



The WEEKLY

May 27th, 2022

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

INSIDE

Ambulance Service Update

The City has a page of facts and information on the website.

Jobs!

The City is hiring for police officer



UPCOMING MEETINGS

June 14th –
6:00pm
City Council
Work Session

June 14th –
7:00pm
Regular Council
Meeting

City Manager's Update

I hope everyone can find some time to enjoy themselves this Memorial Day weekend. We live in an amazing country. I am appreciative of our veterans who serve so that we can enjoy freedom. I also appreciate all of the organizations who help serve our veterans who struggle from the effects of service.

Baker County is working hard to make sure ambulance services continue in the County. I mentioned at the Council meeting on Tuesday of this week that we should cheer them on in the process. The best thing for all of our citizens, both in the County and within municipalities like Haines, Baker City, Sumpter, Halfway, and Huntington to name a few, is for Baker County to have the support they need to bring a long-term sustainable funding solution to this decades long issue. A sustainable funding source in Baker County for ambulance services will be good for all four ambulance service areas, Baker, Huntington, Richland, and Halfway.

Thank you to those in our County offices tasked with this important job.

As we move into the month of June, City Council will hold a public hearing to receive testimony of its budget on June 14, 2022 in Council chambers. They will then adopt the upcoming budget at their meeting on June 28.

Enjoy your weekend. Jonathan Cannon – City Manager

Ambulance Service Update - Helpful Links with Information:



[Website Ambulance Page](#)

Above is a link to our website which goes to a page with Ambulance Service Information. The city will be providing data, history, and facts regarding the current ambulance service. This will be periodically updated.

Frequently Asked Questions

- ❖ **WILL THERE STILL BE AMBULANCE SERVICE?**
 - YES! Baker County is working to ensure ambulance service will continue within the Baker Ambulance Service Area
- ❖ **WILL THE FIRE DEPARTMENT STILL BE ABLE TO ENTER A BURNING BUILDING?**
 - YES! Our skilled Fire Department staff will still be able to enter a burning building to SAVE LIVES per OSHA regulations and laws, even with the proposed staff model. The proposed staff model actually offers MORE staff on duty to respond to fire calls. The City also has mutual aid agreements and great partnerships with other departments such as North Powder and Baker Rural Fire.
- ❖ **IS THE CITY HIDING MONEY?**
 - NO! The city is not hiding money just to cut ambulance. The city budget shows all available funds to be utilized to provide city services. There are no separate savings accounts or places to funnel money. The City only receives approximately \$2.9 million in property taxes for the general fund which is not enough to cover the police department, fire department, finance and administration.
- ❖ **WILL MY HOME INSURANCE RATES GO UP WITH LESS FIRE STAFF?**
 - Your home insurance rates are not anticipated to go up. Our discussions with ISO, indicate our ratings will stay the same.
- ❖ **HAS THE CITY BEEN ACTIVELY WORKING WITH THE COUNTY ON THIS ISSUE?**
 - Yes, very much so. Baker City and Baker County have met since at least 2016 regarding this issue. Since 1991, the city and county have had concerns for sustainable funding for ambulance service.
- ❖ **DOES THE CITY HAVE A CONTRACT WITH BAKER COUNTY FOR AMBULANCE?**
 - Currently, there is no contract between Baker City and Baker County regarding ambulance service. There have been several meetings and talks with the county to propose a contract, however no contract is in place at this time.
- ❖ **IS THE CITY REALLY CUTTING THE FIRE DEPARTMENT BY 50%?**
 - The city IS NOT cutting the fire department by 50%. There are 17 positions at the fire department. The city has been short staffed over the last year and not all positions have been filled. The target staffing model will include 10 positions. The new staff model is used by other Oregon cities, who have a greater call volume. Other than ambulance service, all other fire services will remain intact.
- ❖ **IS IT THE COUNTY'S RESPONSIBILITY TO PICK AN AMBULANCE PROVIDER?**
 - Yes, per Oregon State Statute, ORS 682.062, It is the county's responsibility to choose a provider for the Ambulance Service Area.
- ❖ **WHY HAS THIS NOT BEEN TALKED ABOUT BEFORE?**
 - There have been talks within the last 30+ years regarding finding a sustainable funding source for our ambulance service that dates to 1991. The documents available on our website, show the ongoing discussions of this issue.
 - News articles have also been added to our website page from 2002, 2016, 2017 and 2019.

