

CITY OF BAKER CITY

On the Historic Oregon Trail. Established 1874

Weekly Update February 3, 2017

Administration:

As they say in Portland, SNOWPOCALYPSE is here. The winter weather shows no signs of letting up. The City crews have just completed their third plowing of residential areas which is unprecedented. The snow berms that are piling up near intersections are causing real concerns for drivers and pedestrians. The City is working on plans to try to get back to the intersections with the highest traffic volume. Please have patience as we work to try to clear up these safety issues. The ruts in many of our high traffic roads are becoming very dangerous. With the continued cold weather it is impossible to grade them out. As soon as we get warmer weather, crews will begin to try to cut them and ease the situation. In the meantime, let's all slow down and arrive safely. Remember, with the reduced visibility, even drivers with the right of way should slow down and look for drivers that need to move into the street to determine if it is safe to proceed. We all need to use all of our defensive driving skills.

The City Council met for a Councilor Orientation session on Tuesday night. The supervisors gave a short synopsis of their departments. The three prospective City Councilors were in attendance and I believe that a lot of information was gleaned by all Councilors. The Council also talked about setting up goal and budget meetings. On Wednesday, the Council met with the County Commissioners in a work session to discuss the Consolidated Dispatch and Economic Development contracts. The bodies made a lot of progress and we believe that these contracts will be ratified in the near future.

This weekend marks the end of the football season. The Super Bowl is Sunday. Everyone have a great weekend and keep 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

- ◆ Five customers signed up for new water/sewer service and eight customers disconnected service from January 27th thru February 2nd. This includes all service changes.
- ◆ Zone 8 was billed January 31st which included 464 residential and 19 commercial accounts. Of those accounts, 103 or 21% are signed up for direct payment.
- ◆ Zone 5 will be billed today. This zone includes 459 residential and 17 commercial accounts. Of those accounts, 99 or 21% are signed up for direct payment.
- ◆ This week 21 residential customers (Zones 4 and 8) were scheduled to have their water turned off for non-pay (over 60 days past due) seven of those were actually turned off until their past due balance was paid.



Building Department:

	Permits Issued City	Inspections City	Permits Issued County	Inspections County
Building	1	1	1	4
Manufactured Dwelling	0	2	0	0
Electrical	3	16	3	3
Mechanical	2	0	1	2
Plumbing	1	1	1	2
Fence	0	NA	N/A	N/A
TOTAL	7	20	6	11

RESIDENTIAL PERMITS:

- 44905 Scott Circle, Baker City—
New residential dwelling.

COMMERCIAL PERMITS:

- 915 Campbell St., Baker City—
Replacement of front doors.

HISTORIC DESIGN REVIEW: Next meeting is scheduled for February 22, 2017 at 8:00 a.m. in the Building Department office, if needed.

Planning Department:

Public Meetings

- ◆ The Planning Commission met 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. The Planning Commission made a recommendation to approve the revisions to the City Council. The City Council will hold their first hearing on the proposed revisions on Tuesday, February 14th in Council Chambers at City Hall. Please see the flyer below for more information about the Development Code update, and feel free to contact the Planning Department with questions.
- ◆ The Planning Commission will hold a public hearing on Wednesday, February 15th, 2017 to discuss an application for a Conditional Use Permit. 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). Notices were posted at the property this week, and staff conducted a site visit.

Land Use Decisions & Projects

Eight Floodplain 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

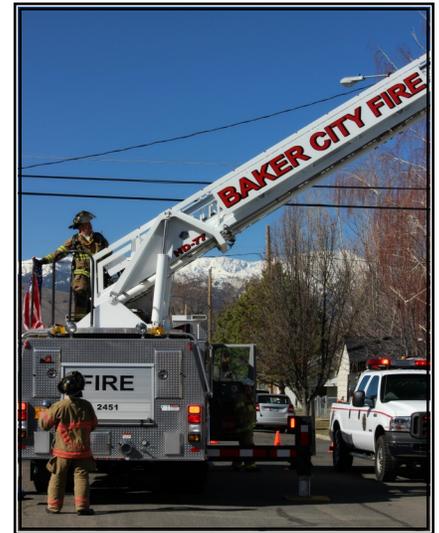
Call us: 541-523-8219



The mission of the Baker City Fire Department is to provide dependable and efficient emergency services.

