



# The WEEKLY

November 4<sup>th</sup>, 2022



## Halloween Downtown

### INSIDE

#### Volunteers Needed!

Multiple openings on boards and commissions

#### Baker City is Hiring!

Evidence Technician job is open for applicants

#### UPCOMING MEETINGS

##### November 9<sup>th</sup>:

Budget Board Meeting 6:00pm

City Hall Council Chambers

##### November 22<sup>nd</sup>

City Council Regular Session 7:00pm

City Hall Council Chambers



Pictured Above: Sgt. Chastain and Officer Chandler handing out Candy at the downtown trunk or treat.



Pictured Above: Firefighter's BJ Lynch and Jason Jacobs handing out candy at the downtown trunk or treat.

## City Manager's Message



Thank you to all of the businesses and organizations that gathered on Main Street for Halloween. It was fun watching all the people line up and down the street. Some came into city hall and visited the finance department as well. Thanks to all who stopped by and got a little candy.

The snow is starting to fly, I do love snow. With the snow and cold, public works are out early in the morning checking intersections. Salt, sand, ice, and plowing are very costly. It is a delicate balance between making sure critical routes are clear and other roads are drivable while managing the dollars available to spend on streets. Public works developed a priority map and policy of when, where, and how much snow triggers salt, sand, or plowing. Information about snow management can be located on our website under the public works department. Be careful this winter as we see that beautiful white stuff fall all around.

Midterm elections are almost upon us and Baker County is busy handling the incoming ballots. Make sure you take the opportunity to vote and participate in selecting your representatives. That is one way you can have your voice heard in this glorious country of ours.

On November 9, the Budget Board will meet and receive information from city staff related to the upcoming budget. Staff will seek guidance on where we should focus priorities as we prepare the upcoming budget preparations for the next fiscal year. As a new Council takes office in January, budget discussions will continue. The new council will be asked to prepare council goals that guide our budget process. The budget board will be involved as we look at revenue and expenditures to not only meet council goals but to also focus on the priorities that will come out of the November 9th discussion.

I believe that if we establish a clear direction with priorities that represent the values of our city, then we can prepare a budgeting process that will be more predictable and financially stable over the next few years. It will take some time to work through this process, but I believe it is necessary for us to move forward comfortably through the next couple of decades.

Baker City still has numerous openings on boards and commissions. Please contact Dallas Brockett, City Recorder, if you are interested in providing input into the boards and commissions.

Have a great weekend.                      – Jonathan Cannon, City Manager



# We need Volunteers!!

## 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>



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

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

**Weekly report**

During the week of October 27th – November 2nd, 2022, 9 customers signed up for new water/wastewater services, and 12 customers disconnected services. Door tags were delivered to 3 residences for delinquent accounts, and 4 accounts were turned off for non-payment. At the time of this update 6 accounts remain off for non-payment.

Zone 8 was billed and included 482 residential customers and 20 commercial accounts. Of those mentioned, 130 (23%) are set up for direct debit payments and 27 (5%) are signed up for e-billing.

**Want a worry-free way to pay your bill?** Sign up for our direct debit option! Forms are available on our website at [bakercity.com](http://bakercity.com) under the Finance Department and require completion and validation of bank account information. We will automatically debit your account monthly for your water and sewer bill on the date option you request. Fix it and forget it!

DOXO is also available for those who wish to pay their account through their computer or mobile device. Simply visit our website and select “Pay a bill.” You will then be directed to the portal where you can create your own account. This is a FREE service if you use your bank account information for ACH payment. If you choose to pay by credit card, a fee will be assessed by DOXO. For more information on the DOXO platform, please visit <https://www.doxo.com> for more information.

## Planning Department

**PUBLIC HEARINGS**

- The Baker City Planning Commission will hold a public hearing both in-person and virtually at 6:00 p.m., on Wednesday, November 16, 2022, in the Council Chambers at the Baker City Hall, 1655 1st Street, Baker City, Oregon, to consider a request for a Conditional Use Permit to construct a ±2,160-square-foot accessory structure and a concurrent Variance allowing the combination of the footprint of all accessory structures on the property to equal more than 1.5 times the footprint of the primary structure (total accessory structures are proposed to equal ±2,560 square feet), for applicants and property owners, Neil and Frances Chaney.

