

# CITY OF BAKER CITY

On the Historic Oregon Trail. Established 1874

## *Weekly Update February 17, 2017*

### **Administration:**

The City Council had a productive meeting this week. They swore in two new Council members. Congratulations to Dan McQuisten and Adam Nilsson who were appointed to serve two year terms. The Council adopted a modification to the Dangerous Dog Ordinance and also modified the Truancy Ordinance to aid school and law enforcement officials in keeping kids in school.

The Council approved the first and second readings of the Baker City Development Code updates as well as another transfer to the snow removal budget. Hopefully, this will be the last time that this is needed this year.

This morning the ice on the Powder River was gone which is a sure sign of spring. Have a great weekend.

### **City Council**

#### **February 28th Agenda Items:**

- 3rd Reading of Development Code Update
- SBDC Update
- 911 Contract
- EDC Contract
- Connect Oregon Grant
- Exploring Main Street Application

### **Finance:**

#### **Utilities**

- ◆ Six customers signed up for new water/sewer service and five customers disconnected service from February 10<sup>th</sup> thru February 16<sup>th</sup>. This includes all service changes.
- ◆ Zone 6 was billed February 13<sup>th</sup> which included 480 residential and 53 commercial accounts. Of those accounts, 92 or 17% are signed up for direct payment.
- ◆ Zone 2 was billed February 14<sup>th</sup> which included 453 residential and 13 commercial accounts. Of those accounts, 83 or 18% are signed up for direct payment.
- ◆ Zone 7 will be billed today. This zone includes 536 residential and 27 commercial accounts. Of those accounts, 118 or 21% are signed up for direct payment.
- ◆ This week 20 residential customers (Zones 2 and 6) 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.

#### **Payroll**

Payroll draw checks were issued February 15<sup>th</sup>.



**Building Department:**

	Permits Issued City	Inspections City	Permits Issued County	Inspections County
Building	0	0	2	18
Manufactured Dwelling	0	0	0	0
Electrical	4	10	2	3
Mechanical	1	1	1	1
Plumbing	3	3	1	1
Fence	0	NA	N/A	N/A
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>23</b>

**RESIDENTIAL PERMITS:**

- 19840 Sumpter Stage Hwy, Baker City—Repair of snow damaged accessory building.
- 18963 W Campbell Loop, Baker City—Addition of 2 pre-made carport structures.

**COMMERCIAL PERMITS:**

- None to report this week.

**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 City Council held the first hearing to review proposed changes to the Baker City Development Code via Ordinance No. 3351 on Tuesday, February 14<sup>th</sup>. The first and second readings of Ordinance 3351 were approved. The next hearing will be held on Tuesday, February 28<sup>th</sup>, 2017. 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 held a public hearing on Wednesday, February 15<sup>th</sup> to discuss an application for Site Design Review. The applicant, Marvin Wood Products, received approval to construct a ±20,000 square foot addition to the existing wood processing facility. The property is zoned General Industrial (I).

**Land Use Decisions & Projects**

- ◆ A Land Use Review application was approved for construction of an accessory structure at 93 Foothill Drive, located in the Residential Medium-Density (RM-D) Zone.
- ◆ One floodplain determination was completed 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 20<sup>th</sup>, February 17<sup>th</sup>, March 16<sup>th</sup>, April 20<sup>th</sup>, May 18<sup>th</sup>, June 15<sup>th</sup>, August 17<sup>th</sup>, November 9<sup>th</sup> and December 14<sup>th</sup>. These changes include:

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

### NEXT STEPS

- Get Input from the Public
- Public Open House on **January 25<sup>th</sup>, 2017**
- Planning Commission Hearing on **February 1<sup>st</sup>, 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 25<sup>th</sup>, 2017**

### For more information or to comment:

Visit us in person: 1995 3<sup>rd</sup> Street Baker City, OR 97814

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

Email us: [planning@bakercity.org](mailto:planning@bakercity.org)

Call us: 541-523-8219

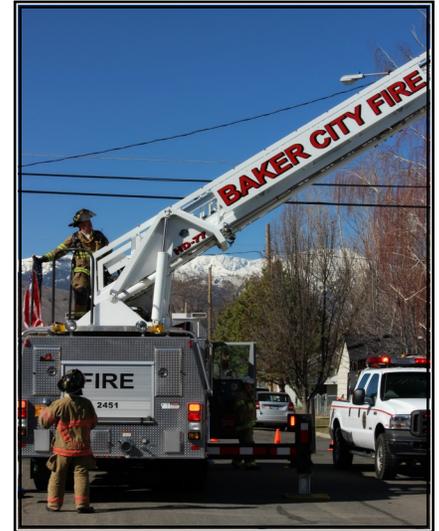


The mission of the Baker City Fire Department is to provide dependable and efficient emergency services.

# FIRE DEPARTMENT

During the week of January 29th to February 4th the Fire Department responded to a total of

**27** emergency alarms.



## AMBULANCE OPERATIONS

City Calls	17
Rural Calls	6
Patient Transported	17
No Patient Trip	6

**TOTAL MEDIC RESPONSES 23**

## FIRE REPORTS

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



- ◆ 12th Street—Flue Fire
- ◆ I-84— Truck and Trailer Fire



Airport Transfers	3
Out of Town Transfers	1
Motor Vehicle Accidents	3
Simultaneous Calls	6
Triple Calls	0

## EMERGENCY CALL BACKS

Requests for Cover	11
Personnel Arrived for Cover	6
Incidents Not Covered	6

## STATION MAINTENANCE

21 hours of station, apparatus and equipment maintenance.

Additional tasks included:

- Capnography Training
- Hose Evolutions
- Pipe Line Emergencies

## TRAINING/MAINTENANCE

This week the BCFD completed 23 hours of in-house training.

