

CITY OF BAKER CITY

On the Historic Oregon Trail. Established 1874

Weekly Update January 27, 2017

Administration:

The City Council had a full agenda on Tuesday night. They entered into an agreement with the Department of Environmental Quality to begin work on updates to our wastewater system. This will give the City time to plan and build a system which will serve our citizens for the next 50 years. The Council also signed a two year contract with the YMCA to operate Sam O Swim Center. The City declared a local disaster proclamation because of the unprecedented snow accumulation within our boundaries. Though this does not guarantee any state or federal help, we are hopeful that if there are resources available in the future we could qualify.

The snow berms in the City are becoming quite high. We need to treat all intersections away from the primary routes as four way stops. Please be careful as you move through intersections and watch for people coming out of driveways as they may not be able to see you. Let's all slow down and get there safely.

The alleys between Main Street and Second Street have become extremely difficult to navigate especially for trucks. The City has closed these alleys and dumpsters are positioned on the side streets to allow for garbage pickup.

Have a great weekend and stay warm and safe.

City Council

February 14th Agenda Items:

- Budget Resolution
- Council Appointments
- Development Code Update
- Truancy Ordinance -3rd Reading
- Dangerous Dog Ordinance -3rd Reading



Finance:

Utilities

- ◆ Eight customers signed up for new water/sewer service and five customers disconnected service from January 20th thru January 26th. This includes all service changes.
- ◆ Zone 7 was billed January 23rd which included 537 residential and 27 commercial accounts. Of those accounts, 117 or 21% are signed up for direct payment.
- ◆ Zone 4 will be billed today. This zone includes 710 residential and 58 commercial accounts. Of those accounts, 169 or 22% are signed up for direct payment.
- ◆ This week 34 residential customers (Zones 3, 6 and 7) were scheduled to have their water turned off for non-pay (over 60 days past due) nine of those were actually turned off until their past due balance was paid.

Accounts Payable

The second of two accounts payable runs for January was generated today.

Payroll

Seventy employees were paid today including six paid "volunteer firefighters", the dangerous dog hearings officer and one temporary employee for the Building Dept. Of those 70 employees 66 or 94% are signed up for direct deposit.



Building Department:

	Permits Issued City	Inspections City	Permits Issued County	Inspections County
Building	4	1	0	5
Manufactured Dwelling	0	0	0	0
Electrical	2	6	1	2
Mechanical	2	5	2	3
Plumbing	2	3	0	4
Fence	0	NA	N/A	N/A
TOTAL	10	15	3	14

RESIDENTIAL PERMITS:

- No residential permits were issued this week.

COMMERCIAL PERMITS:

- 250 Campbell St., Baker City— Installation of new siding.
- 1937 Broadway St., Baker City— Interior remodel
- 2300 Windmill Rd., Baker City— Interior remodel.
- 2017 7th St., Baker City— Interior remodel.

HISTORIC DESIGN REVIEW: Next meeting is scheduled for February 1, 2017 at 8:00 a.m. in the Building Department office, if needed.

Planning Department:

Public Meetings

- ◆ An open house relating to the proposed Baker City Development Code updates was held on Wednesday, January 25th from 4pm-6pm in Council Chambers at City Hall. The Planning Director and Senior Planner hosted the open house, and discussed the proposed changes to the Development Code with those who attended. We appreciated getting to discuss the changes one-on-one and hearing about the reasons certain pieces of the Development Code are important to different residents and landowners. Thank you to everyone who was able to attend!
- ◆ The Planning Commission will meet on February 1st, 2017 at 7:00 pm to hold a public hearing to review proposed changes to the City of Baker City Development Code. See the flyer on the following page for more information about the Development Code update, and feel free to contact the Planning Department with questions.

