



The WEEKLY

December 16th, 2022

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

INSIDE

Volunteers Needed!

Multiple openings on boards and commissions.

UPCOMING MEETINGS

January 10th, 2023
City Council
Regular Session
7:00pm

City Hall
Council Chambers



Pictured Above: Santa Claus came to City Hall to thank city staff for all the hard work they do. Here is Santa with our Finance Department employees who work very diligently and provide all the financial services for the City.





City Manager's Message...

City Council met this week for the last time in 2022. The Council appointed former Baker City Police Chief Ray Duman to fill the vacancy created by the resignation of Mayor Kerry McQuisten. Mayor McQuisten has moved out of Baker City and can no longer serve on City Council. The City Council will appoint a replacement for Shane Alderson after the new year. Councilor Alderson will occupy his new seat as a County Commissioner in January. If you are interested in serving on the City Council as a replacement appointment for Shane Alderson, contact Dallas Brockett at cityrecorder@bakercity.gov.

The newly elected and incumbents on City Council will meet for the first time on January 10, 2022. At the beginning of the meeting, they will be sworn into office. The City Council will also be required to appoint a new Mayor and Acting Mayor at the beginning of the year.

The newly elected city councilors already are meeting with staff including human resources, the city recorder, and myself the city manager. We are setting them up with emails, contact information, LOC training, and required state filings. This will hopefully help everyone to start successfully in their positions.

On another note, the recent recall petition for six council members has timed out. The chief petitioner is required to submit petition names within 90 days of filing form 350 with the City Elections Official. According to the office of the Secretary of State and the City Elections Official, the 90-day deadline was 5:00 PM, December 6, 2022. Names were not submitted by the deadline. The current recall petition is no longer eligible to proceed.

As I am typing this report, I received a visit from Santa in my office. It was a welcome bright spot this Friday morning. Thank you, Santa for the visit, the candy cane, and the cheer you brought me on this fine day.

Finally, we have lots of opportunities for community members to participate on boards and commissions. In fact, the Parks and Recreation Board encourages a youth and a senior membership member. If you have a youth who might be a good fit for the Parks and Recreation Board, contact Dallas Brockett, City Recorder at cityrecorder@bakercity.gov.

Have a great weekend.

Jonathan Cannon, City Manager



We need

YOU!



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**



Job Opportunities

JOB ANNOUNCEMENT**Evidence Technician****(Closes: December 28, 2022)**

Baker City is accepting applications for the position of Evidence Technician within the Police Department. Applications will be accepted until the position is filled; however, the closing date will be **December 28, 2022**. This is a part-time, represented, and benefited position with a salary range of \$18.04 – \$20.30 per hour.

For application and job description please visit the website:

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

JOB ANNOUNCEMENT**Firefighter****Open until filled**

Baker City is accepting applications for the position of Firefighter within the Fire Department. Applications will be accepted until the position is filled. This is a non-exempt 40-hour firefighter position, with a salary range of \$3,568 - \$4,013 per month.

For application and job description please visit the website:

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

EEO Statement: Baker City is an equal opportunity employer, and as such, we consider individuals for employment according to their abilities and performance. Employment decisions are made without regard to age, disability, race, color, national origin, religion, sex, gender, sexual orientation, veteran status, military status, association with members of a protected class, marital status, injured worker status, union participation, non-supervisory family relationships, or any other protected class or work relationship. All employment requirements mandated by State and Federal laws and regulations are observed.



Finance Department

The Finance Department will be closed both Monday and Tuesday, December 26th and 27th for the Christmas Holiday, and Monday, January 2nd, 2023, for the New Year Holiday.

During the week of December 9th through December 15th, 2022, 3 customers signed up for new water/wastewater services, and 2 customers disconnected services. Door tags were delivered to 6 residences for delinquent accounts, and 4 accounts were turned off for non-payment. At the time of this update accounts remain off for non-payment.

Zone 5 was billed on December 9th, 2022, and included 469 residential customers and 17 commercial accounts. Of those mentioned, 147 (30%) are set up for direct debit payments and 35 (7%) are signed up for e-billing.

Zone 2 was billed on December 12th, 2022, and included 462 residential customers and 14 commercial accounts. Of those mentioned, 114 (24%) are set up for direct debit and 26 (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 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., in the Council Chambers at the Baker City Hall, 1655 1st Street, Baker City, Oregon on Wednesday, December 21, 2022, at 6p.m. to hear the following requests:
 - 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 Planning Commission heard this request at their meeting on November 16, 2022, and continued the meeting to December 21st.

APPLICATIONS

- A modification to an existing porch cover, enabling the cover to meet required setbacks, was approved at 2875 Grove Street in the Residential-High Density (R-HD) Zone.
- A staircase off an existing porch was approved at 967 Boulder Drive in the Residential- Medium Density (R-MD) Zone.
- A greenhouse, which is accessory to the existing dwelling, was approved at 2405 Estes Street in the Residential-High Density (R-HD) Zone



Police Department



Please join us in welcoming back Officer Emily Oller to Baker City! Officer Oller graduated from the Department of Public Safety Standards and Training (DPSST) Police Academy in Salem, Oregon this past Friday. Officer Oller is currently back on patrol completing her Field Training with another officer. Congratulations Emily on a job well done. We're very excited to have you home!



