



The WEEKLY

November 18th, 2022

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

INSIDE

Volunteers Needed!

Multiple openings on boards and commissions

Oh, Christmas Tree

2022 Baker City Christmas Tree delivered downtown.

UPCOMING MEETINGS

November 22nd

City Council Regular Session 7:00pm

City Hall Council Chambers



Pictured Above is the 2022 Baker City Christmas Tree for downtown being loaded. See page 4 for more details.



City Manager's Message...

Congratulations to our newly elected City Councilors. Citizens may not realize City Council positions are voluntary in nature. What I mean by this is city councilors are paid \$150 per year for their service. Payment of this amount pales in comparison to the hours and commitment the city councilors invest in their position. Certainly, some city councilors invest more time than others but all at minimum attend council meetings, attend assigned boards and committee appointments, and participate in training. Some schedule regular meetings with the city manager, meet with community organizations, and attend community functions. Others spend time studying city records, budget information, or state statutes. Each councilor brings a unique perspective to City Council and provides representation to a varying group of individuals within the city. Every councilor is a participant in the decision-making process. Sometimes those decisions are for items that are well-received and fun. Sometimes those decisions are difficult and create consternation or frustration amongst some in the community. City councilors are praised for their work and at other times yelled out or accused in all sorts of incendiary manners. The work of a city councilor is worth far more than they are paid. I believe the volunteer nature of the job brings a more dedicated citizen to pursue the position than it would if we paid them for the job. I express my appreciation to those who pursue the opportunity to be on City Council.

Congratulations to our newly elected County Commissioners. Shane Alderson will be resigning from the City Council before he officially takes office as a County Commissioner. I look forward to working with our newly elected County Commissioners. The city actually works closely with Baker County on many issues. We have numerous agreements with the County. Most operate smoothly and accomplish some goal or work expected by our citizens.

Budget Board met last week and received information about the last 40 years of budget history in Baker City. There are some real challenges facing the city. The budget board and City Council will be reviewing those challenges and the accompanying opportunities they provide over the next two years. Important decisions that look to the future of Baker City will need to be made and will promulgate from the discussions that began last week with the budget board. I would like to invite every citizen in Baker City to review the [charts and graphs](#) that the budget board looked at as part of their discussion last week.

One opportunity the city can take from the discussions is a chance to focus on visioning for the future. No city ever remains stagnant or the same. Every city ebbs and flows as visions and focus change. Baker City is no different. The history of Baker City includes mining, forestry, rail commerce, and tourism. Businesses come and go and the character and face of the city change. The current City Council and budget board will have great influence on what Baker City will look like over the next decade.

One challenge that is apparent in the charts is obvious on the chart titled General Fund Revenue and Beginning Working Capital. This graph shows a general decline in beginning working capital over the last 20 years. The downward slope of the trend is significant and city expenses because of inflation will cause the slope of the trend to steepen. Some might see the small bump in working capital over the last year or two as a sign that we are not facing a challenge that needs to be addressed in the near future. If you understand that the small bump in working capital is a result of two one-time federal funding grants that will quickly be expended and does not change the direction of the trend then you will understand why there is a sense of urgency to begin the discussions which address this challenge. My hope is to change the trend. We should be on course to at minimum have a stable Beginning Working Capital and preferably see an increasing Beginning Working Capital. Our current trend leaves us using one-time funding sources like grants to plug operational holes in our budget. This means we are in constant threat of instability. It also means that we cannot use the one-time sources of revenue as they are generally intended to be used, as opportunities to build unique projects or bring/provide new experiences and economic development opportunities into the community. The challenges we face will require time and commitment to solve but can be solved.

On a lighter note, Thanksgiving is next week. I hope everyone can find something for which to give thanks. Next week begins a busy time of year as we enter the holiday season. There will not be a weekly update next because of the holidays.