More questions? Please send an email to cityrecorder@bakercity.gov

Human Resources – Job Opportunities

We are Hiring!



Feel free to go to our website [www.bakercity.com] for more information on the following job opportunities.

Police Officer

The City of Baker City is accepting application for the position of Patrol Officer in the Police Department. For a complete position description and application, please click the links below or contact Stacy Spriet in Human Resources. The salary range is \$4,517-\$5,090 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

Finance: Utility/Billing

Utilities 4/05/22-5/11/22

11 customers signed up for new water/wastewater service and 10 customers disconnected service from May 19th thru May 25th This includes all service changes.

Zone 3 was billed May 21st and included 502 residential and 54 commercial accounts. Of those accounts, 138 (25%) are signed up for direct payment and 37 (7%) are signed up for e-billing.

Zone 7 was billed May 24th and included 571 residential and 31 commercial accounts. Of those accounts, 183 (30%) are signed up for direct payment, and 34 (6%) are signed up for e-billing.

20 residential customers (zones 3 and 6) were scheduled to have their water turned off due to non-pay (over 60 days past due). Of those 20, 11 made payment arrangements, 3 were turned off, and 6 contacted the City and paid. Of the 3 that were turned off, all have contacted the City, paid, and services were reinstated the same day.

DOXO

- As of 5/20/22 there were 770 customers who had signed up to use DOXO to pay their utility bills.
- From 5/19-5/25, a total of 43 payments, in the amount of \$3,979.34, were made.

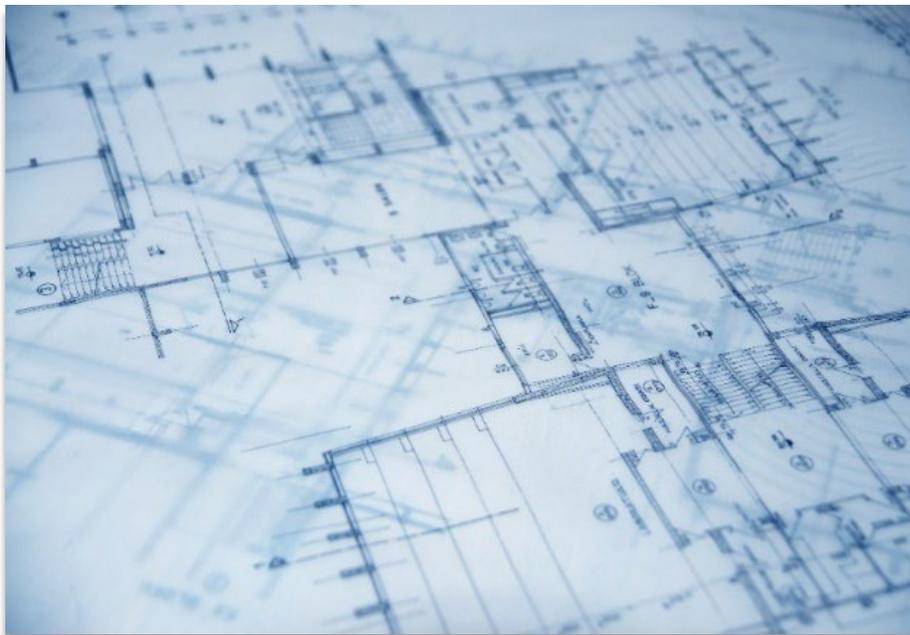
Planning Department

PUBLIC HEARINGS

The next regularly-scheduled Planning Commission hearing is Wednesday, June 15, 2022..

Applications

- A new accessory structure (storage container) was approved at 475 Washington Ave in the Residential-Medium Density (R-MD) Zone.
- A sign permit for a wall mural was approved at 1828/1830 Main St in Central Commercial (C-C) Zone.
- A new accessory structure (spa/hot tub cover) was approved at 915 17th St in Residential-Medium Density (R-MD) Zone.
- A new accessory structure (deck and cover) was approved at 1924 18th St in Residential-Medium Density (R-MD) Zone.





Police Department

BCPD Weekly Report

- During the previous week, BCPD opened 25 new cases and responded to 204 calls, making several arrests for outstanding warrants and detainees.
- Law enforcement officers from various agencies, including BCPD, responded to local schools on Thursday afternoon, in response to a threat received over social media. While the threat was being assessed, the Baker 5J School District placed all local schools into lockout as a precaution. During this time, students and staff remain in the building and all exterior doors are locked. Law enforcement officers remained on scene until it was determined that the threat was not credible, and schools returned to regular instruction except for the high school, which released students for the remainder of the day.
- Officer Justin Prevo attended The C.A.L.M Approach™ -An Enhanced Response to Open, Empty-Handed Encounters presented by Con10gency Consulting, LLC and hosted by the Albany Police Department.



