

## Betty Milliman

Age 64, retired risk management consultant. 14-year Baker City resident, plus 11 more years ranching in Baker County, six of those years also here in Baker City as a business owner manufacturing tooling for the wire, cable, medical and fiber optic industries. We moved from La Grande to Washington State about 1980 because of the recession. We kept our house there until years after we returned to Northeast Oregon, but liked Baker City better, so we sold off and bought a ranch out near Keating.



Employed at Washington State as an employment/personnel risk management consultant. While there developed a statewide program, coordinating between agencies, other states and federal agencies. Appointed to Governor's Safety Committee, Legislative Review/Reports, ADA Committee; adjudication of assault and personnel claims, advised/researched/consolidated with assistant attorneys generals pertaining to active cases.

A big issue I feel the councilors need to responsibly address and ensure protection of is our water supply. Over the years we have been at the top of the list for best tapwater. The 2013 cryptosporidium incident really took us by surprise, but should serve as a warning to be proactive in protecting a most vital resource for every single resident. As a military brat I lived in multiple places. It became routine to taste the tapwater as soon as we moved to a new place. A town in California's water smelled and tasted like rotten eggs, full of sulfur. A city 15 miles away had water as brown as a dark tea in your glass ... they told us it was safe to drink (both of those were in the 1960s and '70s). Another had actual gravel in the water. I remember in the late '70s watching a report on the water system in the Bay Area of California ... recycled water ... yup, recycled sewage and everything else that goes down their drains ... had deadly stuff in it, but they thought a few deaths per ... was tolerable. Really? It still tastes nasty to this day. I, like Ben Franklin, believe an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure.

Addressing city park safety and use seems to be an increasing concern. The new all abilities equipment needs to be available to those most likely to benefit from them. Park security, and consideration of new recreation opportunities particularly for youth, could improve Baker City's liveability.

I would love to succeed in obtaining family sustaining wages and employment for our current and upcoming workforce. It is a shame so many of our high school graduates feel they have to leave Baker City to obtain the security of steady, good paying employment. I was impressed when I first learned of Baker High School offering technical training. Experience is such a valuable and marketable job qualification to have on anyone's resumé. I would like to encourage new and existing businesses to develop job growth to take advantage of that training. Part of that goal would be to obtain affordable housing to help support the improved employment opportunities.

A goal accomplished would see the criminal element leave Baker City. To make that happen I believe we need to coordinate between the emergency and city service personnel to find every way we can support them in their duties, and how they can help each other. Sometimes different divisions can step in the way of another's progress unnecessarily. Sometimes a fresh look can identify a solution.

## Damon Rose

Damon Rose, 45, business owner (Marilyn's Music Plus); musician. Resident of Baker City for 7 years.



Baker City Public Arts Commission, 2016-2019; Commission Chair, 2019; Baker 5J Ski For The Health Of It chaperone, 2018-2019; Central Park Awareness Concert Organizer, 2016; Baker Youth Activity Center Board member, 2018; Churchill School Cleanup Committee Member, 2019; Jesse Butler Music Fund For Kids Board member, 2020; Baker High School Community Volunteer Award recipient, 2019/2020

1. Addressing the potential negative effects of the upcoming expiration of the Oregon Eviction Moratorium on Dec. 31, 2020. How tenants, as well as landlords, navigate through these times will have a direct impact on the immediate future of our city. We already have a homeless problem in Baker which I fear is only going to get worse. The City needs to leverage its access to grant and state funding to increase rental inventory. This will also help to attract employers to town, as many see our lack of workforce housing as a deterrent.

2. Helping Baker City small businesses recover from the COVID-19 pandemic. Many local businesses were already experiencing loss of revenue due to increased internet competition (Amazon, etc.). Baker City Downtown had been doing an impressive job increasing downtown vitality and awareness prior to the outbreak, but pandemic-related shutdowns and regulations have made it especially hard for many businesses to pay the bills. We have to keep momentum with our "shop local" and "put your money where your home is" campaigns while preparing for tourism to resume.

1. Enabling through a permit process the possibility of allowing alcohol service in city parks for special events. Baker City is well-known for Barley Brown's and Glacier 45, we are also well-known for our parks and recreation (shout out to Lisa Jacoby and Joyce Bornstedt!). Allowing a poll festival at Geiser-Pollman Park, for example, would bring in tourist dollars that are currently unavailable. Weddings, company picnics, and family reunions would bring lodging tax dollars to the county and tourist dollars to the city.