Have a great weekend. – Jonathan Cannon, City Manager





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

[Apply Here](#)

**Questions? Contact the City Recorder:
cityrecorder@bakercity.gov**

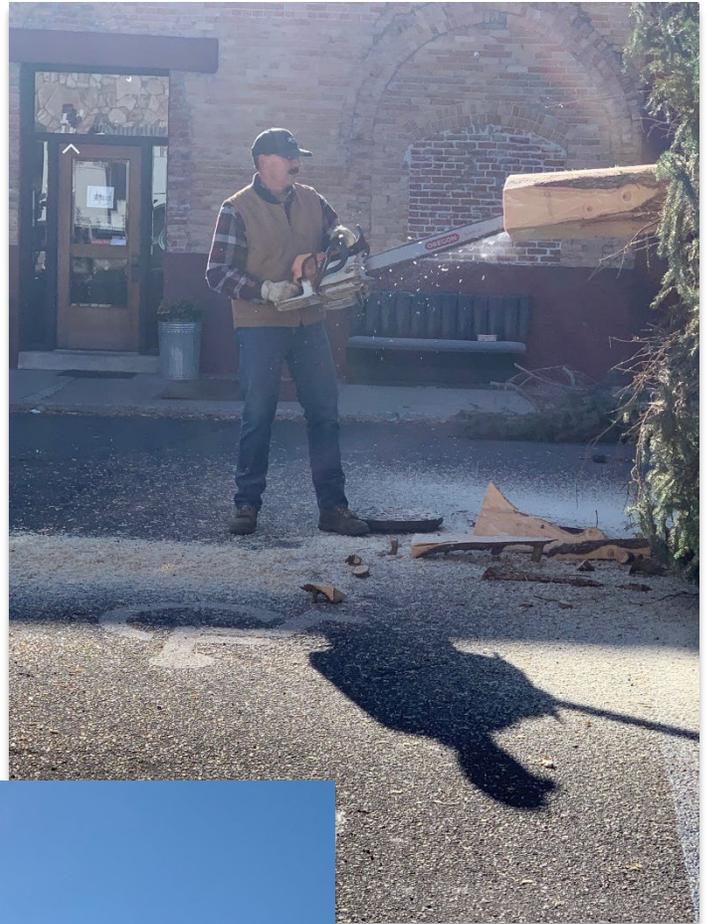




Oh Christmas Tree!



Many thanks to Kathleen Rayl for donating this year's downtown Christmas tree. Many thanks to all those involved to assist in getting the tree downtown. OTEC assisted with moving wires. Chuck Carey cut down the Christmas tree – he has been doing it since 1979! Thank you for Superior Towing for bringing the tree to downtown. The Annual Downtown Christmas Tree Lighting will be December 3rd after the parade.



Finance Department

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

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

Weekly report

The Finance Department will be closed both Thursday, November 24th and Friday, November 25th for the Thanksgiving Holiday. Happy Thanksgiving!

During the week of November 11th – November 17th, 2022, 4 customers signed up for new water/wastewater services, and 10 customers disconnected services. Door tags were delivered to 26 residences for delinquent accounts, and 9 accounts was turned off for non-payment. At the time of this update 6 accounts remain off for non-payment.

Zone 2 was billed and included 464 residential customers and 14 commercial accounts. Of those mentioned, 110 (23%) are set up for direct debit payments and 25 (5%) are signed up for e-billing.

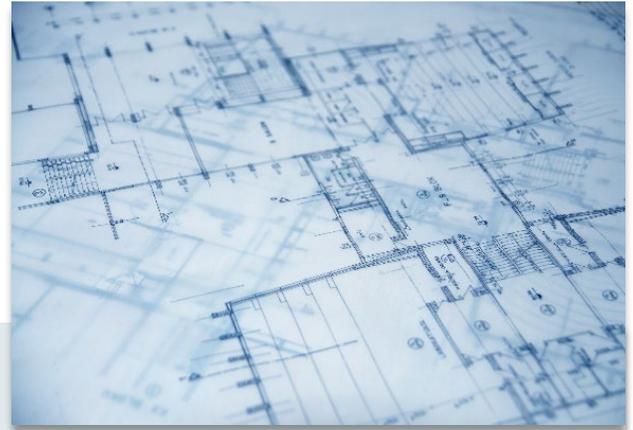
Zone 6 was billed and included 486 residential customers and 61 commercial accounts. Of those mentioned, 130 (24%) are set up for direct debit payments and 45 (8%) are signed up for e-billing.

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 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 held a public hearing on Wednesday, November 16, 2022 and continued the meeting to Wednesday, December 21, 2022. The meeting will be held both in-person and virtually at 6:00 p.m., 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 $\pm 2,160$ -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 $\pm 2,560$ 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 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 $\pm .55$ 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.