Pictured Left: BCPD Sergeant Wayne Chastain and Patrol Officer Recruit Emily Oller worked on setting up the Department's new speed radar trailer. This trailer, manufactured by MPH Industries, will be deployed throughout the city in response to speeding complaints and in high traffic areas with additional safety concerns, such as in school zones and other areas with pedestrians present. If you have a traffic concern and would like to see the trailer in your neighborhood, please reach out to the Baker City Police Department at 541-524-2014.

Pictured Right: Baker County Sheriff's Deputy Gage Maldonado, BCPD School Resource Officer Lance Woodward, Office Manager Phoebe Wachtel and ODOT Traffic Safety Coordinator Billie Jo Nickens presented bicycle safety during the ODOT Safety Day Assembly at the Baker Early Learning Center and Brooklyn Primary School. Students learned about the importance of wearing a bicycle helmet, how to properly fit a helmet and some of the rules of the road. Great job BELC and Brooklyn students for a learning all about bicycle safety and participating in today's presentation! We wish you a fun and safe summer vacation!



Fire Department



MAINTENANCE/TRAINING/ FIRE PREVENTION – INSPECTIONS/ COMMUNITY EVENTS

45.0 Hrs.	Station and vehicle maintenance
32 Hrs.	Fire training
04Hrs.	EMS training
00 Hrs.	Safety training
00	Fire Prevention/Inspections
00	Community Events
10	Residential Burn Permits

05/17/2022-05/23/2022

EMERGENCY RESPONSES

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

FIRE REPORTS	05
General alarms	00
Dispatched alarms	05
EMERGENCY MEDICAL	29
In-City Responses	20
Out of City Responses	09
Transports	17
No Transports	11
Airport Transfers	01
Out of town transfers accepted	00
Out of town Transfers rejected	01
MVA's	01
Doubles (2 simultaneous)	04
Triples (3 simultaneous)	00
Quads (4 simultaneous)	00
MCI's	00
Public assist	02
Emergency Call Back	
Requests for cover	17
# of staff requested	23
Staff response for cover	08
No staff response for cover	05

Public Works:

Public Works Weekly Update for 5/27/22

Water Department:

Installation of the new 16" Ductile Iron Waterline on Indiana was successfully completed this week. The line was tested for leaks and passed 100%. The inside of the pipe was also disinfected with a potent Chlorine solution. After bacteria tests came back negative the line was put into service.



Public Works:

Final maintenance and repair work was completed on the Rock Crusher Bucket. This heavy tool attaches to the Volvo Trackhoe and crushes bowling ball size boulders into 1" size rock for bedding water pipe on the Mountain Line project.

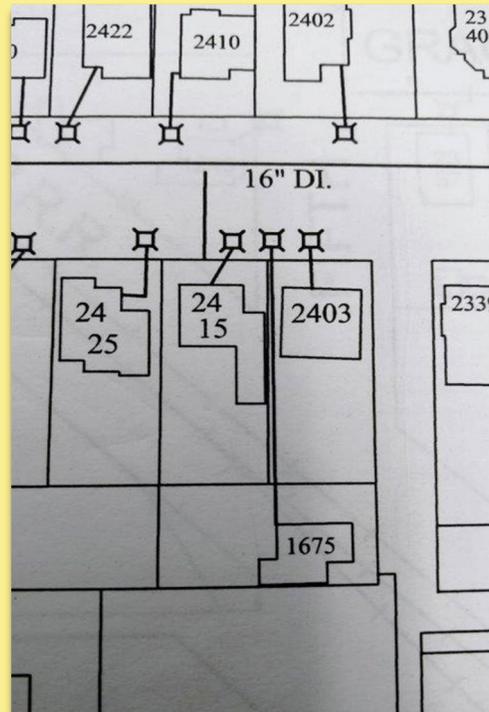


A Conex cargo container was temporarily set into place between two Public Works Buildings. Salvaged items from the burned Warm Storage building will be moved to the container while the building is repaired.



