

# CITY OF BAKER CITY

On the Historic Oregon Trail. Established 1874

## *Weekly Update March 17, 2017*

### **Administration:**

The City Council approved the labor agreement with the Baker City Police Association this week. This contract covers the next three fiscal years. The City Manager and Community Development Director met with representatives of the Oregon Department of Transportation and regional tourism folks to discuss issues surrounding road closures and the impacts on our local economies. The meeting was extremely productive and we believe that additional lines of communication have been opened. We will be meeting again to brainstorm strategies for handling traffic flow, truck parking and the staging of road closures.

The Economic Development Council met this week with an expanded Board. They are beginning work on a new strategic plan which will guide the economic development efforts over the next few years. Stay tuned for meeting times as we will work to make this a very public process.

Today is St. Patrick's Day, so watch out for the Irish. Have a great weekend!!



### **City Council**

#### **March 28th Agenda Items:**

- Public Works Capital Plans
- Discussion on Council Goal Setting Dates
- Sidewalk Grant Application Resolution
- Golf Course Liquor License



### **Finance:**

#### **Utilities:**

- ◆ Eight customers signed up for new water/sewer service and four customers disconnected service from March 10<sup>th</sup> thru March 16<sup>th</sup>. This includes all service changes.
- ◆ Zone 6 which included 481 residential and 53 commercial accounts was billed March 15<sup>th</sup>. Of those accounts, 94 or 18% are signed up for direct payment.
- ◆ Zone 3 will be billed today. This zone includes 492 residential and 48 commercial accounts. Of those accounts, 99 or 18% are signed up for direct payment.
- ◆ This week 17 residential customers (Zones 2 and 6) were scheduled to have their water turned off for non-pay (over 60 days past due) six of those were actually turned off until their past due balance was paid.

**Payroll:** Draw checks were issued March 15<sup>th</sup>.

#### **LID Billings:**

LIDs are billed every six months over a twenty year period. Interest is charged at the Local Government Investment Pool Rate plus 1% which is currently an annual rate of 2.06%. These LIDs can be paid off at any time with interest charged through the payoff date.

One 2007 G Street Wastewater Extension LID was billed March 13<sup>th</sup>. The original assessment in 2007 included one property owner for a total of \$69,541. The remaining balance outstanding including interest is \$38,642.



**Building Department:**

	Permits Issued City	Inspections City	Permits Issued County	Inspections County
Building	1	9	1	13
Manufactured Dwelling	0	0	0	0
Electrical	1	8	5	7
Mechanical	4	8	2	6
Plumbing	5	6	0	1
Fence	0	NA	N/A	N/A
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>27</b>

**RESIDENTIAL PERMITS:**

- Madison Street, Baker City— 40x84 detached covered storage building

**COMMERCIAL PERMITS:**

- 1912 Main Street, Baker City— Interior remodel

**HISTORIC DESIGN REVIEW:**

Next meeting is scheduled for March 29, 2017 at 8:00 a.m. in the Building Department Office.

**Planning Department:**

**Public Meetings**

- ◆ The Planning Commission's next meeting will be held on April 19 at 7:00 p.m. in the City Council chambers.

**Land Use Decisions & Projects**

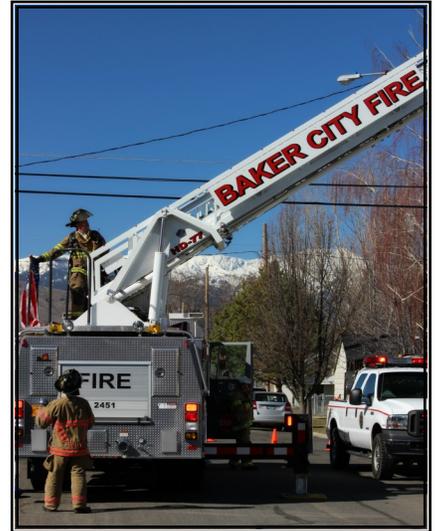
- ◆ Proposed changes to the Baker City Development Code have been adopted through Ordinance No. 3351. These updates will go into effect on Thursday, March 30<sup>th</sup>, 2017. Please visit <http://www.bakercity.com/2268/Baker-City-Development-Code-Update> for more information about the Development Code update, and feel free to contact the Planning Department with questions.
- ◆ An application was approved for a new carport at 1905 Cherry Street, within the Residential Medium-Density (RM-D) Zone.
- ◆ A Re-Plat application was received to reconfigure the property line between two properties located on Highland Drive, within the Residential Medium-Density (R-MD) Zone. An application for a single-family dwelling and attached garage was also submitted for this property.
- ◆ A Land Use Compatibility Statement (LUCS) was approved for the construction of a ±20,000 square foot addition to an existing manufacturing and processing structure located at 3665 17<sup>th</sup> Street, within the General Industrial (I) Zone.
- ◆ An application was approved for a single-family dwelling at 955 10<sup>th</sup> Street, within the Residential Medium-Density Zone (R-MD).
- ◆ Geographical Information System (GIS) files for the Baker City Transportation System Plan (2013) are now available for download on the Baker County FTP Site: ftp.bakercounty.org.