Police Department

BCPD opened 48 new cases and responded to 299 calls for service over the last two weeks, making several arrests for outstanding warrants and detainers. BCPD issued the following press releases relating to ongoing investigations:

On November 18th, 2022, the Baker City Police Department took a report involving the theft of a set of 5 X 6 Bull elk skull and horns that were stolen out of the victim's front yard in Baker City, Oregon. The victim had been working on cleaning the horns and skull for the purpose of displaying them in a European Mount. The Baker City Herald ran an article dated November 20th, 2022, on the theft. The Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation also did a story. Friends of the victim put up a reward for information leading to the recovery of the skull and horns.

Members of the Baker City Police Department and Narcotics Team obtained information that led officers to apply for a search warrant for a residence in Baker City located at 435 Spring Garden. The target of the search warrant was JOSHUA JAMES SMITH, age 40, who detectives knew to be residing at that home.

On December 13th, 2022, BCPD patrol and detectives served the search warrant and located the skull and horns. Investigators also located small amounts of methamphetamine.

The case will be referred to the Baker County District Attorney's Office for prosecution.



Police Department

Within the last four months, the Baker County Narcotics Enforcement Team (BCNET) has concluded multiple narcotic investigations. The investigations all stemmed from Baker City and were initiated by BCNET.

On September 26th, 2022, detectives executed a search warrant at 3225 H Street in Baker City. The target of that warrant was GAGE NIEHAUS, age 23. During the search, detectives located small amounts of methamphetamine, fentanyl pills and as well as evidence of drug sales. Charges are pending upon review by the Baker County District Attorney's Office.

On September 30th, 2022, RICH CAROLL, 52, was arrested on a narcotics team case involving gun and drug charges. Then on October 3rd, 2022, detectives arrested Tom Carroll for possession of methamphetamine and violation of his release agreement. Detectives followed up the arrests with the execution of a search warrant at CARROLL's residence, 1129 Elm Street in Baker City. Detectives located numerous suspected stolen items, mostly tools as well as four AR-15 rifles. This case is under review at the Baker County District Attorney's Office and the United States Assistant Attorney General's Office.

On October 7th, 2022, detectives executed a search warrant at 2045 Virginia Avenue in Baker City. The target of the warrant was DOUGLAS CLAYBORN, age 65. During the search, detectives located about 1500 fentanyl pills, over ½ ounce of methamphetamine and other items indicative of narcotics trafficking. CLAYBORN was also cited for two counts of unlawful delivery of heroin and one count of unlawful delivery of methamphetamine stemming from a secret indictment on a separate narcotics team case. A plea hearing is pending for this case.

On October 10, 2022, detectives executed a search warrant at 2250 Miller Street in Baker City. The target of the warrant was SHANNON JOY DAVIS/KANYID, age 57. During the search, detectives located just under an ounce of methamphetamine and items indicative of drug trafficking. On December 1st, 2022, the Baker County Grand Jury came with indictments for unlawful manufacture of methamphetamine, attempted unlawful delivery of methamphetamine and unlawful possession of methamphetamine.

On October 19th, 2022, MAKALA LAFFERTY, age 25, was taken into custody on a Baker County Circuit Court Secret Indictment Warrant for unlawful delivery of heroin. She was cited at the Baker County Jail where she was incarcerated on other charges.

On November 8, 2022, CARMON HENDRIKSEN, 34, was taken into custody on a Baker County Circuit Court Secret Indictment Warrant for unlawful delivery of methamphetamine. She was located in Baker City.

On November 11, 2022, JOSHUA JAMES SMITH, 40, was taken into custody on a Baker County Circuit Court Secret Indictment Warrant for unlawful delivery of methamphetamine. He was located in Baker City.

As a result of these investigations, Baker City detectives worked with other law enforcement agencies and task forces throughout the State of Oregon in following up on additional leads and sources of narcotics coming into our community. To date, police have seized over 20 pounds of methamphetamine and over 9000 fentanyl pills. These investigations are ongoing.

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 mission of the narcotics 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.

Fire Department



MAY YOUR TREE BE WELL WATERED,
YOUR CANDLES BATTERY POWERED, AND
YOUR COOKING ALWAYS ATTENDED.



HAPPY

Holidays

FROM

THE OREGON STATE FIRE MARSHAL

Public Works:

Public Works Weekly Update for 12/02/2022

City crews are removing trees at the end of the runway for the airport to stay in compliance with the FAA.



Public Works:

Here the crew is chipping the trees.



Public Works:

The City installed new speakers in the Chambers for council meetings.



Public Works:

One of the City operators cleaned out the road into the Goodrich diversion.





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

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

