



The WEEKLY

April 22nd, 2022

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

INSIDE

Website Redesign Photo Contest

The City is looking for photos for the new website!

Jobs!

The City is hiring for Code Enforcement Officer

UPCOMING MEETINGS

April 26th – 7:00pm
City Council Meeting
Regular Session



Pictured above: Historic photo 1950

City Manager's Update

Water and sewer are common discussion topics for staff in the city. As we meet and discuss the operations of the city, our water supply or conservation of water supply is at the forefront. I would expect, as occurred last summer, conservation measures to take effect sometime this summer. I am appreciative of the moisture that flowed over the last couple of weeks. Every drop helps not only the farmers and ranchers but the city as well. Public works will notify users this summer of conservation measures as may be required.

In related news, public works will be flushing fire hydrants to make sure they are operating appropriately. The fire department will perform fire hydrant training exercises in conjunction with the fire hydrant flushing.

Council meets on Tuesday with a robust agenda. As always, the public is welcome to attend and sign up to speak in City Council meetings. On Wednesday, April 20, 2022, City Council met with the County Board of Commissioners to discuss ambulance services. The County is working diligently on a Request for Proposals to ensure ambulance services continue forward.

Budget Board will meet beginning May 2 in City Hall. Budget Board meetings are open to the public. The proposed budget is available on the Baker City website. Thank you to all staff who diligently worked to prepare the proposed budget.

Jonathan Cannon – City Manager

We are Hiring!

Human Resources

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



Code Enforcement Officer – Open until filled.

The City of Baker City is accepting application for the position of Code Enforcement Officer in the Police Department. For a complete announcement, position description, and application, please click the link above or contact Stacy Spriet in Human Resources. The salary range is \$3,067-\$3,449 per month plus excellent benefits.

[JOB DESCRIPTION](#)

[APPLICATION](#)

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.

Utility Worker II

The City of Baker City is accepting application for the position of Utility Worker II in the Public Works Department. For a complete position description and application, please click the links below or contact Stacy Spriet in Human Resources. The salary range is \$3,601-\$4,212 per month plus excellent benefits.

[JOB DESCRIPTION](#)

[APPLICATION](#)

Planning Department

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://www1.bakercounty.org/JobPostings.nsf/xView.xsp>.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

The Planning Commission held a public hearing on April 20, 2022, in Council Chambers at Baker City Hall, and approved the following applications:

- SUB-22-013: A six-lot subdivision request by Eagle Eye Ventures in the Residential-Low Density (R-LD) Zone between Colorado Avenue and Foothill Drive.
- CUP-22-026: A conditional use permit to replace an existing sign with an electronic reader board at the Baker Elks Lodge at 1896 2nd Street in the Central-Commercial (C-C) Zone.
- CUP-22-029: A conditional use permit to build a 1,728 square foot accessory building at 306 2nd Street in the Residential- Low Density (R-LD) Zone.

Based on the Planning Commission's findings and decisions, staff is now preparing the final decision documents for each of these applications. Once completed, notice of an opportunity to appeal will be mailed to anyone who participated in the hearing. If no appeals are filed, the decisions will become final.

Applications

- A modification was approved for an existing subdivision approval (Park Springs Subdivision), allowing the property owner to break the subdivision into phases. This subdivision with townhomes were approved by the Planning Commission on July 25, 2018. The first phase will be to construct a total of four townhomes access from Baker Street. The second phase will include constructing a new street and utilities to serve the remainder of the subdivision, and the construction of eight townhomes. The third phase will include constructing eight townhomes, and the fourth and final phase will include constructing eight townhomes. The property is located in Residential-Medium Density (R-MD) Zone near 615 Baker Street across from the Sam-O Swim Center.
- A land use review was approved for converting a garage to an accessory dwelling in the Residential-High Density (R-HD) Zone at 1102 Elm Street.
- A land use review was approved for an accessory structure (gazebo) in the Residential-High Density (R-HD) Zone at 1535 2nd Street.
- A land use review was approved for an accessory structure (new trailer cover) in the Residential-Medium Density (R-MD) Zone at 3720 Auburn Avenue.
- A partition of the one property into two was approved at 785 Idlewood Drive in the Residential-Low Density (R-LD) Zone. Notice of the decision and an opportunity to appeal was mailed to neighbors within 100' of the project area. If no appeals are filed, the decision will become final on May 2, 2022.
- The Planning Department is reviewing an application to divide one property into two at 2275 Virginia Avenue in the Residential High-Density Zone. Notice of the application and opportunity to comment was mailed to neighbors within 100' of the project. All public comments will be accepted until May 6, 2022 at 5 PM.

Building Department

Notice of Fee Increase Effective 7/1/2022. If you have questions or concerns about this fee increase, please join the conversation at the virtual meeting on May 4, 5:00 p.m.

Short link to meeting: <https://rebrand.ly/sglc5b2>



Police Department



This past week, BCPD opened 24 new cases and responded to 179 calls, making several arrests for outstanding warrants and detainers. The following press release was issued in response to an incident involving an alleged violation of a restraining order:

On April 16, 2022, at 0855 hours in the 2900 block of 7th Street; Baker City Police were called to a report of a Restraining Order Violation. Rudy Saarheim was reported to have violated the order by being within 150 feet of a protected address. As police were responding, Rudy returned to this protected address that he is restrained from being at. Officers arrived at 0900 hours, finding Rudy sitting in a GMC less than 150 away from the protected address and told him he was under arrest. Rudy refused to get out of his vehicle, instead driving away from an officer who was holding on to Rudy's open door that the officer had opened while trying to effect the arrest.

