



The WEEKLY

September 2nd, 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

September
13th:
Regular
Council
Meeting
7:00pm



A message from the City Manager...

Fire Chief Sean Lee submitted a letter of resignation with the last day of employment on September 30, 2022. Chief Lee has served in the position since his appointment by City Manager Fred Warner in February 2020. Chief Lee has simultaneously served as the Fire Chief of the Baker Rural Fire Department and still serves in that capacity.

Baker City appreciates the dedicated work and service Chief Lee has performed in this position. Those who work closest to the Chief appreciate his dedication to the work of fire protection, his quiet wisdom, and his selfless sacrifice to the citizens of this community.

The City Manager with the Human Resource Department will prepare and proceed to initiate a search for a replacement for Chief Lee. Furthermore, the City Manager will appoint an interim Fire Chief by October 1, 2022, to maintain department operations during the duration of the hiring process.

On another note, Michelle Owen, Public Works Director has worked for approximately fifteen years on the wastewater pond project. The pond is located on the eastern side of our valley and provides wastewater storage and treatment

Have a great weekend.

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

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

Utilities 08/25/2022 – 08/31/2022

- 8 customers signed up for new water/wastewater service and 8 customers disconnected service from August 25th thru August 10th. This includes all service changes.
- Zone 8 was billed August 26th and included 485 residential and 20 commercial accounts. Of those accounts 130 (26%) are signed up for direct payment and 27 (5%) are signed up for e-billing.
- Zone 4 was billed August 29th and included 744 residential and 65 commercial accounts. Of those accounts 0 are signed up for direct payment and 53 (7%) are signed up for e-billing.
- 24 residential customers were scheduled to have their water turned off for non-pay (over 60 days past due) Of those 24, 15 paid or made arrangements. The remaining 9 were shut off for non-pay.

DOXO 8/04-8/10

- 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 to allow 42 parking spaces, which exceeds the minimum requirement of 14 parking spaces. 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.
- The Baker City Planning Commission will hold a public hearing at 6 p.m. on Wednesday, September 21, 2022, at City Hall, 1655 1st Street, Baker City, to hear two requests by applicants and property owners, Leonard H., II and Gayle Gazley, which include a Baker City Comprehensive Plan Map and Zone Map Amendment to change the zoning designation of their property from General Industrial (I) to General Commercial (C-G), along with a concurrent Conditional Use Permit to convert an existing building into a dwelling. The ±.55 acre subject property is addressed as 560 Elm Street, Baker City, OR, also identified as Tax Lot 501 of Assessor's Map 09s40e21cd (Ref. 17582). 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. Notice of this hearing was sent to all property owners within 100-feet of the subject property and affected agencies on September 1, 2022.

APPLICATIONS

- A Land Use Review was approved for the development of a Single Family Dwelling at 3715 Auburn Avenue, which is in the Residential Medium-Density Zone.
- A Land Use Review was approved for an accessory structure, a shop, at 45 S Foothill Drive, which is in the Residential Low-Density Zone.
- A Land Use Review was approved for an accessory structure, handicap ramp, at 2707 3rd Street which is in the Residential High Density Zone.

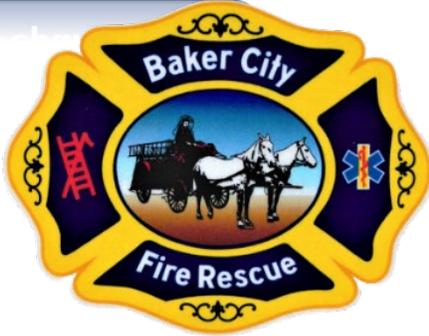
Police Department

BCPD Weekly Report

- BCPD handled over 240 incidents and opened 27 new cases this past week. Amongst those cases:
 - BCPD personnel investigated a Robbery III
 - BCPD personnel investigated multiple thefts and multiple UEMV (unlawful entry to motor vehicle)
 - BCPD personnel investigated three reported Trespasses, making an arrest for each one
 - BCPD personnel made multiple Warrants arrests
 - BCPD personnel arrested one individual for DUII
 - BCPD responded to a motor vehicle crash at the East side Chevron where the driver of a Toyota pickup crashed into large boulders, high-centering his vehicle about 3-feet off the ground.
- Detective Jared Wood attended a Search Warrant class on August 30 in Hillsborough, Oregon
- Sgt. Regan attended a Less Lethal weapon demonstration hosted by La Grande Police where an Idaho company, Hurricane Butterfly, demonstrated new and available tools.
- SRO (School Resource Officer) Lance Woodward returned to his school schedule for the 2022-2023 school year
- BCPD personnel participated in several briefing trainings, including a review of various Officer Safety topics and legal updates
- BCPD Chief Duby, Officer Parsons, Officer Weaver and Officer Mason Powell participated in Coffee with a Cop at Meadowbrook Place on August 31st.



