



The WEEKLY

September 23rd, 2022

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

INSIDE

Volunteers Needed!

Multiple openings on boards and commissions

Now Hiring

Multiple job openings within City Hall.

New Website is Live!

Please check out our all redesigned website.



City Manager's Message...

UPCOMING MEETINGS

September 27th:

Regular Council Meeting

MEETING CANCELLED

September 29th:

Airport Masterplan Meeting

FireMed Ground Transportation. I am receiving questions about FireMed Ground Transportation. Thank you to everyone who has reached out. Baker City staff are working closely with LifeFlight to collect all of the active FireMed ground transportation memberships. Once that information is collected and received by Baker City then we will transition those memberships over to Metro West LifeGuard Ground Transportation. Barring the unforeseen, this will result in a seamless transition for FireMed memberships to be covered by LifeGuard with no gap in coverage. Lifetime FireMed memberships will be reimbursed in a prorated manner to the member, and they will be required to contact Metro West LifeGuard to see what options are available. I anticipate Metro West will be prepared very soon to begin accepting memberships directly. Once, they provide the greenlight on their membership applications then I will gladly send that information to you, our citizens.

(Continued on next page)



City Manager's Message Continued...

At the most recent City Council meeting, I prepared a concept presentation on the health of the Baker City budget. I sketched a concept graph on a big whiteboard in order to define the status of the Baker City General Fund budget. Government budgeting is a little different than private sector budgeting. Even so, certain principles hold true across public and private sector budgets. On a local level Baker City offers products and services. Some products and services are mandated by the State of Oregon and others are expected by the citizens (customers) within Baker City. Baker City has revenues and expenditures to provide the products and services we offer. Our products and services include police, fire, parks, zoning, cemeteries, code enforcement, and more. The General Fund is like a budgetary envelope where Baker City provides the above-mentioned services. (streets, water, and sewer are in a different envelope called enterprise funds) The primary sources of income in the General Fund are property taxes, franchise fees, state liquor taxes, and state revenue sharing. Property Taxes provide approximately 36% of the revenue within the general fund. Interesting to consider, property taxes only provide enough revenue to cover about 1/3 of the annual expenses for the basic services of the city as mentioned above. For perspective, if property taxes were allocated to one department, then property taxes would provide enough revenue to fund the police department and nothing more. Property taxes increase annually approximately 2-3% on average. Expenditures increase on average more than that. This means every year it becomes increasingly more difficult to maintain the same level of products and services. Over the years difficult decisions have been made by City Councils, Budget Boards, and staff to make sure expenditures do not outpace revenues. This has meant cuts in personnel, cuts in some services or products, improvements in efficiency, and other efforts to maintain a balanced budget.

I am confident most involved in those hard decisions did so with the best interest of Baker City. I think we are at another decision point for our city. Inflation rates, PERS, and collective bargaining agreements are all driving expenditure costs this year and likely in the coming year upward at a pace which far exceeds our 3% revenue increases. What will this mean for Baker City? That discussion is important to hold. That is why I asked City Council at their most recent meeting to open the discussion by convening the budget board sooner than normal. I honestly believe it is a two-year discussion. The discussion is rooted in the very core values of Baker City and what we hold dear and expect the local government to provide or in which to be a participant. It is also a discussion of the future of Baker City. What will we look like five years, ten years, or 20 years down the road? In my presentation, I hoped to open a discussion and look to the future. The Budget Board will begin their discussion of this important topic in November.

To provide data on the above discussion, the Baker City website now includes a page titled "Budgetary Vital Signs". Information including graphs, source documents, and analysis is being formatted and prepared for upload so everyone in the city can research and join in on the conversation. The page is light on data right now but is anticipated to be updated frequently so check it out often.

In a related topic, Baker City has numerous Boards and Commissions with open vacancies or soon to open vacancies. If you want to be part of the discussion of the future of Baker City then apply with the City Recorder to participate on a Board or Commission. Included in this weekly is an advertisement of openings.

Have a great weekend.

- Jonathan Cannon



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Boards and Commissions

Apply for a Baker City Board or Commission and **join** your fellow residents in **shaping the future**.

Currently, Baker City has openings for the following Boards & Commissions:

- Historic District Design Review Committee
- Public Works Advisory Committee
- Tree Board
- Parks and Recreation Board
- Public Arts Commission

Openings coming soon:

- Budget Board
- Golf Board

More information and applications can be found at:

<https://www.bakercity.com/2149/Boards-Commissions>

Human Resources

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.