Land Use Decisions & Projects

- ◆ Marvin Wood Products has applied for a Conditional Use Permit to construct a ±20,000 square foot addition to the existing wood processing facility. The property is zoned General Industrial (I). The Baker City Planning Commission will hold a public hearing to review this request at 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday, February 15th, 2017. Notices of the proposed changes and hearing were sent to property owners within 100 feet of the property this week.
- ◆ The Planning Commission held a meeting on January 18th, 2017 regarding an appeal of a partition, City Case No. PP-16-091. The Planning Commission denied the Appeal request, and approved the partition with conditions. Notices of the decision were sent out this week to property owners within 100 feet and others who participated in the hearing. The appeal period for the decision is open until February 9th, 2017.
- ◆ Three Flood Hazard determinations were completed this week for property owners requesting the determination for flood insurance purposes.



Planning Department Continued



Baker City Development Code Update

The Baker City Development Code (BCDC) was amended in 2015. During the adoption process, a court decision was released identifying principles that needed to be incorporated into the sign chapter. City Council adopted all of the proposed changes in 2015 except for the sign chapter, and in 2016, the Planning Commission began work to revise the sign chapter. During the Planning Commission's work sessions, other revisions were identified. Some of these revisions are more complex and **may have an impact on landowners**. Other revisions are needed, including inconsistencies and reference corrections, clarifications, clearer organization, and other minor corrections. These types of housekeeping revisions are straightforward and do not materially alter the Code.

Making changes to land use regulations is a Legislative (Type IV) procedure, which is considered initially by the Planning Commission with final decisions made by City Council. A list of revisions was developed during Planning Commission work sessions held in 2016 on January 20th, February 17th, March 16th, April 20th, May 18th, June 15th, August 17th, November 9th and December 14th. These changes include:

MINOR EDITS	REVISIONS	ADDITIONS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Inconsistencies and reference corrections</i> • <i>Clarifications</i> • <i>Clearer organization of definitions</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Revise Sign Code based on case law principles, as well as to increase readability and ease of use</i> • <i>Modify approval criteria for temporary occupancy of motor homes in residential zones</i> • <i>Clarify language in Lot-of-Record criteria</i> • <i>Clarify and increase size allowances for accessory structures in residential zones</i> • <i>Simplify submission requirements for site plans and preliminary plats</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Add proposed public dedications as part of requirements to submit a preliminary plat</i> • <i>Add requirement that City acceptance of any dedication be indicated on final plat</i> • <i>Add process for determining rough proportionality for development and required public improvements</i>

NEXT STEPS

- Get Input from the Public
- Public Open House on **January 25th, 2017**
- Planning Commission Hearing on **February 1st, 2017**
- Recommendation from Planning Commission
- City Council Hearings

WHAT YOU CAN DO

- Request a presentation for your group
- Comment online or in person
- Read details of changes at the Planning Department office or on the website
- Attend the Open House on **January 25th, 2017**

For more information or to comment:

Visit us in person: 1995 3rd Street Baker City, OR 97814

Visit us online: <http://www.bakercity.com/2268/Baker-City-Development-Code-Update>

Email us: planning@bakercity.org

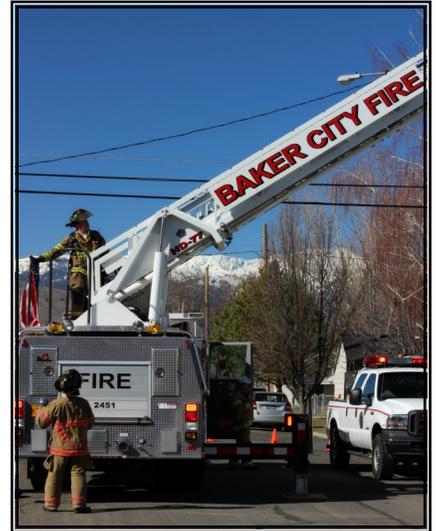
Call us: 541-523-8219



The mission of the Baker City Fire Department is to protect the community through quality preparation and excellent service.

FIRE DEPARTMENT

During the week of January 8th to January 14th the Fire Department responded to a total of **42** emergency alarms.