The property is addressed as 3595 Grace Street, also identified as Tax Lot 300 of Assessor's Map 09s40e20bc (Ref. 3127), and is located in the Residential Medium-Density (R-MD) Zone. The requested structure will be accessory to the existing single-family dwelling located on the property.

- The City Council discussed the burden of housing costs in Baker City on October 25th. Baker City is a "severely rent burdened city" by state definition, meaning 25% or more of our community members are spending more than 50% of their household income on housing. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the causes and consequences of severe rent burdens within the city, the barriers to reducing rent burdens; and possible solutions to reduce the number of severely rent burdened households within the city.

The City is in the process of developing a housing production strategy, and information about causes, barriers, and solutions to rent burdens will help inform this strategy for meeting the housing needs for Baker City residents.

- The City Council held their second hearing on October 25th to consider the recommendation from the Baker City Planning Commission, for a request from applicants and property owners, Leonard H., II and Gayle Gazley, to change the zoning designation of their property from General Industrial (I) to General Commercial (C-G) via a Baker City Comprehensive Plan Map and Zone Map Amendment. The City Council read the ordinance for the first time at their hearing on October 11th and a second time at their hearing on October 25th. The City Planning Commission recommended approval of the rezone to the City Council at their public hearing on September 21, 2022, and approved a Conditional Use Permit allowing the existing structures on the property to be converted into a dwelling, contingent upon the Council's decision of the rezone. 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). City Council will hold a third hearing on this application on November 22, 2022.

## Planning Department

### Public Hearing's Continued...

- The Baker City Planning Commission held a public hearing on October 19, 2022, and approved a Conditional Use Permit request by applicant, Steven Walborn, and property owner, Oregon Department of Corrections, to replace an existing radio communication tower with a 52-foot tower in the same location on the Powder River Correctional Facility property. The property is addressed as 3600 13th Street and is also identified as Tax Lots 2800, 2801, and 2901 of Assessor's Map 09s40e08cd (Refs. 15418, 15664, 15663), located in the General Commercial (C-G) Zone. The appeal period for this request ends at 5p.m., on November 7, 2022.

### APPLICATIONS

- An accessory structure (steel sun shade) was approved for Baker High School at 2500 E Street in the Residential Medium-Density (R-MD) Zone. The structure will be located near the southwest corner of the existing running track.
- Modifications to the existing walkways, drive aisles, and structure for the Grant-Baker Federal Credit Union at 2036 Broadway Street were approved in the Central-Commercial (CC) Zone.
- A detached garage was approved at 2334 Virginia Avenue in the Residential High-Density (R-HD) Zone. The construction of this building is contingent upon an approved Floodplain Development Permit being issued.
- An accessory structure (storage shop) was approved at 1100 Idlewood Drive in the Residential Low-Density (R-LD) Zone.
- A residential home addition and accessory structure (Old Hickory Shed) were approved at 1637 6th Street in the Residential High-Density (R-HD) Zone.
- A new accessory structure was approved at 125 3rd Street in the Residential High-Density (R-HD) Zone.

## Police Department

**BCPD opened 65 new cases and responded to 371 calls for service over the past two weeks, making several arrests for outstanding warrants and detainers.**

*Over the course of this past week, the law enforcement community became aware of an incident involving narcotics and violent crime occurring in Baker City. As a result of the information, detectives with the Baker County Narcotics Enforcement Team initiated an investigation that resulted in the execution of a search warrant at 1690 Indiana Avenue by members of the Northwest Oregon Regional SWAT team. As a result of that warrant, detectives located items of evidentiary value to the case as well as stolen property. Three individuals at the residence were detained and interviewed. Two were released with no charges and one was arrested on an unrelated warrant.*

*Arrested on the unrelated warrant was Robert M. Metz, age 37. He was lodged in the Baker County Jail on Malheur County Warrants for false information to police, attempt to elude police, reckless driving, and unlawful possession of heroin.*