NOW HIRING

Fire Chief

Fire Department

First Review: **October 7, 2022**

Baker City is accepting applications for the position of Fire Chief within the Fire Department. Applications will be accepted until the position is filled, however the first review will be October 7, 2022. This is a full-time benefited position. The job description and application can be found on the city's website:

<http://bakercity.com/2241/Human-ResourcesEmployment-Opportunities>

[Fire Chief Brochure](#)

Data Analyst/Management Assistant

Public Works Department

First Review: **September 27, 2022**

Baker City is accepting applications for the position of Data Analyst/Management Assistant within the Public Works Department. Applications will be accepted until the position is filled, however the first review will be September 27, 2022. This is a full-time benefited position. The job description and application can be found on the city's website:

<http://bakercity.com/2241/Human-ResourcesEmployment-Opportunities>

Accounts Receivable/Cashier

Finance Department

First Review: **October 7, 2022**

Baker City is accepting applications for the position of Accounts Receivable/Cashier within the Finance Department. Application will be accepted until the position is filled, however the first review will be October 7, 2022. This is a full-time represented position. The job description and application can be found on the city's website:

<http://bakercity.com/2241/Human-ResourcesEmployment-Opportunities>

Finance: Utility/Billing

NEW FINANCE DEPARTMENT HOURS**EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1ST, 2022**

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

09/15/22-09/21/22

14 customers signed up for new water/wastewater service and 11 customers disconnected service from September 15th thru September 21st. This includes all service changes.

- Zone 3 was billed September 16th and included 501 residential and 56 commercial accounts. Of those accounts 141 (25%) are signed up for direct payment and 40 (7%) are signed up for e-billing.
- Zone 7 was billed September 19th and included 577 residential and 31 commercial accounts. Of those accounts 183 (33%) are signed up for direct payment and 34 (6%) are signed up for e-billing.
- 29 residential customers were scheduled to have their water turned off for non-pay (over 60 days past due) Of those 29, 16 paid or made arrangements. The remaining 13 were shut off for non-pay.

DOXO 9/15-9/21

- From 9/15-9/21, a total of 68 payments, in the amount of \$6,609.74, were made.

Building Department

Preservation Grant Awarded**September 5, 2022**

The Historic District Design Review Commission, via coordination through the Building Department, would like to thank all those who made application to be considered for the preservation grant offered every two years through the Certified Local Government program. There were 10 applicants, and of those 4 structures were awarded funds. Those structures are located at 1902 Main Street, 1705 Main Street, 2028 Main Street, and 2035 2nd Street. Congratulations to those recipients, we look forward to working with you on your upcoming preservation projects.

Planning Department**PUBLIC HEARINGS**

The Baker City Planning Commission held a public hearing at 6 p.m. on Wednesday, September 21, 2022, and recommended approval to City Council for the two requests from 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). The first public hearing with City Council is scheduled for Tuesday, October 11, 2022.

APPLICATIONS

- The Baker County Planning Commission approved a Site Plan Review and Variance request from Maverik for a new gas station and convenience store in the General Commercial Zone and Urban Growth Boundary (UGB) of Baker City. 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. The appeal period for this decision ended on Tuesday, September 20, 2022 at 5p.m., and no appeals were filed; therefore, the decision is now final.
- A Land Use Review was approved for a shed at 725 E Street, which is in the Residential Low-Density Zone.
- A Land Use Review was approved for a porch cover at 520 Broadway Avenue, which is in the Residential Medium-Density Zone.
- An Extension was approved for Property Line Adjustment, PLA-20-091, addressed as 730 Highway 7, in the Residential High-Density Zone.

Police Department**BCPD Weekly/s Report****Sept 9, 2022 to Sept 22, 2022**Police:

BCPD handled over 361 incidents and opened 47 new cases this past two weeks. Amongst those cases:

- BCPD personnel investigated multiple (10) theft reports
- BCPD personnel responded to 41 suspicious situation situations and 12 disturbances.
- BCPD personnel made multiple Warrants / Detainer (5) arrests
- BCPD personnel investigated 6 trespass reports
- BCPD personnel investigated 3 missing person reports; 2 of the three missing persons were located during this time period
- BCPD personnel (Police and Code Enforcement) investigated multiple (30) animal complaints

- Sergeant Wayne Chastain and Detective Jared Wood attended a week-long murder investigation conference in Seaside, Oregon
- Det. Jared Wood attended a background investigations class
- BCPD personnel participated in several briefing trainings, including a review of various Officer Safety topics and legal updates

Fire Department



MAINTENANCE/TRAINING/ FIRE PREVENTION - INSPECTIONS/ COMMUNITY EVENTS

20.0 Hrs. Station and vehicle maintenance

- 01 Hrs. Fire training
- 00Hrs. EMS training
- 00 Hrs. Safety training
- 02 Fire Prevention/Inspections
- 01hrs Community Events
- 00 Residential Burn Permits

09/15/2022-09/21/2022

EMERGENCY RESPONSES

The Baker City Fire Department emergency alarms detailed as follows:

FIRE REPORTS	05
General alarms	00
Dispatched alarms	05
EMERGENCY MEDICAL	01
In-City Responses	00
Out of City Responses	01
Transports	01
No Transports	00
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	00
# of staff requested	00
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 LANDSCAPING: REDUCE GRASS AND SAVE WATER

In the summertime, the majority of residential water goes to maintaining lawns and gardens. By making some changes to your landscape, you can help Baker City reduce water demand, which is especially important during these ongoing drought conditions.

