

CITY OF BAKER CITY

On the Historic Oregon Trail.
Established 1864, Incorporated 1874

Weekly Update November 20, 2020

Administration:

The City Council is presently negotiating with a candidate for City Manager. Hopefully within the next few days they will have finished their process and we will have a new administrator on board.

The Governor and the Oregon Health Authority have issued new guidance for individuals, businesses and other entities that will last for a minimum of two weeks. These include the closure of in person food and drink establishments, gyms and fitness centers, indoor recreational facilities, movie theaters, museums, etc. Positive cases of COVID-19 in Baker County are still rising with multiple outbreaks throughout the City. It is extremely important that we continue to limit our exposure by following the science and keep up the wearing of face coverings and social distancing in order to keep our vulnerable citizens safe and our schools and other businesses open. Working together as a collective, we can make a difference.

The State also announced the allocation to Counties of a minimum of \$500,000 per county that will be used to help our hospitality industry and other businesses here in the County. Hopefully this relieve some of the impact of these closures and allow these entities to survive this pandemic. It is also imperative for all of us to remember that the businesses that are open need our help. Let's all remember to SHOP LOCAL and help these establishments. Many of our restaurants will be open for take out and let's support their efforts.



Planning Department:

PLANNING COMMISSION PUBLIC HEARING

The next regularly scheduled Baker City Planning Commission meeting is December 16, 2020.

APPLICATIONS

- ◆ A freestanding sign was permitted at 1695 Auburn Avenue in the Residential High-Density (R-HD) Zone.
- ◆ A garden shed was permitted at 2610 Walnut Street in the Residential High-Density (R-HD) Zone.



Finance Department:

Utilities

The Finance Department is now back to full staff. Thank you to everyone at City Hall that stepped in to help. We really appreciate all those that are able to remain calm and compassionate when services become limited.

Zone 3 is the first zone to include the extra 1 unit (750 gallons) in the water base rate to cover the water used to flush out water lines after the fire incident on October 27th. This was the first zone to be billed with a meter read after the incident date.

- ◆ Six customers signed up for new water/wastewater service and ten customers disconnected service from November 13th thru November 19th. This includes all service changes.
- ◆ Zone 7 was billed November 17th and included 564 residential and 26 commercial accounts. Of those accounts 163 (21%) are signed up for direct payment and 30 (5%) are signed up for ebilling.
- ◆ Zone 3 was billed today and includes 501 residential and 52 commercial accounts. Of those accounts 123 (22%) are signed up for direct payment and 36 (7%) are signed up for ebilling.
- ◆ Thirty-seven residential customers (Zones 1, 2 and 6) were scheduled to have their water turned off for non-pay (over 60 days past due) ten were actually turned off until their past due balance was paid. Two have had their service reinstated and eight have not yet contacted the City.

Accounts Receivable

Monthly accounts receivable billings were sent November 17th. The billings were as follows:

- | | |
|--|--|
| • Cemetery - \$6,303 | • Property and Weed Abatement - \$685 |
| • Wastewater Maintenance - \$7,700 | • Golf Course Equipment Lease Payment – \$5,498 |
| • Water Construction and Meters - \$650 | • Baker County Economic Development Support - \$15,338 |
| • Street Cuts and Miscellaneous - \$688 | • Baker County EMS Support - \$16,412 |
| • Lien Searches - \$6,046 | • Miscellaneous - \$3,593 |
| • Ambulance - \$446,369 | |
| • Airport Hangar Rent & Ground Lease - \$7,947 | |
- Total Billed \$ 517,229**

Congratulations to Bob and Cherie Ward for having their tree chosen as the 2020 Community Christmas Tree. The annual cutting and delivery of the Baker City Christmas Tree took place today.

The Community Christmas Tree is chosen from nominations that were submitted to the Community Development Department. Those nominations were forwarded on to the selection committee at OTECC. The selection committee takes into account safety, location and size of the tree.

The City of Baker City would like to give a special thank you to the following volunteers and partners who will be donating their time and equipment: Oregon Trail Electric Cooperative, Chuck Carey, Superior Towing, Eastern Oregon Rental, Baker City Police Department and Public Works.





"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

★ During the past week, BCPD opened 38 new cases and responded to 147 calls, making several arrests for outstanding warrants and detainers. In response to various cases and incidents investigated by BCPD staff, the following press releases were issued:

- *On Saturday, November 14, 2020 at approximately 2130 hours, a vehicle's back window was shot out while the vehicle was driving on 10th Street, Baker City, OR. The driver of the vehicle reported the incident to Baker City Police Department.*

November 16, 2020, BCPD Officers identified a possible suspect who was a sixteen-year-old juvenile that lived in the area. Upon contact with the juvenile, the juvenile admitted to shooting a BB gun at the vehicle causing the back window to shatter.