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

08/23/2022-08/28/2022

EMERGENCY RESPONSES

The Baker City Fire Department emergency alarms detailed as follows:

FIRE REPORTS	05
General alarms	00
Dispatched alarms	05
EMERGENCY MEDICAL	05
In-City Responses	05
Out of City Responses	00
Transports	04
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
Emergency Call Back	
Requests for cover	01
# of staff requested	01
Staff response for cover	00
No staff response for cover	00



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:

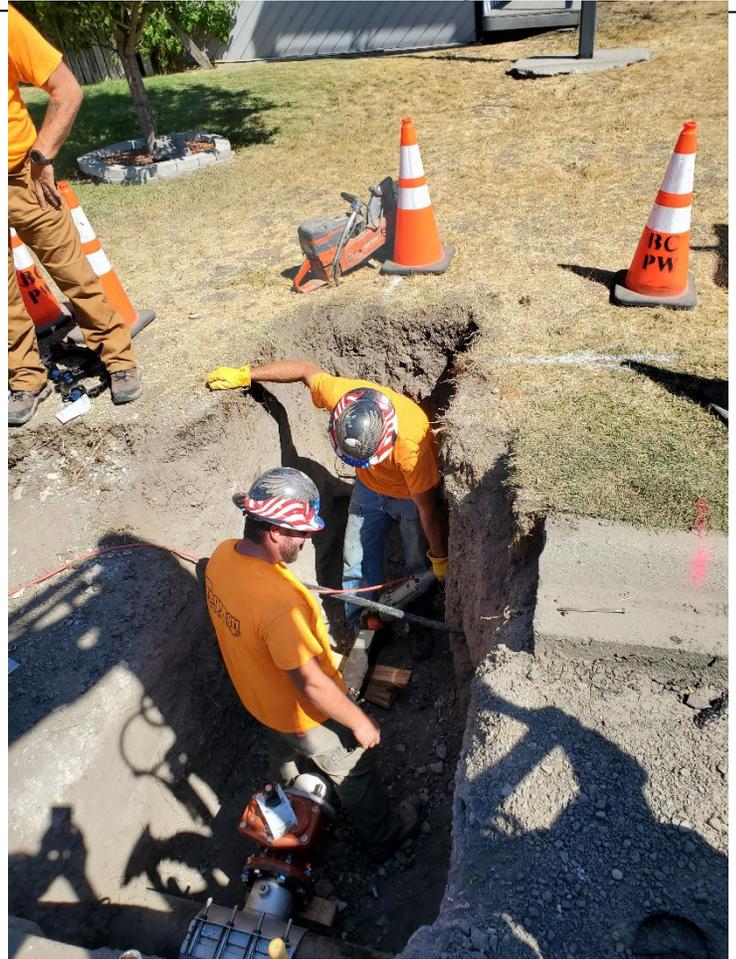
Public Works Weekly Update for 9/02/22



Public works crew has scalped the ground in preparation to install a new water main and waste water main to serve a new residence.

Public Works:

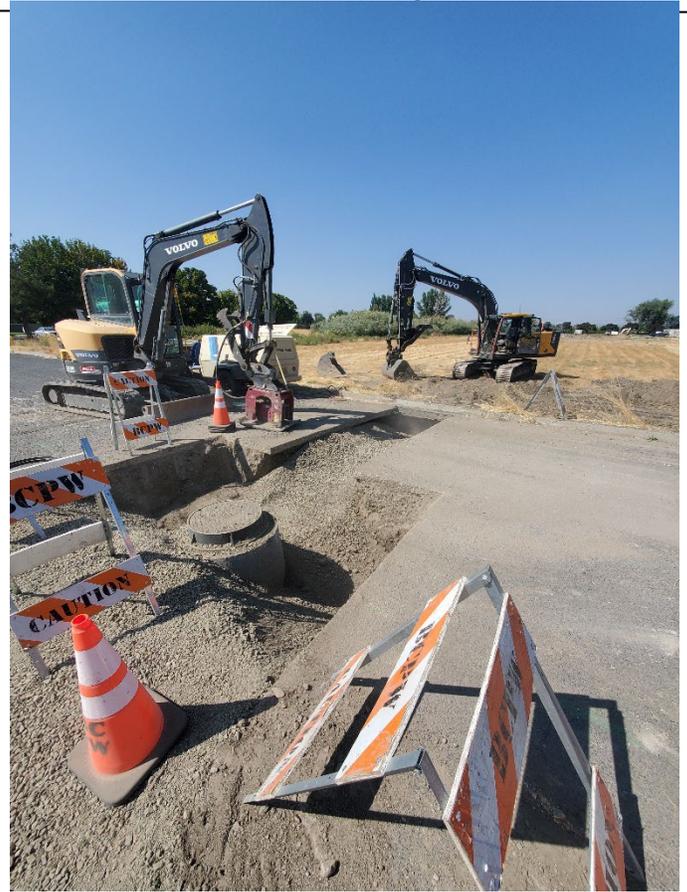
A crew is moving another fire hydrant for the new ODOT ADA ramp project.



Here public works crew is pouring a new waste water manhole for the new main line that will serve a new sub division on F Street.

Public Works:

Crews are working on backfilling the manhole and trench for the new line on F street.



Crews are working on backfilling the manhole and trench for the new line on F street.

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

