



The WEEKLY

August 19th, 2022

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

INSIDE

BURN BAN IN EFFECT

Fire Chief sends out press release on burn ban.

UPCOMING MEETINGS

August 23rd:
Regular Council Meeting
7:00pm

A message from the City Manager...

The United States Forest Service (USFS) held an open house this past week to review information about fuel load reductions within our watershed. The Baker City watershed is one of the very few locations in the United States where surface water is clean enough to use as drinking water without significant treatment requirements. This is a wonderful thing for Baker City. It reduces the cost to our citizens and in my opinion, provides for a better taste and experience using our water. Fire is a well-known subject in our part of the country and wildland fires are a yearly concern. Baker City works diligently to reduce the risk of wildland fire in our watershed within the bounds set by the USFS. The USFS is looking at ways to reduce the fuel available if a fire were to start in our watershed. This effort will help to protect our water source and ensure a reduced likelihood of expensive treatment facilities for the water system. City Council will review a letter of support at its meeting this coming Tuesday. The letter of support is for the USFS to reduce fuel loads and minimize impacts to our watershed.

Elections for City Council will be held this November. We have four openings on City Council. The City Recorder/Elections Official has provided information to potential candidates. The final filing date for potential candidates is today with all documents including signatures do by 5:00 PM. We look forward to seeing who might submit paperwork and run for office. City Council requires time, effort, and commitment. I appreciate all who take an interest and seek to serve their community in this fashion.

City Council will meet this coming Tuesday. The meeting agenda includes the third reading of two ordinances. It also includes a couple of resolutions that authorize city staff to eliminate surplus equipment. Up for consideration is an old fire chief ford expedition that has not been used in several years. Also under consideration are the ambulances that will no longer be in use come October 1. As a city, we are trying to be supportive of Baker County as they transition our ambulance service to Metro West. As such, we are working to make available our equipment if Metro West has an interest in purchasing it. They would have to acquire it through the public purchasing process.

Have a great weekend. – Jonathan Cannon, City Manager

Finance: Utility/Billing**NEW FINANCE DEPARTMENT HOURS****EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1ST, 2022**

8:30am-4:30pm – closed for lunch at 1:00pm-2:00pm

Utilities 08/11/2022 – 08/17/2022

- 6 customers signed up for new water/wastewater service and 7 customers disconnected service from August 11th thru August 17th. This includes all service changes.
- Zone 6 was billed August 13th and included 490 residential and 64 commercial accounts. Of those accounts 129 (23%) are signed up for direct payment and 49 (8%) are signed up for e-billing.
- Zone 2 was billed August 16th and included 469 residential and 14 commercial accounts. Of those accounts 117 (24%) are signed up for direct payment and 25 (5%) are signed up for e-billing.
- 32 residential customers were scheduled to have their water turned off for non-pay (over 60 days past due) Of those 10, 30 paid or made arrangements. The remaining 2 were shut off for non-pay.

DOXO 8/11-8/17

- From 8/11 – 8/17, a total of 62 payments, in the amount of \$6,325.07, were made.

Building Department**Notice of grant opportunity for structures in the Historic District:**

Every two years, due to our City's status as a "Certified Local Government", we have the opportunity to award funds to property owners for repair/maintenance on historic properties. This is a matching grant opportunity with specific guidelines, and the application window is now open. For more information, please visit the Baker City website, and go to the Historic District Design Review Committee page. You are also welcome to join us at any HDDRC meeting, or call the Building Dept. 541-524-2054.

Planning Department

PUBLIC HEARINGS

The Baker County Planning Commission will hold a public hearing at 5 p.m. on Tuesday, September 6, 2022, at the Baker County Courthouse, 1995 Third Street, Baker City, to hear a Site Plan Review request from Maverik for a new gas station and convenience store in the Commercial-General Zone and Urban Growth Boundary (UGB) of Baker City. A Variance is also requested allowing 42 parking spaces, which exceeds the minimum requirement of 14 parking spaces by more than 125%. The property is located southeast of the I-84 and Hwy 86 intersection and will be accessed via Old Best Frontage and Best Frontage Roads. Based on the Joint Management Agreement between Baker City and Baker County, Baker County is responsible for making land use decisions within the UGB using the Baker City Development Code after providing an opportunity for the City to comment on a pending application. This meeting will be held in person and virtually via Zoom. For more information, please contact Tara Micka at the Planning Department by calling 541-523-8219 or emailing tandrews@bakercounty.org.