Rudy was followed by Baker City Police and Baker County Sheriff Deputies where he refused to pull over and a police pursuit was initiated. Officers pursued Rudy through the city at low speeds, less than the posted speed limit, until he reached 10th Street. Rudy continued onto 10th Street and increased his speed to unsafe speeds after he left the city limits. Baker City Police terminated the pursuit due to the hazardous road conditions (wet and slushy roads) and the speeds Rudy was traveling at.

At about 1041 hours on this same day, Rudy returned to this same protected address and Baker City Police again responded. Rudy was out of his vehicle when officers responded, and he again did not comply with commands. Rudy was taken to the ground by Baker City Police, and he was taken into custody. No injuries were reported from the arrest.

Rudy Saarheim was arrested in the 2900 block of 7th Street and was charged with Restraining Order Violation x 2; Attempt to Elude; Reckless Driving and Escape III.

We're hiring!

Do you have an interest in serving our community? As a Code Enforcement Officer, you would have an important role in improving the livability for the people of our community. Code Enforcement Officers perform a variety of work in the interpretation and enforcement of codes and ordinances relating to property maintenance, animal, and parking ordinances; traffic regulation, related law enforcement activities to prevent crime, protect life and property. More information regarding this position is available at the City's employment page: <http://bakercity.com/2241/Human-ResourcesEmployment-Opportunities>.

Fire Department



MAINTENANCE/TRAINING/ FIRE PREVENTION – INSPECTIONS/ COMMUNITY EVENTS

31.0 Hrs.	Station and vehicle maintenance
32 Hrs.	Fire training
03Hrs.	EMS training
00 Hrs.	Safety training
00	Fire Prevention/Inspections
00	Community Events
10	Residential Burn Permits

04/12/2022-04/18/2022

EMERGENCY RESPONSES

The Baker City Fire Department responded to a total of 30 emergency alarms detailed as follows:

FIRE REPORTS	01
General alarms	00
Dispatched alarms	01
EMERGENCY MEDICAL	37
In-City Responses	31
Out of City Responses	13
Transports	06
No Transports	14
Airport Transfers	00
Out of town transfers accepted	00
Out of town Transfers rejected	00
MVA's	01
Doubles (2 simultaneous)	07
Triples (3 simultaneous)	00
Quads (4 simultaneous)	00
MCI's	00
Public assist	02
Emergency Call Back	
Requests for cover	28
# of staff requested	30
Staff response for cover	14
No staff response for cover	08

Public Works:

Public Works Department Weekly Update 4/22/22

Wastewater Department:

A failing wastewater connection was repaired on Chestnut Street near Auburn Avenue.



A gap in the connection and a deformed rubber gasket allowed roots to enter and block the flow of the lateral.



Before grout



After grout

A short section of the pipe was removed and replaced with new PVC.



Inspection of the connection from the mainline showed a secure connection.

Public Works:

Relocation of a sewer lateral was performed for a house on Cedar Street this week. The work was performed to eliminate a sewer mainline that needed to be cleaned weekly and sometimes even more often.



The new alignment intercepted the lateral near the house and redirected it into the concrete manhole.

Public Works



The 6" terra cotta line in the alley south of "A" Street was root cut and then video-inspected to determine the effectiveness of the saw.



Nearly 90% of the roots were removed. This line is scheduled to be root cut annually to prevent future sewer line blockages.

Public Works

A portion of the 8" sewer line on Tracy Street was temporarily adjusted and patched in preparation for the CIPP work planned for next week.



The remainder of the line near Tracy Street will be upsized to 8" PVC after the CIPP lining work has been completed.



The 2012 Jetter truck was used extensively this week to clean several lines in town.

Public Works

A sewer lateral connection on College Street was excavated for inspection and to measure its elevation.



The lateral from the house has been having blockage problems. It is planned to be repaired today.

Public Works

The Screen System for the Headworks at the Wastewater Treatment Plant arrived and is on-site ready for installation. It is quite long and will be situated in a deep vault.



Short brushes shown here will keep debris from building up on the inside of the screen.



Public Works

A sewer main line on 6th Street will be extended next week to serve one of the few houses in town that is still on a septic system. The street surface was jackhammered and a steel plate, which was used to mark the end of the existing 8" sewer mainline, was recovered. The work is scheduled to begin Tuesday.



Public Works

Unanticipated sewer lateral repair work was performed Thursday when a sewer lateral connection to an alley mainline between "A" and "B" Streets was damaged by an excavator. A section of the 6" sewer mainline was removed and connections were then provided to serve both the new structure and an adjacent house. It is believed that previously two houses had shared a common lateral.



New water and wastewater services were installed for a new home being built on Wabash Avenue this week.



Public Works

Two Fire Hydrants were damaged this week by vehicles. Public Works continues to celebrate a string of over 7 years without a "lost time" workplace accident as shown by this certificate presented on April 1, 2022.



Have a great weekend!



Elected Officials

Mayor: Kerry McQuisten mayor@bakercity.gov

Acting Mayor: Joanna Dixon jdixon@bakercity.gov

Shane Alderson: salderson@bakercity.gov

Jason Spriet: jspriet@bakercity.gov

Johnny Waggoner Sr.: jwaggonersr@bakercity.gov

Dean Guyer: dguyer@bakercity.gov

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