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

# FIRE DEPARTMENT

During the week of February 26th to March 4th the Fire Department responded to a total of **39** emergency alarms.



## AMBULANCE OPERATIONS

City Calls	28
Rural Calls	7
Patient Transported	24
No Patient Trip	11

## TOTAL MEDIC RESPONSES 35



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

## TRAINING/MAINTENANCE

This week the BCFD completed 66 hours of in-house training.

## FIRE REPORTS

General Alarms	0
Dispatched Alarms	4
<b>TOTAL FIRE RESPONSES</b>	<b>4</b>



- ◆ Court Street—Odor of Gas
- ◆ Hughes Lane—Controlled Burn
- ◆ Cedar Street—False Alarm
- ◆ Midway Drive—Odor Investigation

## EMERGENCY CALL BACKS

Requests for Cover	9
Personnel Arrived for Cover	2
Incidents Not Covered	7

## COMMUNITY SERVICE

- Blood Pressure Checks
- Fire Prevention Inspections

## STATION MAINTENANCE

47 hours of station, apparatus and equipment maintenance.

Additional tasks included:

- Thermal Imaging and Fire Dynamics Training
- SCBA Confidence Course
- EMT Training



The Fire Department provides free blood pressure readings at the Senior Center every Tuesday, at 11 am. Don't miss the next check on March 21st.



*"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 167 incidents and opened 29 new cases this past week resulting in several arrests. Two separate incidents resulting in the arrest of one subject on a detainer for Unlawful Possession of Methamphetamine, Computer Fraud and Identity Fraud and a new charge of Assault IV Domestic as well as another subject arrested for Criminal Mischief II had been both featured as wanted by the Baker City Police Department on the Department's Facebook page. Like us online at <https://www.facebook.com/Baker-City-Police-Department-827385403973352/> for up-to-date information on the Department's Most Wanted fugitives.
- ✪ Chief Lohner and Lieutenant Newman attended a regional meeting with other local law enforcement officials in Baker City. The purpose of this meeting was to discuss various concerns impacting local law enforcement agencies.
- ✪ Low-light firearms training was completed at the range by Sergeant Regan's patrol team. Annual firearms and various defensive tactics training is part of ongoing Use of Force training necessary for each officer in maintaining their certification as police officers.
- ✪ BCPD personnel continue to train on the MILO Use of Force simulator, provided by DPSST.
- ✪ 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**

- Followed up on 5 pending cases
- Issued 1 citation for non-compliance

#### **Animal Violations and Complaints**

- Issued 1 citation for a barking dog violation
- Issued 1 citation for a Dog at large
- 2 dogs at large returned to owner
- Followed up on 4 animal complaints

#### **Parking Violations and Complaints**

- Issued 8 parking citations
- Followed up on 2 parking violations
- Orange tagged 1 abandoned vehicle

#### **Bicycle**

- 1 found bicycle



## Public Works: Parks and Recreation

In addition to a new table, Cedar Acres Park will be the recipient of multiple improvements this year. A new play structure will be installed. The structure is funded in part by a grant from Ashgrove Cement. The remaining funding will come from the Baker City playground improvement fund that was started during the effort to raise funds for the 2014 playground improvement at Geiser Pollman Park. Recognizing the need for and importance of safe and progressive play for our community's children, this fund has been a recipient of a fund transfer from the city's general fund for the past several years. Miscellaneous donations are also accepted by this fund. The play structure is slated to be installed May 18 - 20. The installation will be part of a volunteer build by MACS, the Maintenance and Construction Section of the Oregon Recreation and Parks Association. Our local Lion's Club will further enhance the park with the addition of a horseshoe pit.



One of the pathway mile markers was the victim of vandalism this last week. Fortunately the marker snagged on brush along the river bank and was able to be retrieved. Parks maintenance contractor, Grass Master, will be working to repair and reinstall the marker.





## Public Works: Parks and Recreation Continued

With the warmer weather and thawing of the river surface, beavers are once again making their presence known along the Leo Adler Memorial Parkway. Destruction of the trees continues to cause maintenance problems and potential hazards on the pathway as well as in the Powder River.