2. Improving access to business class internet through research and grants that would enable businesses that work remotely to move to the area. The cost of living and recreational opportunities here would be reason enough to move a small business here if internet access was better and more affordable. Having online school this fall has shown that our capacity is limited. I would utilize public/private partnerships to leverage city access to funds with local technical experts.

## Heather Sells

Hello Baker City! I am Heather, a 28-year-old marketing program manager who has been part of the Baker City community since 2015; however, my extended family first called Baker home back in 1910. I hope to see our special town continue to be a home to other well-established families and be a place that new residents can choose to raise the future generation.

I have been responsible for creating and managing digital marketing programs, running corporate events and meetings, building project timelines, and balancing a \$1.5 million budget for the past 8 years. Although if elected, this would be my first opportunity to serve on a public council, I am no stranger to hard work, dedication, learning new procedures and representing those who wish to have things work a little different than they have in the past, all to better support the changing world we live in.

Two issues I think will be vital for the council to deal with are the results from the presidential election and the ongoing response to COVID-19. As our state continues to be divided, I believe the Council will experience many different opinions presented in front of them based on this separation of ideas. It will be the responsibility of a good council, to support what is most important to Baker City and its community members. This includes bringing on new city leaders and making decisions that support the people, not anyone's personalized agenda. I also anticipate the global pandemic will continue to be a large topic of discussion. City Council members will be challenged to find new ways to do things they always used to do, but with a different execution. It is a great opportunity for us to reevaluate how we as a community approach these challenges and how we will find new ways to overcome them.

If elected, a goal of mine would be to increase support and resources to all Baker City emergency service departments (fire, police and EMS). At a time where many communities throughout our nation are making tough decisions to defund these vital roles, they need our support more than ever. Not only should these groups be fully equipped with the proper technology and tools to support their daily, and sometimes life-threatening tasks, but they also need the proper emotional resources available to help guide them through difficult situations. It is important that we can build a community where these critical members choose to stay and raise their families, so we can eliminate the desire to leave for a better opportunity.

I will also look for and encourage ways to support our local small shops, restaurants, retail stores and community-run businesses. I feel that it is a community effort to help our own citizens keep their business doors open, so they can support their families and continue to call Baker City home. Showing that our community can run successful businesses in a small, rural town also drives more revenue and potentially, more new businesses altogether.

## Jason Spriet

Jason Spriet, 49 years old, I have worked for the State of Oregon Water Resources Department for 25 years and am currently the East Region Manager. Lived in Baker all 49 years, except for the time I spent in college from 1990-94.



I have worked for the public for over 25 years, and since 2012 have led a diverse team of professionals in managing water resources across Eastern Oregon from the Washington border to Nevada. I also served as a member of the Baker County Planning Commission for 2 years early in my career. In 2019 I completed the Leadership Oregon course, a year-long leadership training with 29 other Oregon managers from various backgrounds. I also spend significant time assisting in the development of administrative rules to protect senior legal uses of water across the state, to ensure Oregon has a healthy water future.

Two issues I think are vital for the City Council to deal with over the next 2 years are fire/ambulance service and water security. I believe it is very important to maintain a properly functioning ambulance service for the citizens of Baker City and surrounding communities. I believe it is the Council's role to work with our partners in the County to ensure that the ambulance and service are of the highest quality by maintaining a crew of properly trained emergency services personnel and equipment that is appropriate for a city like Baker.

Additionally it is also important to make sure the city has a reliable and consistent source of water for its citizens. Baker City is very unique in that we have a very clean and reliable source of mountain stream water. The ongoing pipeline project is vital to replace the aging infrastructure that currently exists. This project along with the city's plan to drill an additional groundwater well, will help keep the high quality Baker City water flowing into the future.

I believe Baker City is at its best when its citizens and businesses are successful. It is my goal to provide opportunities for both businesses and citizens that will help achieve this goal. There are a number of existing ordinances that may need to be modified to relieve some unnecessary burden on local interests. Local service is difficult to beat, and we have some excellent opportunities to expand local resources with some minor changes to antiquated policies.

It is also very important for the council to listen to citizen concerns and consider many different perspectives on city activities. I believe the council does a good job when concerns are brought forward, and would like to continue to be proactive to encourage and expand citizen participation in city government. We all benefit when we work together to make this city we love prosper to its full potential.