*Just prior to the execution of the warrant by SWAT, Heather Winston was seen leaving the residence. She was stopped in the vehicle she was driving and taken into custody. On the morning of Thursday, November 3, 2022, a Baker County Grand Jury heard evidence of the case and Heather Winston, age 30 was indicted on the following charges: kidnapping first degree, robbery third degree, assault fourth degree, menacing and coercion. Heather Winston is currently on post-prison supervision for a robbery second degree charge that originated in Baker City in 2019. She was sentenced to 36 months for that charge. She entered prison on November 21, 2019 and was released from Coffee Creek Correctional facility on October 29, 2021. She is currently residing at 1690 Indiana Avenue.*

## Police Department

*Previously, this address was the target of an investigation and search warrant related to narcotics and weapons that was executed on September 16, 2020. That search warrant was also conducted by the Northeast Oregon Regional SWAT team.*

*The Baker County Narcotics Enforcement Team is comprised of members from the Baker City Police Department and is supported by the Baker County Sheriff's Office, the Baker County District Attorney's Office and the Oregon State Police.*

*The Northeastern Oregon Regional SWAT team is comprised of members from the LaGrande Police Department, LaGrande Fire, Baker City Police Department, Union County Sheriff's Office, and the Baker County Sheriff's Office.*

*The mission of the Baker County Narcotics Enforcement team is to disrupt and/or dismantle mid to upper-level drug trafficking individuals and organizations, address violent crime as well as provide valuable intelligence and investigative resources to all law enforcement regarding unlawful criminal activity. Detectives assigned to these teams not only investigate narcotics trafficking but play a major role in major crime team cases.*

- Winter driving conditions are here. Be sure you're ready for anything mother nature has in store by reviewing these winter driving safety tips: <https://www.oregon.gov/odot/documents/winter-driving-guide.pdf> and check updated road conditions by going to <https://tripcheck.com/> or by calling 5-1-1 toll free within Oregon.



**Pictured Left:** BCPD Officers Mason Powell, Josh Chandler and Sergeant Wayne Chastain along with BCSO Deputy Joel Teixeira greeted ghosts, goblins, fairies and princesses during the annual Trick or Treat Downtown event hosted by Baker City Kiwanis. We'd like to thank everyone for their participation and the efforts of the Kiwanians to put on such a wonderful family-friendly event!

Fire Department



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

50 Hrs. Station and vehicle maintenance

18 Hrs. Fire training

27 Hrs. EMS training

04 Hrs. Safety training

04 Hrs Fire Prevention/Inspections

12 Hrs Community Events

23 Residential Burn Permits

10/18/2022-11/01/2022

**EMERGENCY RESPONSES**

The Baker City Fire Department emergency alarms detailed as follows:

<b>FIRE REPORTS</b>	16
General alarms	01
Dispatched alarms	15
<b>Fire Call Types</b>	17
False Alarm	02
Agency Assist – LEO,EMS, Mutual Aid	03
MVC in town	00
MVC Mutual Aid	01
Structural Fire	00
Brush Fire/Grass/Wildland	02
Trash/Dumpster	00
Vehicle Fire	00
Burn Complaint/Service Call	08
Fire Investigation	02
<b>Emergency Call Back</b>	
Requests for cover	03
# of staff requested	06
Staff response for cover	04
No staff response for cover	02

- **Delivered Fire Extinguisher Training to City Administration and Public Works staff.**
- **Participated in PALs Training For EMS Continuing Education**
- **Local 922 Distributed Candy for Halloween downtown event.**
- **General alarm was for OTEC Electrical lines with 3 simultaneous tree vs power lines @ 3 locations**

Public Works:

**Public Works Weekly Update for 10/21/22**

Public works crew is excavating a citizens lateral that is plugged from roots at the main line.



Public Works:

Public works crews have been cleaning all the catch basins in town.



**Public Works:**

Here one of the City's dump trucks is spreading rock on one of our gravel streets.



**Public Works:**

Crews were able to grade all of the gravel streets after the moisture we received.



Public Works:

Here crews are tapping the water main for a new residence being built.



**Public Works:**

This is the new water meter box installed for the new residence.



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)