FIRE DEPARTMENT

During the week of January 15th to January 21st the Fire Department responded to a total of **31** emergency alarms.



AMBULANCE OPERATIONS

City Calls	23
Rural Calls	6
Patient Transported	19
No Patient Trip	10

TOTAL MEDIC RESPONSES	29
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FIRE REPORTS

General Alarms	0
Dispatched Alarms	2
TOTAL FIRE RESPONSES	2



- ◆ Campbell Street—Kitchen Fire
- ◆ Valley & Ash Street—Vehicle Fire



Airport Transfers	2
Out of Town Transfers	2
Motor Vehicle Accidents	1
Simultaneous Calls	4
Triple Calls	0

EMERGENCY CALL BACKS

Requests for Cover	11
Personnel Arrived for Cover	8
Incidents Not Covered	3

TRAINING/MAINTENANCE

This week the BCFD completed 14 hours of in-house training.

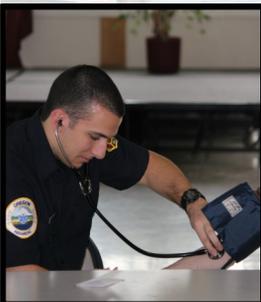
STATION MAINTENANCE

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

- Snow removal around station.
- CPR recertification.
- High risk OB emergencies.

COMMUNITY SERVICE

- Adopt-A-Hydrant program.
- Staking hydrants.
- Blood pressure checks.



The Fire Department provides free blood pressure readings at the Senior Center every Tuesday, at 11 am. Don't miss the next check on February 7th.



"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 130 incidents and opened 32 new cases this past week.
 - Four of these cases resulted in arrests for outstanding warrants and three others resulted in arrests for probation/parole violations – One of these arrests was a direct result of our Most Wanted page, which can be found on Facebook.
 - Six of these cases initiated investigations for reported thefts.
 - One of these cases resulted in an arrest for DUII - Drugs.
- ★ Chief Lohner participated in a 911 User Group meeting, where operational issues regarding the dispatch center are discussed.
- ★ Administrative Assistant Phoebe Wachtel completed our 2016 Annual Report, which will be published on our department web page.
- ★ Chief Lohner and other department heads presented department specific information to the city council, and prospective councilors.
- ★ 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

Property Maintenance

- Started 1 new case
- Followed up with 1 pending case

Animal violations and complaints

- Issued 1 citation for dog at large and no dog license
- Followed up on 3 animal complaints
- Followed up on 2 animal neglect complaints
- 1 dog at large returned to owner
- Started 1 new Dangerous dog case
- Followed up with 1 Vicious dog case

Parking

- Followed up on 10 parking violations and/or complaints
- Issued 5 parking citations
- Multiple verbal warnings

Miscellaneous

- Followed up with 1 snow complaint
- Followed up with 1 tree violation



Public Works: Streets-Snow & Ice Control

Crews continue to work plowing and hauling snow and salting and sanding streets. Snow plow work started on December 9th and has been very steady since then.

This week crews assisted O.D.O.T. clearing snow and ice from the Hwy. 7 underpass. O.D.O.T. set up and performed traffic control duties and loaded trucks.



Two Public Works personnel drove dump trucks and hauled the snow from the underpass to the snow dump site at the Baker County Fairgrounds.



It was important that the underpass be cleared of ice and snow so that when the snow begins to thaw the water will be able to enter the storm water catch basins.