What is Water-Wise Landscaping?

Water-wise landscaping—also known as xeriscaping—is the practice of landscape design that uses a combination of drought-tolerant plants and water-efficient irrigation practices to reduce overall water use. The result is a beautiful yard that attracts pollinators, creates habitat for birds, and helps to decrease demand on our community’s vital and limited water supplies during the drought.

Here are some ways you can incorporate the principles of water-wise landscaping into your yard:

Reduce your lawn size by adding low-water-use border plants, shrubs, and trees. Once established, these plants will need little to no irrigation water in the summer. You can also incorporate hardscaped elements, such as stone or gravel pathways, pavers, and rock gardens.

Group plants with similar water needs together to simplify watering. For example, succulents and cacti are a good choice for the harder-to-water areas of your lawn. Plants that need more attention, such as vegetables and flowers, should be closer to your water source.

Use **soil amendments**, such as compost, peat moss, or manure, to improve soil quality and drainage, and add **mulches** to reduce evaporation and to keep the soil cool.

Irrigate efficiently by applying the right amount of water at the right time. Avoid watering in the middle of the day when water evaporates faster. It’s also important to use the right tools, such as drip irrigation and soaker hoses for shrubs and garden beds and sprinklers that keep water close to the ground for lawns.

Water-wise landscaping doesn’t have to be all or nothing. Start small by focusing on the areas of your lawn that are hard to maintain or are rarely used, such as steep slopes or areas near driveways or sidewalks that are difficult to water efficiently. Replacing these areas with beautiful, low-maintenance native or low-water-use plants can make a big difference in your water usage!

Public Works:

**NEWS RELEASE**

For Immediate Release: September 20, 2022

Information Contact: Michelle Owen, Public Works Director, (541) 524-2031

Baker City Municipal Airport Kicks Off Master Plan Process

Baker City, Oregon – Baker City Municipal Airport announced the launch of its 2022 Airport Master Plan which will help guide the next 20 years of growth at the airport. The community is encouraged to attend the kick-off meeting which will take place Thursday, Sept. 29, at 5 p.m. The meeting will be held at City Hall, 1655 1st Street.

The planning process, which is expected to take two years to complete, will examine the airport's role within the community, airport assets and facilities, aviation activity forecasts, and future development as well as options for ongoing public engagement on airport matters.

"Baker City Municipal Airport has been an important community resource for nearly 80 years," said Greg Sackos, airport commissioner. "We look forward learning how we can continue to meet the needs of our community for the next 20 years."

The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) requires airports to develop a 20-year airport master plan to ensure thoughtful and strategic planning of future facilities and airport infrastructure. The airport master plan will help guide the airport's future with the goal of ensuring the airport continues to operate in a safe, efficient, and effective manner while also reflecting our community values.

Updates and additional information will be made available at the online project portal: <https://www.to-engineersprojectinfo.com/jobs/1946/details/baker-city-airport-master-plan>.

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Public Works Weekly Update for 9/16/22



- Public works crews installed new garbage cans at the parks around Baker City.

The salt lick information plaque was repaired and reinstalled back at Court Plaza.



Here the Albina distributor truck is spraying fog seal on Auburn.



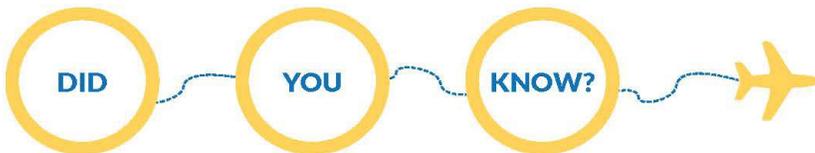


Here is the finished product.

YOU'RE INVITED

Baker City Municipal Airport (BKE) is holding a public meeting to kick off its 2022 Airport Master Plan. The purpose of this meeting is to educate, inform, and seek out public comment on the planning process. Come learn how you can help shape the future of our airport.

THURSDAY, SEPT. 29 • 5 P.M.
CITY HALL, 1655 1ST STREET



- THE FAA REQUIRES MASTER PLANS BE COMPLETED REGULARLY.
- IT'S BEEN 12 YEARS SINCE THE LAST MASTER PLAN WAS COMPLETED.



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