The juvenile was taken to the Baker County Juvenile Department and cited for Criminal Mischief II and Reckless Endangering.

- *On Sunday November 15th, 2020, the Baker City Police Department located, arrested and lodged Jason Lloyd Dinger, age 40, on the following charges: Contempt of Court- 4 counts; Violation of Restraining Order; Menacing; Burglary 1st Degree and Criminal Mischief 3rd Degree.*

Mr. Dinger had been running and hiding from Baker City Police for the last few months as he knew he had warrants out for his arrest. Additional charges are likely as a result of other investigations.

Mr. Dinger was located hiding in the top floor of a building on the property commonly known as Ladd's Auto Salvage at 8 David Eccles Road, Baker City, Oregon.

Mr. Dinger was located by Baker City Patrol Officers and then additional officers were summoned to assist. BCPD was assisted by Oregon State Police Fish and Wildlife Troopers and the Union County Sheriff's Office K9. The K9 is trained in scent and tracking. Mr. Dinger tried to flee from police on foot during his arrest, but was eventually taken into custody without incident and lodged.

- *In the early morning hours of Monday, November 16th, 2020, Baker City Patrol Officers arrested Alan William Wolfe, age 33, for Burglary Second Degree, two counts of Theft 1st Degree, Criminal Mischief First Degree and Felon in Possession of a Firearm.*

Mr. Wolfe was caught by patrol officers as he was leaving the business of Family Tradition Taxidermy at 1816 First Street in Baker City. He was in possession of an AK 47 Assault rifle and a loaded 9mm pistol that he allegedly stole out of the business. He was taken into custody without incident and lodged in the Baker County Jail. Baker City Police has had a recent rash of burglaries reported in the past few weeks and more charges are expected



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POLICE DEPARTMENT continued

★ The Baker City Police Department regrets to announce that due to unforeseen circumstances related to the Covid-19 virus, the *Shop with a Hero* event for this year has been cancelled. With due regard to the safety and health of our first responders and citizen of the community, it's impossible to host this year's event. To our local sponsors/citizens that have donated to the *Shop with a Hero* event, we appreciate you. We will hang onto all contributions to make next year a fun-filled time for community youth and families. Take care of yourselves, we will continue to help our community stay safe, informed and connected as we get through this trying time.

★ Face coverings, shields and/or masks are required in the front entrance of the Baker City Police Department, which is open to the public. This policy is in response to Governor Kate Brown's order requiring face coverings be worn in public indoor spaces by anyone 5 years of age and older.

Snow Season is Here!!!

Please help us with snow removal by removing all trailers, utility trailers, non-working or infrequently used vehicles and anything else that may be blocking the roads.

Building Department:

	Permits Issued City	Inspections City	Permits Issued County	Inspections County
Building	2	8	2	6
Manufactured Dwelling	0	0	0	2
Electrical	4	8	5	3
Mechanical	6	5	3	6
Plumbing	3	4	1	2
Fence	3	NA	N/A	N/A
TOTAL	18	25	11	19

COMMERCIAL PERMITS:

- 3000 Broadway Street, Baker City—Fire alarm
- 1937 Main Street, Baker City—Interior structural alteration

RESIDENTIAL PERMITS:

- 42242 Salmon Creek Road, Baker City—Detached accessory structure
- 44904 Scott Circle, Baker City—Detached accessory structure

HISTORIC DESIGN REVIEW:

Next regularly scheduled meeting is **December 2 at 8am** in the Building Department offices, if needed.

REMINDER:

There are still openings for commissioners on the HDDRC Board!



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

FIRE DEPARTMENT

During the week of November 10th through November 16th the Fire Department responded to a total of **44** emergency alarms.

AMBULANCE OPERATIONS		EMERGENCY CALL BACKS		FIRE REPORTS	
City Calls	29	Request for Cover	9	General Alarms	1
Rural Calls	10	Arrived for Cover	5	Dispatched Alarms	4
Patient Transported	27			TOTAL FIRE RESPONSES	5
No Patient Trip	12				

TRAINING/MAINTENANCE/ FIRE PREVENTION

TOTAL MEDIC RESPONSES		INSPECTIONS/ COMMUNITY EVENTS	
Airport Transfers	3	• 10 Burn Permits Issued	
Out of Town Transfers Accepted	0	• 38 hrs of Station & Equipment Maintenance	
Out of Town Transfers Not Accepted	2	• 0 hrs of Fire Training	
Motor Vehicle Accidents	2	• 10 hrs of EMS Training	
Doubles (2 calls at once)	7	• 0 Hr of Safety Training	
Triples (3 calls at once)	0	• 0 hrs Community Events	
Quads (4 calls at once)	0	• 0 hrs Fire Prevention Inspections	
Public Assist	0		

The Burn Ban has been Lifted!
Remember, you still need a FREE permit, available in person at the Fire Station.