APPLICATIONS

- The Planning Director approved a final replat that reorganized the lines from an old subdivision, originally created in 1905, to create two lots. The property is at 2275 Virginia Avenue, and located within the High Density Residential zone.
- An accessory structure was approved (covered porch) at 935 E Street, in the Residential Low Density (R-LD) Zone
- An additional to a Single Family Dwelling was approved at 2339 Court Avenue, in the Residential High Density (R-HD) Zone.

Police Department

BCPD Weekly Report

- This past week, BCPD opened 38 new cases and responding to 193 calls for service, making several arrests for outstanding warrants and detainers.
- BCPD officers recently completed Taser Certification training and are now certified to carry Tasers, manufactured for law enforcement by Axon Enterprises, Inc., while on patrol.
- Congratulations to BCPD Officer Mason Powell who graduated from the DPSST (Department of Public Safety Standards and Training) Basic Academy on August 12, 2022! We're excited to have Officer Powell back and on regular patrol as he completes Field Training. If you see him out and about on patrol, please join us in congratulating him and be sure to say hello!



Fire Department



MAINTENANCE/TRAINING/ FIRE PREVENTION – INSPECTIONS/ COMMUNITY EVENTS

28.0 Hrs.	Station and vehicle maintenance
04 Hrs.	Fire training
03Hrs.	EMS training
00 Hrs.	Safety training
00	Fire Prevention/Inspections
00hrs	Community Events
00	Residential Burn Permits

08/09/2022-08/15/2022

EMERGENCY RESPONSES

The Baker City Fire Department responded to a total of 6 emergency alarms detailed as follows:

FIRE REPORTS	08
General alarms	00
Dispatched alarms	08
EMERGENCY MEDICAL	03
In-City Responses	03
Out of City Responses	00
Transports	03
No Transports	00
Airport Transfers	00
Out of town transfers accepted	00
Out of town Transfers rejected	00
MVA's	01
Doubles (2 simultaneous)	00
Triples (3 simultaneous)	00
Quads (4 simultaneous)	00
MCI's	00
Public assist	00
EMS Assist	01
Emergency Call Back	
Requests for cover	03
# of staff requested	06
Staff response for cover	01
No staff response for cover	02



Baker City Fire Department
1616 2nd St.
Baker City, OR. 97814

PRESS RELEASE

Burning Ban in Effect

On July 28, 2022

Baker City will implement residential burning ban beginning 5pm, Thursday, July 28, 2022.

This includes all burn barrels and open burn piles.

This closure does not include cooking fires, BBQ's, grills, or smokers. However; use extreme caution when using fire or outdoor cooking. Please, use fire safe practices when cooking and/or using outdoor BBQ's. Have a fire extinguisher nearby or a garden hose ready.

Baker City Fire Department will not issue burn permits until the closure is lifted.

Sean Lee
Fire Chief
Baker City Fire Department

Public Works:

Water-Wise Lawncare

We need your help saving water this summer! Lawn irrigation is one of the main drivers of increased water use in Baker City this time of year. As temperatures rise and we reach the peak summer season, these tips can help you keep your grass looking great using less water.

How much and how often should I water my lawn?

Watering deeply but infrequently promotes deeper root growth, which leads to more drought-tolerant grass. Lawns typically need about 1 inch of water per week, applied either in a single watering or divided up into two shorter sessions. Use lawn watering gauges or empty tuna cans to measure how much water your sprinklers put out and then calculate how long to water. View this video for more information: <https://bit.ly/3PbkEdl>



Looking for a simpler way to tell if your grass needs water? Take a few steps on your lawn. Notice your footprints. If they stick around for a few hours, it's time to water. On the flip side, if your lawn is soggy or you see a lot of runoff, you may be overwatering.

What can I do to maintain my lawn and still be water-wise?