## Gretchen Stadler

My name is Gretchen Stadler. I am 61 and have lived in Baker City for 4 years. I am retired after working as a Baker Food Co-op grocery assistant, family caregiver, Medicare counselor, job developer, and high school and university student services coordinator. I have served people from a wide range of ages and backgrounds and helped folks successfully navigate educational and healthcare systems. I have been married for 29 years and have one son.



Serving on Baker City Council will be my first time in an elected position. I am a founding member of Baker City Trash Talk, a community group formed to address local waste management issues. I am especially enthusiastic about Baker Sanitary's pilot composting program. I also volunteer with Baker City Cycling Classic, American Association of University Women, and the Powder River Cleanup, and have participated in numerous city council meetings and work sessions. I served as a board member for the Humboldt Community Breast Health Project for two years.

We are living in a challenging time with the COVID-19 pandemic and related economic issues. It is vital that the city council continue to secure and equitably distribute financial support from the CARES Act and other grant programs to our local businesses and non-profit organizations. In addition to responsibly allocating outside resources, the council must use creative problem-solving to address city funding shortfalls that are likely to occur. We must ensure our fire and police are adequately funded and our city's infrastructure is maintained.

As we work to preserve basic city services, we also need to envision a positive future and continue moving forward to enhance the health, safety and well being of our community. Our new all-inclusive playground at Geiser-Pollman Park is an excellent demonstration of community support and cooperation that we can all be proud of. Funding for this project came from Moda Assist, state and city funds, foundation grants, private business and local fundraising events. Residents of all ages voted daily and enabled Baker City to easily win the Moda Assist competition. There will be many opportunities like this where we can work together to decide what is best for our city. Public input and involvement will be essential as we work with our new city manager, find solutions to property cleanup issues, address the needs of our teens, evaluate the analysis of a train quiet zone, design the North Baker Transportation Improvement Project, and negotiate a new waste management contract.

As a city council member I pledge to commit the time and energy required to be an effective representative for all Baker citizens. I will devote myself to learning the details of daily management including budget development, city ordinances, repair and maintenance of city property, law enforcement, community and economic development, and other projects of city departments and committees. It is my goal to develop strong working relationships with all city staff, local residents and fellow elected officials.

In challenging times like the one we are currently facing, coming together as a community is essential. Being good neighbors to one another — respectful, compassionate, and supportive — is necessary if we are to find the best path forward. One of my goals as a city council member is to encourage neighbors to look out for each other and find creative ways to work with what we have. Many residents already volunteer and donate individually or through service clubs like Rotary and Soroptimists. Churches are vital to meeting the needs of many families. I admire the Baker culture of taking care of our own in times of prosperity and struggle, and I will strive to nurture that community spirit at all times. Let's share our strengths to meet our needs.

## Johnny Waggoner Sr.

My name is Johnny Waggoner Sr., and I am 55 years old.



I was born and raised in Texas, graduating from high school in 1983. I enlisted in the Army in 1986, and was stationed in California, Oklahoma and Panama. In 1991, I received an honorable discharge. I moved to Baker City in 1995. I retired from the State of Oregon in 2019. I am married with five children and eight grandchildren.

I was a public servant for 23 years, working for the Oregon Department of Corrections from 1996 until my retirement in 2019.

The first issue that I think will be vital for the City Council to address is being able to maintain the current level of city services without raising taxes. There is a lot of work to be done in Baker City, including but not limited to, streets that badly need repair and a major cleanup of the watershed to reduce the risk of fire. The second vital issue is finding a way to promote growth in Baker City without losing the livability and abandoning our rural roots. The livability of Baker City needs a boost and could benefit from even small improvements like a designated city-wide cleanup week and more attentiveness to parks and pathways. Many businesses are struggling with the current COVID restrictions and the loss of revenue from canceled events. The City Council needs to play a role in helping these businesses safely prosper and having events return to Baker City even if only on a smaller scale.

Two goals that I would like to pursue if I am elected is to update the city charter and to make Baker City safer for our residents. The city charter continues to have additions made to it, but the time has come for the entire document to be reviewed and updated where appropriate. COVID restrictions have resulted in our law enforcement officers being unable to do their jobs effectively and Baker City has been plagued with thefts and burglaries. The police need to be able to enforce the laws and there needs to be consequences for those who break them. If elected, I am looking forward to helping champion improvements for both the police and fire departments.