AMBULANCE OPERATIONS

City Calls	33
Rural Calls	3
Patient Transported	23
No Patient Trip	13

TOTAL MEDIC RESPONSES 36

Airport Transfers	0
Out of Town Transfers	2
Motor Vehicle Accidents	3
Simultaneous Calls	5
Triple Calls	0

TRAINING/MAINTENANCE

This week the BCFD completed 5 hours of in-house training.

FIRE REPORTS

General Alarms	1
Dispatched Alarms	5
TOTAL FIRE RESPONSES	6

- ◆ Campbell Street—Truck vs. fuel pump
- ◆ H Street—Structure Fire
- ◆ G Street—Odor of sewer gas
- ◆ East Street—Steam mistaken for smoke

EMERGENCY CALL BACKS

Requests for Cover	10
Personnel Arrived for Cover	6
Incidents Not Covered	5

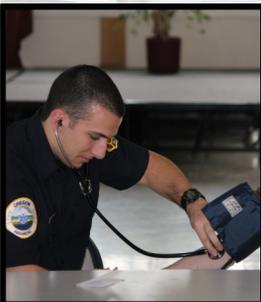
STATION MAINTENANCE

52 hours of station, apparatus and equipment maintenance. Additional tasks included:

- Snow removal around station.
- SCBA compressor repair.

COMMUNITY SERVICE

- Adopt-A-Hydrant program.
- 911 Dispatcher Ride Along.
- Blood Pressure Checks.
- Familiarization at Natural Structures.



The Fire Department provides free blood pressure readings at the Senior Center every Tuesday, at 11 am. Don't miss the next check on January 31st.



"The mission of the Baker City Police is to work in partnership with our community members, to actively promote the safety and welfare of our citizens, along with enriching their quality of life through the delivery of professional police services."



POLICE **DEPARTMENT**

- ★ BCPD handled over 150 incidents and opened 28 new cases this past week.
 - Two of these cases resulted in arrests for Disorderly Conduct, subsequent to altercations that occurred in public places.
 - Four of these cases resulted in arrests for outstanding warrants and two others resulted in arrests for probation violations.
- ★ Chief Lohner and Lt. Newman presented ordinances to the City Council. One ordinance is designed to amend the current Dangerous Dog Ordinance and the other will establish a violation for truancy.
- ★ BCPD personnel participated in training that will enable officers to carry and administer Narcan, which is a treatment for an opiate overdose.
- ★ Lt. Newman participated in the Baker County Transportation Committee meeting.
- ★ BCPD personnel participated in several briefing trainings, including a review of various officer safety topics.
- ★ BCPD Administrative Assistant / Car Seat Technician Phoebe Wachtel continues to assist families with car seat installations each week.

Code Enforcement Weekly Activity

Parking

- 2 vehicle parking hazards impounded
- Followed up on 13 parking violations
- Issued 7 parking citations
- Orange tagged 2 abandoned vehicles
- Multiple verbal warnings

Snow

- Followed up on 2 snow complaints

Animal Violations and Complaints

- Approved 1 new livestock permit
- Followed up on 2 animal complaints
- 2 dogs at large returned to owner
- Followed up on 1 dangerous dog case
- Followed up on 1 vicious dog case



Public Works: Water

There is a big difference in the temperature of the ground between where it is covered with snow and where the snow has either been plowed off or packed down to form ice. Where there is full depth of approximately 24 inches of snow the ground under the snow is not frozen or only frozen in the top inch or two. But where there is either packed snow/ice or bare ground the ground is frozen very deep. On a recent frozen water line repair on 10th Street the ground was frozen to a depth of over 42".

Justin and Matt excavated down to the elevation of the frozen water service line on 10th Street. They cut into the line and installed a curb stop (valve) and then pumped hot water through a tube into the 1" diameter line to thaw the ice plug. As soon as the water came spraying out they quickly pulled the tube out and turned the valve off. Then they reconnected the 1" copper pipe and reopened the valve and the customer was back in service. The resident was instructed to run a thin stream of water to prevent further freezing of their water supply line.