- Set lawnmower blades to a height of 3-4 inches to encourage deeper root growth and promote drought tolerance.
- Aerate your lawn regularly. Aeration strengthens roots and helps them grow deeper, which allows for better water absorption.
- Leave grass clippings on the lawn to provide a natural fertilizer and help the soil retain moisture.
- Look for ways to reduce your lawn's footprint. Consider replacing lesser-used or harder-to-water areas (such as borders, narrow strips, or steep grades) with low-water-use native plants and decorative groundcover. Adding pathways of gravel, pavers, or steppingstones also reduces the lawn area.

Public Works:

Public Works Weekly Update for 8/19/22

Public Works Crews spent this week chipping many streets around Baker City.



The Albina distributor truck is spraying oil on the street to be covered by the public works crews with chip rock.

Public Works:

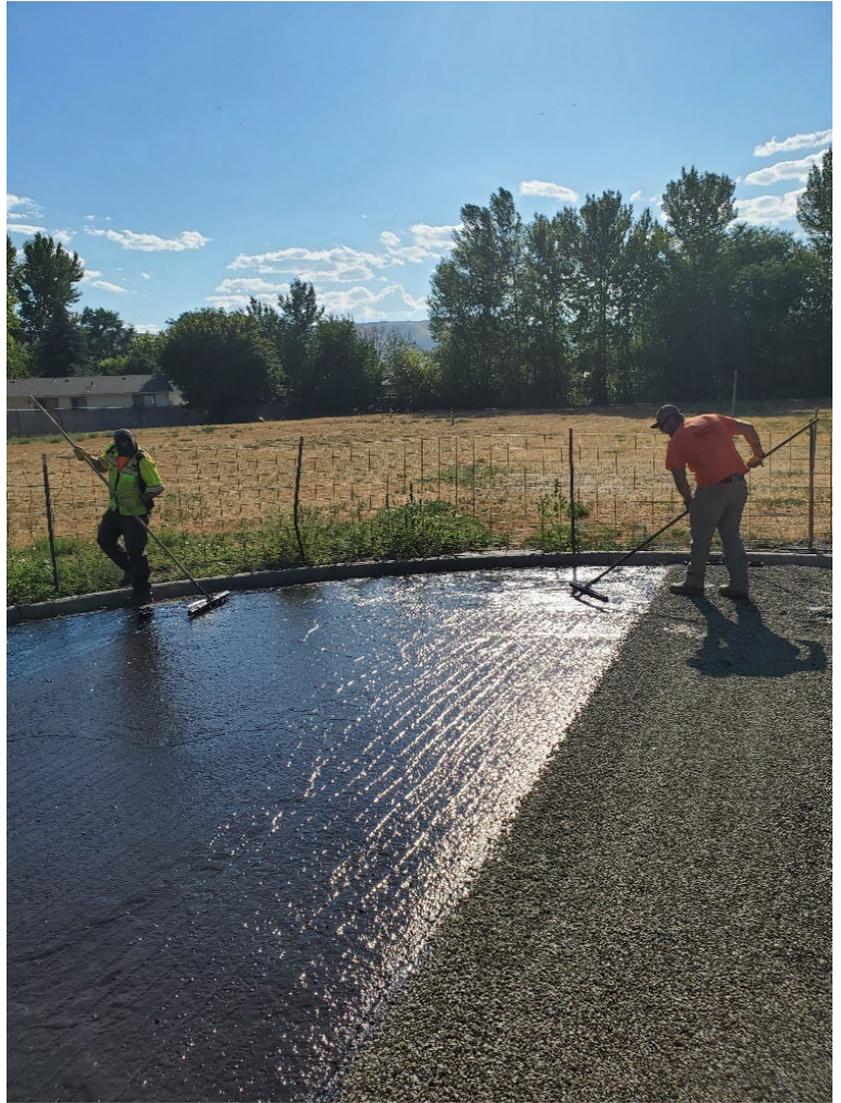
Baker City public works crews are spreading chip rock over the oil with the city's chip spreader.



City crews are rolling the freshly spread rock with rubber tire rollers to ensure the rock is pressed into the oil.

Public Works:

Here crews are squeegeeing fresh oil in a cul-de-sac that the distributor truck could not do.



Public Works:

Crews had a very difficult task to chip seal Hilcrest Dr. and Hilcrest Place. The streets have several curves and are steep in places. Public works staff and the Albina distributor driver have a great deal of experience chip sealing streets and were able to accomplish this with no problems.



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