Sometimes citizens don't want the streets plowed of snow in front of their houses. The surface of the snow can be smooth and very drivable. When we plow the street a berm is created which must be dealt with. What these citizens don't realize is that when the weather warms the deep snow will no longer support the weight of traveling vehicles. With the warm weather the snow softens and cars all over town will become stuck in the deep, soft snow. That is why we continue to keep plowing snow even when there doesn't appear to be a problem - we need to get the snow off the streets.



Another problem caused if streets aren't plowed is ice ruts. They form when vehicles continue to travel over a snow and ice packed surface. Where vehicles continue to travel over and over the same tracks again it erodes the snow along those routes. That results in a bare road surface in the tire track and a build-up of ice and snow on the edges of the tire tracks. Public Works uses the grader to cut out these ruts. If the temperature remains too cold the ruts can't be removed. These ice ruts can cause problems for vehicles when they are driving too fast and attempt to turn or cross the ruts.



Public Works: Streets Continued



Because of the large amount of snow which has fallen this winter and the number of times which Baker City Streets have been plowed there have been some high berms created when the backhoes clear intersections and driveways. Citizens need to be extra careful when pulling out into traffic at intersections.

When vehicles are left on the street and not used they can become "plowed in". This creates several problems: it subjects the vehicle to possible damage from plowing equipment (some vehicles become covered with snow and are nearly impossible to see). Parked cars block the graders from getting access to the curbs (this results in narrowing of the drivable street surface and the snow which remains around the parked car blocks the flow of water from traveling along the curb line to the catch basins.

Here a vehicle on 4th Street is nearly completely covered with snow. If this car were white in color it would be virtually invisible.



Public Works crews plowed in several parts of town this week including South Baker, 8th and 9th Drive and the westerly portion of Baker City.

Pictured on the left, the leased grader is plowing snow in the 8th and 9th Drive neighborhood. Conditions were warm enough so that the entire thickness of the snow could be scraped from the street surface.

In order to clear driveways and street intersections 4 backhoes work constantly behind the graders. The backhoe operators clear street and alley intersections and all driveways as time allows.





Public Works: Wastewater



Wastewater collection lines were cleaned and video-inspected this week.

Keith and Rick work to locate a wastewater lateral which crosses Auburn Avenue just on the west side of 4th Street.

The resident has been experiencing sewer problems off and on for months and requested an estimate for a new sewer lateral. To determine the cost for the replacement it was necessary to determine the location of the existing lateral. It was found to run across private property instead of down the alley to serve the resident. If replaced, it will be relocated to within the alley right of way.

Public Works: Water

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.

Maintenance work continues to be done in spite of the additional workload caused by the heavy snowfall.

Tommy and Craig work under the direction of Jake to clean the Ultra Violet Water Treatment System Reactors by using a light acidic solution.



Public Works: Warehouse



Snow and ice build up on the warehouse roof caused the roof to leak into the office below. Ice had formed around the electrical power meter and could have caused damage to power line and meter.

At the request of Baker City, an O.T.E.C. Serviceman disconnected the power line to the building so that Public Works personnel could work safely to remove the ice and snow from around the electrical meter and from the roof.

Dennis and Matt worked to remove snow and ice from the warehouse roof.





Public Works: Shop



The sand truck sheered a key in the drive gear for the chain drive. It was pulled apart and we had to cut the chain down and press the shaft from the gear box in order to replace the key. It has been put back together and is back in service.



We had an electrical problem that caused the lights, turn signals and tail lights to quit working. Once it was determined to be a grounding issue, we were able to make the necessary repairs and it is back to work.

A tie rod was built to fit the steering system. Scott finished the repairs and the forklift is back in service. .

Wes and Scott added a grader blade to the bucket so that Public Works crews could use it to uncover catch basins.



The volt meter on the ambulance quit working. We tested the charging system and replaced the volt meter and it is back in service.





Public Works: Snow Plow Routes

SNOW PLOW ROUTES 2016-2017