Weed Complaint and Abatement
 Weed Complaints or yard maintenance concerns should be reported to the Fire Department at 541-523-3711 x 508 or emailed to sclinkenbeard@bakercity.com

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Fire Department is POSTPONING the free blood pressure readings at the Senior Center every Tuesday, at 11 am.
 We will resume once social distancing is not required.



Public Works: Wastewater Treatment Plant



The Vactor truck was used to clean the septic receiving station.

The Parshall flume was also cleaned to remove rock, silt and other debris so that the pumps could be successfully flushed out.



Public Works: Wastewater Department



Recent snows didn't deter Public Works Crews from cleaning necessary wastewater lines.

Main lines were cleaned on 9th Street and Colorado Avenue where residences were experiencing wastewater problems. Both problems were determined to be in the residences' private laterals and not in the city main lines.



A new residence under construction had a dye test to see if the wastewater line that was installed 15 years ago was still connected into a wastewater manhole near Reservoir Road. The neon green dye shows positive proof that the line is still connected. Next the line was video-inspected. While the inside of the pipe showed some deformities where rocks had made a "dimple" pushing into the pipe, the pipe was found to be in acceptable condition.



Public Works: Water Department

One block of undersized 2" diameter brittle cast iron water line was replaced on Washington Street between 7th and 8th Streets. This old line had broken in 2017 and again in 2020. After the last failure it was decided to replace the line with a new circulating 8" Ductile iron line. The project began Monday morning with the Baker County Road Department using their asphalt grinder to remove the 42' wide strip of asphalt in preparation for excavation work.

THANK YOU BAKER COUNTY!



On Tuesday, a crew from the City of LaGrande travelled to Baker City to perform two "hot-tap" connections.



Excavation and installation of the new pipe was completed Wednesday.

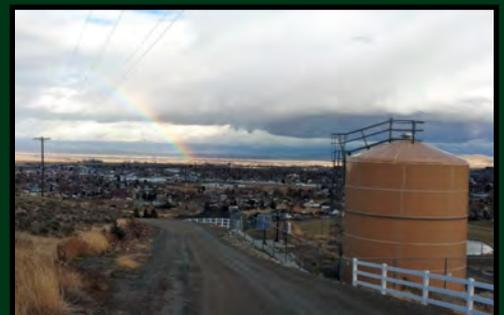


Left: CLSM (low strength concrete) was poured around the other utility pipe crossings to prevent settlement.

Right: The trench surface was filled to the street surface and compacted. Next the line will be pressure tested to determine there are no leaks. The inside of the newly installed pipe will be disinfected and the water tested before any of the residences are connected to the new line.



The 6,700 gallon water tank situated on Story Lane with a rainbow in the background.





Public Works: Shop



We replaced the left rear air bag on this ambulance and it is back in service.

The thermostat we just replaced on this rig was faulty so we put in another one.



Work continues on the crusher bucket. We are pulling out the crushing plates and building them back up so that we can continue crushing cement this winter.

We replaced the air filters and greased the dozer before it headed up to the water treatment facility for work.



The City of Baker City is seeking volunteers for the following:

- ⇒ **Historic District Design Review Commission—2 positions available**
- ⇒ **Tree Board—2 positions available**

Positions are for a 3-year term unless noted. Anyone interested in volunteering should visit www.bakercity.com to fill out a volunteer form. You may also email admin@bakercity.com or call 524-2033 for more information. The direct link to the volunteer form page is:

<http://bakercity.com/2149/Boards-Commissions>



Public Works



It's that time of year again!

In prep for this year's snow plow season, Baker City Public Works is asking citizens to help our snow removal crews by **removing all travel or utility trailers, non-working or infrequently used vehicles and any other miscellaneous items currently being stored on the street or directly next to the street.** Our citizens play a key role in the success of our snow removal program!



Public Works: Watershed Hunting Access Permits

Baker City Watershed Hunting Access Permits



Permits are available at the Baker City Public Works Department at City Hall front entrance

- Hours to request a permit are: **Monday through Friday, 11:30 AM—12:30 PM and 4:00 PM—5:00 PM.** A mask is required.
- Outside of the above hours permits can be requested through email at bakercitywatershedhunting@gmail.com. The required items listed below will need to be sent in along with the request. This process may take 1-2 business days to complete.

The following information will be required when applying for a permit (either in person or via email):

1. Hunter's name, address and phone number
2. Hunting ID #
3. Hunting tags (will need to see electronic tags)
4. Vehicle make/model and plate number you will be driving to the watershed
5. If you will have a non-hunting companion – that individual's name, address and driver's license #

Permits will not be issued until Forest Service fire classification is no longer at high or extreme. If you have questions please call (541) 524-2047. Permits will be issued no sooner than 3 business days prior to your hunt.