## COMMUNITY SERVICE

- Install Smoke Detectors
- 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 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 150 incidents and opened 34 new cases this past week.
  - Six of these cases resulted in arrests for outstanding warrants and two others resulted in arrests for probation/parole violations.
  - Five of these cases initiated investigations for reported thefts and frauds.
  - Two cases resulted in Domestic Violence related arrests and another case initiated an investigation into a sex abuse claim at a treatment facility.
- ★ City Council passed two ordinance amendments that are now in effect. The first will allow a more effective way to handle truancy issues and the second amends the Dangerous/Vicious Dog Ordinance. That amendment has already been put to use in court.
- ★ BCPD personnel participated in the local rabies clinic, selling dog licenses to citizens.
- ★ 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 2 pending cases
- Started 1 new case

### **Animal Violations and Complaints**

- 1 dog at large impounded
- 2 dogs at large returned to owner
- Followed up on 2 animal complaints
- 1 vicious dog hearing
- 1 vicious dog euthanized
- Followed up on 1 dangerous dog case
- Followed up with 2 kennel permits

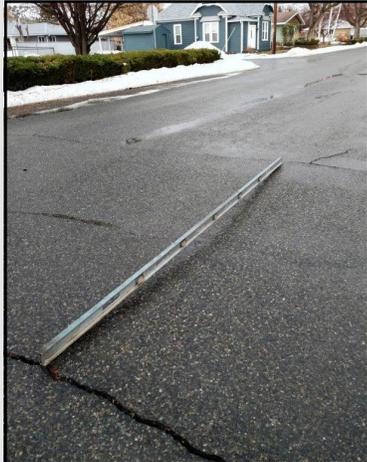
### **Parking Violations and Complaints**

- Followed up on 6 parking violations
- Multiple verbal warnings
- Issued 1 parking citation



## Public Works: Streets

Many Baker City streets are currently in rough condition. The ground under the streets froze so deep this winter that it expanded, heaved and caused the surface of streets to raise several inches in places. Unfortunately, street surfaces don't raise uniformly. This results in a very rough ride when driving down streets this time of year. Moisture in the street base material expands and raises when subjected to sub-freezing temperatures over a long period of time.



A call from Police Dispatch reported another "sink hole". This one is located on Birch Street near Broadway. This "sunken" area is caused by the rising of the surrounding street surface.

Under the "sunken" area is a sewer lateral which crosses Birch Street. When the lateral was installed the material which was used to backfill the trench was different than the surrounding street base material.

This results in "differential heaving" conditions.



The low point in the road is 4" lower than the surrounding street surface.



Large cracks have developed as a result of the deep frost penetration.



A bump sign was temporarily installed until the street surface subsides.



### Public Works: Streets Continued



Blain and Karl used reclaimed asphalt grindings to fill potholes in the gravel portion of Lund lane and 9th Street, north of "H" as shown in this photo.

### Public Works: Wastewater

A wastewater problem was reported Monday morning by a resident living on Madison Street. Public Works responded immediately to eliminate the cause of the problem.

A blockage was found in the 12" diameter main line on Birch Street several blocks downstream from the residence. The line was cleaned to relieve the blockage.

The problem was promptly reported to Oregon D.E.Q. as required. Cause of the blockage is still under investigation - but may be a result of silt and other debris entering the line from an adjacent facility.





## Public Works: Water Department

Crews worked on several water projects this week.

Repair work was done on a hydrant located in a private parking lot on the north side of town. This hydrant is often used for training purposes for local rural fire departments.



With the high avalanche danger issued recently for the mountains of Eastern Oregon it was determined that the access road to Goodrich Reservoir and the reservoir itself be inspected for avalanches.

No major avalanches were discovered either covering the access road nor having flowed into the Goodrich Reservoir at this time.

Thursday and Friday Blain used Baker City's CAT dozer to clear snow from Goodrich Road to the Goodrich diversion gate so that water flow adjustments can be made simply by driving to the site instead of needing to snowmobile to the diversion to adjust the water flow coming to town.





## Public Works: Water Continued



A water pipe anomaly continues to occur on "K" Street on a semi-regular basis. The water service line between the ductile iron main line and the water meter box serving a building on "K" Street has been repaired 4 times within the past 13 years. Normally water service lines made of copper last for 50 or more years.

The water leak was reported Tuesday morning. Water was visible bubbling up from 6 feet underground. Dennis responded to the site and turned down the water flow to reduce loss.

Blain, Tommy and Scott used a backhoe and Vactor truck to excavate the site and expose the pipe. The excavation was deep and the soil very unstable which required the use of trench shoring to protect workers from the threat of cave-in.

The first two times the service line was repaired (2004 and 2006) the copper line was replaced with new type "K" copper piping because holes had developed in the existing copper lines. When the line began leaking again in 2008 it was replaced with PEX pipe.



The PEX pipe lasted until this week when it to began to leak. This photo shows the failed portion of the PEX pipe and where the brass end also appears to have corroded away. There have been several theories as to what is causing the problem - but none have been proven.

Once the snow in the surrounding area has melted an underground locate will be requested and a thorough study of the problem will be done.



## Public Works: Shop



Wes and Scott replaced the conveyer belt and did some minor repairs on the street sweeper. Upon inspection they found that the conveyor was too low to the ground . Shims are being set to get it back into specs.

The cross member holding the hydraulic boom cracked on the dump truck. It has been repaired and is back in service.



The rack and pinion needs to be replaced on this police vehicle. Ford Motor Company will be doing the repairs as there are no aftermarket parts available.



The response vehicle above was inspected and serviced this 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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