



*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

September 13<sup>th</sup>:  
Regular Council Meeting  
7:00pm

## A message from the City Manager...

Elections for City Council will be held this November. We have four openings on City Council. The City Recorder/Elections Official received documentation and paperwork for eight candidates. The citizens of Baker City will have the opportunity this fall to select the four candidates that will ultimately fill the seats starting with the first meeting in January. As staff, we will prepare to provide onboarding and important operational and procedural information to the elected Councilors this January. As city manager, I invite all the candidates to schedule a time to meet with me individually and have a discussion about city operations. I am happy to provide information to candidates and any citizen for that matter about how and why the city operates the way it does. Some matters such as personnel are not legal for me to discuss, but most issues are fair game.

On a similar topic, a newspaper article in the Baker City Herald dated August 25, 2022, stated that a recall effort is underway for "at least six of the seven city councilors". A recall election allows voters to recall local public offices. The Secretary of State Elections Division regulates the process for recall elections under Oregon Administrative Rule 165-014-0005. They provide a Recall Manual for citizens and local government elections officials to follow. The manual on page six provides a flow chart for the process. The flow chart can be a little cumbersome to understand, but the elections official can review the steps in the chart with citizens. You may ask, who is the elections official? The Baker City Elections Official is Dallas Brockett, City Recorder. The next question would be, what is the process? Here is a simplified summary of the process.

1. Check whether the elected official is eligible for recall.
2. File a prospective petition for a recall. (Time and date stamped by Elections Official)
3. Establish a petition committee with Secretary of State Elections Division.
4. Circulate signature sheet with state form SEL 351 on reverse side. (90-day window from date stamp by Elections Official to collect signatures)
5. Petition signature verification by Election Official.
6. Resignation Period.
7. Recall Election
8. Official Results
9. Replacement of a recalled official

Steps 3-5 take up to 120 days to complete.

The entire process takes longer than 120 days. Currently, there are no prospective petitions filed with the City Elections Official for a recall election. If someone were to start the process today, a recall election would be very difficult to complete before the November elections. Especially since they would need to collect 600+ signatures after setting up their committee with the state. There are a host of scenarios that could occur if a recall petition were to occur considering Baker City is this close to elections with four seats on the City Council up for grabs.

I hope this is helpful to anyone wondering how a recall election occurs.

Have a great weekend.

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

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

**Utilities 08/18/2022 – 08/24/2022**

- 7 customers signed up for new water/wastewater service and 7 customers disconnected service from August 18th thru August 24th. This includes all service changes.
- Zone 7 was billed August 20th and included 575 residential and 31 commercial accounts. Of those accounts 184 (30%) are signed up for direct payment and 34 (5%) are signed up for e-billing.
- Zone 3 was billed August 23rd and included 503 residential and 56 commercial accounts. Of those accounts 139 (24%) are signed up for direct payment and 40 (7%) are signed up for e-billing.
- 22 residential customers were scheduled to have their water turned off for non-pay (over 60 days past due) Of those 22, 6 paid or made arrangements. The remaining 16 were shut off for non-pay.

**DOXO 8/18-8/24**

- From 8/18 – 8/24, a total of 64 payments, in the amount of \$6,605.27 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

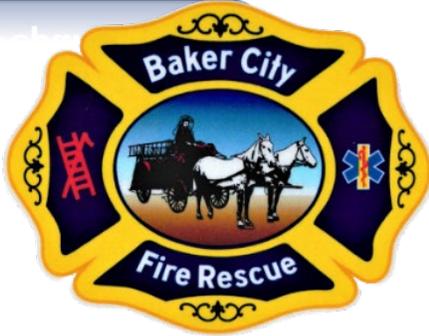
### PUBLIC HEARINGS

- 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](mailto:tandrews@bakercounty.org).

### APPLICATIONS

- Four townhomes were approved in the Silver Birch Subdivision at 600, 610, 620, and 630 E Street in the Resident-Low Density (R-LD) Zone.
- A replacement wall sign was approved at 1084 Campbell Street (US Cellular) in the General – Commercial (C-G) Zone.

Fire Department



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

29.0 Hrs. Station and vehicle maintenance

00 Hrs.	Fire training
00Hrs.	EMS training
00 Hrs.	Safety training
00	Fire Prevention/Inspections
00hrs	Community Events
00	Residential Burn Permits

08/16/2022-08/22/2022

**EMERGENCY RESPONSES**

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

<b>FIRE REPORTS</b>	07
General alarms	00
Dispatched alarms	07
<b>EMERGENCY MEDICAL</b>	03
In-City Responses	03
Out of City Responses	00
Transports	02
No Transports	01
Airport Transfers	00
Out of town transfers accepted	00
Out of town Transfers rejected	00
MVA's	00
Doubles (2 simultaneous)	00
Triples (3 simultaneous)	00
Quads (4 simultaneous)	00
MCI's	00
Public assist	00
EMS Assist	00
<b>Emergency Call Back</b>	
Requests for cover	01
# of staff requested	01
Staff response for cover	00
No staff response for cover	00



**Baker City Fire Department**  
1616 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 8/26/22**



Public works crew is working on removing debris in order to unbolt the hydrant and move it out of the

Public Works:

Here crews are installing thrust blocks behind the hydrant to secure it after it had been moved out of the ramp.



Public works crews are raising the manhole lids in Imnaha Road that had been non-accessible and prepping to pour concrete around

Public Works:

Public works street sweeper is sweeping excess rock from the gutter lines on the freshly chip-sealed roads in town.



# Have a great weekend!

## Elected Officials

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

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

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

Kenyon Damschen: [kdamschen@bakercity.gov](mailto:kdamschen@bakercity.gov)