APPLICATIONS

- A new single family dwelling with attached garage and accessory structure was approved at the southeast corner of 15th and A Street in the Residential Medium-Density (R-MD) Zone.



Fire Department



MAINTENANCE/TRAINING/ FIRE PREVENTION – INSPECTIONS/ COMMUNITY EVENTS

- 21 Hrs. Station and vehicle maintenance
- 06 Hrs. Fire training
- 03 Hrs. EMS training
- 00 Hrs. Safety training
- 03 Hrs. Fire Prevention/Inspections
- 00 Hrs. Community Events
- 9 Residential Burn Permits

11/10/2022-11/16/2022

EMERGENCY RESPONSES

The Baker City Fire Department emergency alarms detailed as follows:

FIRE REPORTS	5
General alarms	00
Dispatched alarms	05
Fire Call Types	5
False Alarm	03
Agency Assist – LEO,EMS, Mutual Aid	00
MVC in town	00
MVC Mutual Aid	01
Structural Fire	00
Brush Fire/Grass/Wildland	01
Trash/Dumpster	00
Vehicle Fire	00
Burn Complaint/Service Call	00
Fire Investigation	00
Emergency Call Back	
Requests for cover	01
# of staff requested	01
Staff response for cover	01
No staff response for cover	00

Turkey turns Tragedy – Fire Tip

<https://www.fox32chicago.com/news/chicago-firefighters-demonstrate-how-frying-a-turkey-this-thanksgiving-could-go-terribly-wrong>



Public Works:

Public Works Weekly Update for 11/18/22

Fats, Oils & Grease Buildup



Do Not Pour Down the Drain!

It's the time of year of more cooking at home and holiday meals which means time for reminders of best practices for kitchen waste.

Fats, oils and grease (FOG) can cool and solidify in pipes, causing blockages in your home and in the public sewer system.

Common sources include:

- Butter, margarine, shortening and cooking oil
- Food scraps with grease, butter or oil
- Meat fat, juices and gravy
- Dairy products



To properly dispose of grease:

- Scrape food waste into your garbage can or compost
- Wipe pots and dishes to remove grease before cleaning.
- Put your fats, oils and grease in a disposable container, freeze it, then place it in the trash.

Public Works:

You may have seen the street sweeper out and about picking up fallen leaves.

Please yield to these vehicles as they are unable to stop quickly, turn sharply, or rapidly as they pass through neighborhoods, and maneuver around parked cars. Street sweeping will continue until the snow arrives and then you'll see a variety of other vehicles for this work.



If you have any questions, feel free to reach out to Public Works at 541-523-2047. <https://www.bakercity.com/2226/Streets>

Public Works:

Here the public works director and a representative from Anderson Perry are meeting with OSU to discuss soil sampling at one of the city's land application sites.



Public Works:

Waste water crews are running the camera down a main to inspect a private lateral connection that has had trouble.



Public Works:

Crews are replacing old hoses on the waste water emergency backup pump.



Public Works:

Public works crews are building a road at the reservoir to access the UV plant.





S N O W I N B A K E R C I T Y

Baker City Public Works Snowplow Policy:

In the event of snowfall and accumulation of at least 4" of snow with more on the way, city crews will begin plowing city streets. It is imperative that all vehicles be removed from streets so that snow can be cleared all the way to the curb. Please see the Baker City website at www.bakercity.com for a map of priority routes.

Snow Plow Season:

Citizens (either elderly or disabled), who are physically unable to remove the berm in front of their own driveways caused by city plowing activity will have the option to have city forces open their driveway entrance when their street is plowed. Eligible citizens will be able to go to city hall to sign up for the service and will be given specially painted stakes to mark their driveway entrance. This service is provided only as time and funding allow. *If citizens have had a stake in the past, they need to contact the Public Works office at City Hall to remain on the list.*

Snow Plow Season Tips:

- It is important to keep vehicles parked off roadways so graders/plows can clear the entire width of the road. This is especially important on priority 1, 2 and 3 routes as they are plowed more often than most residential streets.
- When shoveling out driveways after the plow has been by, place shoveled snow behind the curb.
- Please do not push snow from private property onto city streets.
- Allow extra time while traveling so that you don't have to drive faster than the conditions warrant.



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