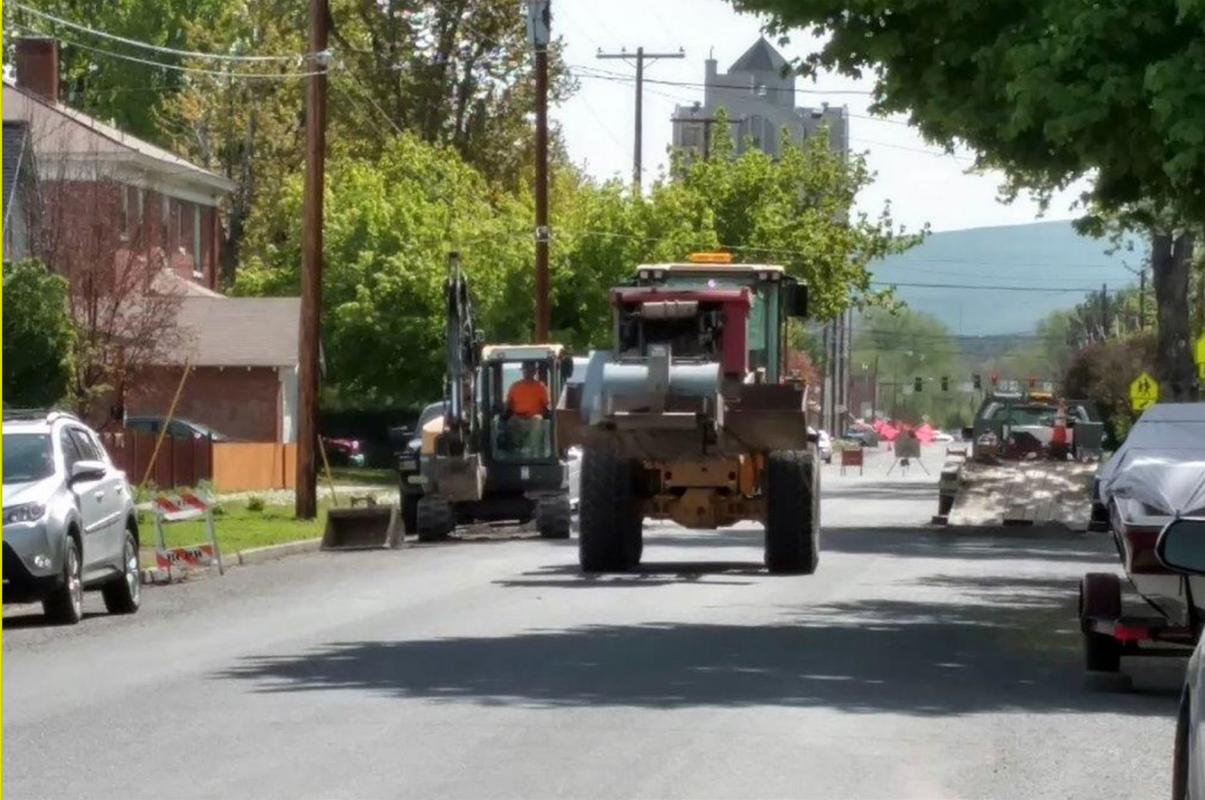
Public Works

All 8 Water Meter Zones have now been read once. Residential meters are read every two months beginning in March and ending in November. When meters are first read in the spring several leaks between the meter and the residences are discovered because the meter readings are unusually high. One of those cases was recently discovered on Auburn Ave.



Public Works is responsible for the maintenance of water supply lines from main lines in the street to the water meters in front of the homes. This map shows a water service line running from the water meter and then between two houses to serve the house at 1675. The supply line running between the two houses developed a leak and had to be relocated due to the fact that there was no practical way to repair or replace it in its original location. Two holes were excavated in Auburn Avenue and a new copper service line was bored under the asphalt to the new meter location. The owner of 1675 plans to install the remaining portion of the service line very soon.

Public Works



Public Works

Wastewater Department:

Wastewater Treatment Plant:

A new trailer-mounted pump was used recently at the Lagoon to evacuate the Chlorine Contact Chamber so that the contractor could install a screen over an outlet valve.



A resident near 10th and "E" reported sewer problems this week. Instead of simply cleaning the line, we video-inspected the lateral connection. As you can see in the second photo the lateral connection was open and unobstructed. The resident was informed that there were no problems associated with the city-maintained portion of the Wastewater Collection System.



Public Works

Birdwatching is a non-contact sport. Here two birdwatchers stopped by the Baker City Lagoon on their way to the Malheur Wildlife Refuge.