South of Broadway Avenue



South of Valley Avenue



### Public Works: Parks and Recreation Continued

Permanent tables were placed at several of our neighborhood parks and green spaces this week. Placement of these tables will provide small gathering space for neighborhood folks as well as visitors. In the past portable tables were placed in these parks, but had to be transported to Geiser Pollman Park several times each year to be utilized for big events.



South Baker Park



Cedar Acres Park



River Park Traffic Island

### Public Works: Lagoon

The storage ponds at the wastewater treatment plant are full. The warmer weather has melted the ice from the surface of all four cells at the wastewater treatment facility. The chlorine contact chamber is being cleaned in preparation for effluent discharge which is scheduled to begin next Monday.





## Public Works: Water Department



Crews worked on several different water projects this week.

Additional water from the Elkhorn Mountains was diverted to Baker City this week.

Currently 2.3 MGD (million gallons of water per day) is being brought to town. 1.2 MGD is being used by residents and businesses and 1.1 million gallons is being injected into the well at the reservoir as part of the Aquifer Storage and Recharge program.

Pictured left is a photo of the Mill Creek Diversion structure on Tuesday. There is still a considerable amount of snow at this site.

While performing water valve maintenance work the crew discovered a slight water leak at one of the valves.

Justin and Blain excavated down to the leaky valve and discovered that the steel bolts holding the valve to the flange had deteriorated to the point where the connection was coming loose and water had begun to leak from the joint.



Here you can see the deteriorated bolts and nuts compared with a shiny new bolt and nut. The old bolts were replaced with new ones and the leak stopped. What causes the corrosion of metal in this area is unknown at this time.



## Public Works: Water Department Continued



A water meter on Auburn Avenue was relocated this week. The copper line had to be frozen so that it could be cut and the line extended to its final location.

The RIGID Super Freeze SF 2500 Unit is being used to freeze the copper line.

Blain holds the copper meter setter at the correct position and height while Justin tightens the connection.



## Public Works: Wastewater Department



A drain cleaning professional requested that Public Works inspect a private lateral for a residence on Campbell Street. Keith and Tom used the Vivax VCAM unit to inspect and trace the line running from inside the house for a distance of approximately 200 feet toward a manhole in Campbell Street. Three additional laterals were identified within the 200 feet. These locations were marked upon the ground with paint and will be entered into the City's Wastewater Map Database.

A property owner on Grove Street requested and paid for his old and failing Orangeburg wastewater lateral to be replaced this week.

Blain and Karl have begun excavation of the site for installation of the new PVC pipe. Karl is digging manually at the location of a Natural Gas Line Crossing.



The new 4" PVC pipe has been successfully installed crossing under the Cascade Natural Gas Line.



Karl is pointing to a spot on the outside of the Orangeburg pipe where a tree root had "pushed" into the pipe and deformed it.





### Public Works: Street Department

Several parking lots and some city streets are showing severe signs of "base failure". A combination of excessive moisture, freezing and thawing cycles and heavy traffic typically leads to these base failures.



The new Elgin Crosswind street sweeper was used this week as Matt is beginning to sweep residential streets.

Justin and Doug examine the existing road base and asphalt thickness on Auburn Avenue while preparing manholes for the upcoming grind and inlay project.



Overhanging trees are a deterrent to properly cleaning and maintaining city streets. Here you can see where the street sweeper has to swerve away from the gutter line to avoid overhanging branches which would scratch and damage the unit.

### Public Works: Street Department-Lighting



The Public Works Department worked in cooperation with O.T.E.C. crews to set a new street light Wednesday at the intersection of Campbell Street and Best Frontage Road. Pictured left the O.T.E.C. crew is setting the light pole while Justin and Blain work to install a new splice box.

Pictured right is the finished street light. A layer of grout was placed around the base of the pole Thursday.





## Public Works: Shop



The snow wing was pulled off of the grader. With the help of Justin and Scott, the new cutting edges were mounted for grading the gravel streets.



Wes and Scott rebuilt the front end rotors, hub assembly and brakes and serviced the engine. This Public Works vehicle will be back in service next week.



A full service and inspection was completed on this backhoe. Wes and Scott also repaired the linkage for the bucket and the boom lock.



After a full inspection a problem was found with the transmission. The transmission will be repaired by the Ford Motor Company and should be back in service next week.



## Public Works: Anthony Silvers Street Tree Grant

Grant applications for downtown street tree improvements will be accepted by the Baker City Public Works Department from March 1, 2017 to March 31, 2017. This grant is made possible through the Anthony Silvers Street Tree Trust Fund. Please click on the following link for program background, requirements and application [2016/2017 Silvers Street Tree Grant](#).



# 2016/2017 Street Tree Grant Application Downtown Street Tree Improvements

**Made possible by Anthony Silvers.  
a man with a passion for trees.**

City of Baker City, Oregon

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