A fire hydrant froze and broke this week near the intersection of 6th and Baker Streets. Water had gotten into the stem, froze and forced the cap off the port. It was reported to the fire department as being out of service. It will be repaired once the ice melts and personnel become available to do the job.

The Baker City Public Works Department is asking Baker City water customers to run a thin stream of water (size of a pencil lead) at a faucet in their home or business as a preventative measure to keep service lines and meters from freezing. We ask that customers continue running water for the next few weeks or until temperatures are consistently warmer and frost depth moves back toward the ground surface.



Public Works: Storm Water



Dennis and Tom cleared the ice from the tops of some of the storm water catch basins in town.

The amount of water in the form of snow is considerable. Over every square foot of ground there is approximately 3.8 gallons of water. If all the snow were instantly to change to water the ground would be covered with 6" of water. Of course, this won't happen. We hope for a slow thaw so that the snow can melt and either soak into the thawed ground or flow into the storm water collection system.

Public Works: Streets

Crews continue to work diligently to keep Baker City streets passable for the traveling public. Drifting snow was a problem this week. Settlers Loop and Indiana Avenue both had to be cleared of snow drifts using the Case front end loader.

Jake is working on Indiana Avenue to clear snow drifts (pictured right).



All the snow berms were hauled off this week. The remaining downtown berms were hauled away Tuesday and the center berms on Grandview Avenue were hauled off Tuesday and Wednesday. This is the first time since December 19th that all the berms have been gone.



Here the crew is pictured hauling away the center berm from Grandview Avenue. Grandview is Baker City's widest residential street (50 feet wide) so there is enough room to plow the snow into the center.



Additional areas had to be cleared this week to make room for hauling snow.

Justin and Tommy cleared additional areas near the Baker County Fairgrounds. Wes and Justin both worked to clear an area of ground on the Ellingson Property for snow dumping.



Public Works: Streets Continued



The very narrow streets in town were plowed for the second time this winter.

Because these streets are so narrow, notices are put out a day in advance so that the residents have the chance to move their vehicles from the streets so that the plow crew can more efficiently clear the street of snow.

Pictured left is an example of the notices which were placed along the entrances to those narrow streets.

The downtown alleys have become treacherous to both vehicles and pedestrians.

Several vehicles have become stuck in these alleys. The ice hanging from some of these buildings weighs hundreds of pounds or more. If these icicles were to fall and hit a vehicle or person, it could cause injury or death.

Baker Sanitary Service has quit traveling down those alleys to pick up garbage. They now have dumpsters staged at the end of each block for their patrons to use.



The snow plow schedule has been posted on the internet daily so that the public can be informed of where the crew will be working next.

In addition to that Jennifer has been assisting the plow crew by going door to door and instructing residents to move vehicles so that the grader operator can plow the snow all the way to the curb and not leave a high berm against parked vehicles.

Pictured left you can see vehicles were removed from the street and then parked back on the street after the plowing has been completed.

Two graders and four backhoes are typically used to clear the streets, intersections, driveways and mailboxes.



Public Works: Shop

The Shop was very busy this week. Wes and Scott would like to give a big “thank you” to everyone that helped out.



The Code Enforcement vehicle received a new driver’s side door handle. Pictured right, Scott is working on an electrical problem with the work lights and rear controls for the back hoe.



The knuckle bar on the rented grader broke apart this week. The rental company sent a CAT repairman over and it was repaired Thursday. Pictured left, Blain and Justin are replacing the cutting edges.

Both of the exhaust header pipes had come apart. They were repaired and the dump truck was returned to the airport.



A key in the gear box that drives the chain on the gravel spreader was sheered. It was pulled apart and replaced. Matt rebuilt the spinner that throws gravel and it is back working.



We had an issue with two relays. We were able to replace them and change some wiring to put less of a draw on that circuit and it is back plowing.





Public Works: Snow Plow Routes

SNOW PLOW ROUTES 2016-2017

