- Public Works Advisory Committee (2 available)
- Tree Board (1 available)
- Public Arts Commission
- Planning Commission (1 available)



### Elected Officials

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

Acting Mayor: Joanna Dixon [jdixon@bakercity.gov](mailto:jdixon@bakercity.gov)

#### Councilors:

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

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

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

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

Dean Guyer: [dguyer@bakercity.gov](mailto:dguyer@bakercity.gov)