During their stop at the Lagoon, they counted the following 22 species of birds: 100 Canada Goose, 12 Northern Shoveler, 105 Gadwall, 1 Mallard, 1 Lesser Scaup, 18 Ruddy Duck, 3 Eared Grebe, 1 Mourning Dove, 110 Wilson's Phalarope, 12 Red-necked Phalarope, 1 Spotted Sandpiper, 4 Ring-billed Gull, 1 Turkey Vulture, 1 Black-billed Magpie, 2 Northern Rough-winged Swallow, 3 Barn Swallow, 2 European Starling, 2 American Robin, 1 House Sparrow, 1 Savannah Sparrow, 3 Red-winged Blackbird, and 2 Brewer's Blackbird. But no partridges in Pear Trees. They were very appreciative to be able to access the facility.



Public Works

Most City maintained wastewater collection lines are located under streets or alleys. However, in some cases, lines are located under residents' yards. A resident on Estes Street had been experiencing sewer plugging problems several times a year.



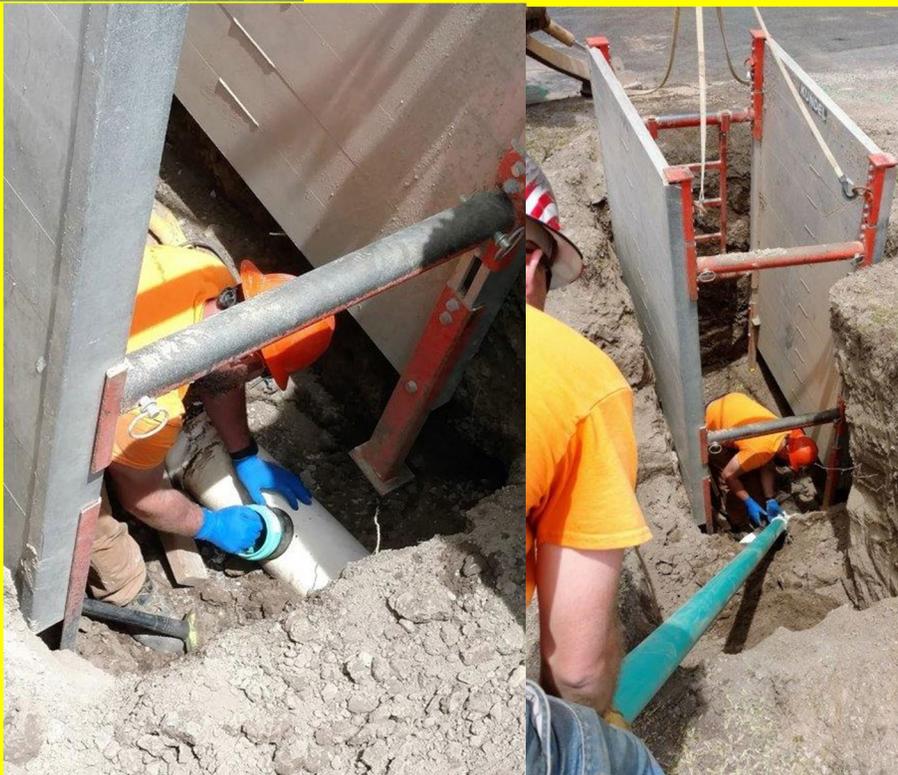
There was some thought that it could be caused by a problem in the city portion of the line. When the city line was video-inspected this week the cause of the problem was fairly obvious. As seen in the second photo - when the lateral was connected into the bell end of the wye connection, too much mastic was used by the plumber 70+/- years ago. The mastic ridge would occasionally cause a blockage in the line. The homeowner planned to perform the repair immediately by cutting out the protruding material.

The exact location of the end of an 8" sewer mainline on Clark Street was found by using the sonde unit attached to the Vi-Vax Push Camera unit. Next week the end will be excavated, and the mainline extended 81 feet to serve a residential home on Spring Garden.



Public Works

A new wastewater lateral was installed for a customer near the intersection of 6th and Carter this week. The mainline was carefully uncovered, and a 4" Insert-a-tee was used for the new connection.



Public Works

Street Department:

Over 12 tons of asphalt was used to patch ten different locations in Baker City Thursday. Some of the locations included "K" Street, N. 3rd Street, 17th St., 5th St., and Auburn Ave.



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

Kenyon Damschen: kdamschen@bakercity.gov

