

# BLANCHARD E~NEWSLETTER

17 DECEMBER 2021

VOLUMN 114, ISSUE 3

## *After Hours*

For Public Works after-hour incidents (ie: water leaks, waterline breaks, sewer backups, sewer line breaks, lift station alarms, manhole overflowing, low-water pressure, no water, potholes, road repairs, signs missing or down, roadway flooding, debris in road, street lite out, etc.) please call 405.485.9391. The City's Central Dispatch is manned 24-7 and will contact the on-call personnel regarding the incident.

## *BMIA Action*

The Board of Trustees of the Blanchard Municipal Improvement Authority met in regular session on **Tuesday, December 14<sup>th</sup>** and discussed, considered and took appropriate action, on the following agenda items:

- **APPROVED** Consent Order No. 21-233 dtd 12/6/21 issued by DEQ; and payment

of a cash penalty of \$6,000.00 SUBJECT to the City Attorney's review;

- **APPROVED** the purchase of AMR meters and MXU units for water service of \$34,900.

- **APPROVED** the Consent Agenda.

The next regular meeting will be Tuesday, January 25<sup>th</sup>, 2022.

## *CDBG Grant*

The Oklahoma Department of Commerce (ODOC) approved the release of Funds yesterday for our application CDBG-W/S Construction-2021 BLANCHARD CI-00024. This grant provides matching funds to begin the first phase in the process of upgrading our municipal water lines (less than 6-inch) serving old Town of Blanchard.

The City plans on advertising bids for construction after the 1<sup>st</sup> of the year due to the holidays.

In addition, part of the administration of this federal funded project is the requirement to advertise job

opportunities (the final determination rests with the successful bidder) and wage determination when the project begins in spring.

## Christmas Day

The ancient Celts divided the year into four sections marked by Quarter Days - the of the solstice and equinoxes, on which the seasons begins. Gradually, to conform more closely to the liturgical year of the Christian church, the Quarter Days became identified with the church's high seasonal festivals, which occurred close to the astronomical dates. Christmas, the fourth Quarter Day, was both the culmination of the old year and the first festival of the new year. The day originated as a solstice festival and signaled a time of resting and gathering fertility for a new round of sowing and reaping. This festival merged easily with the Christian celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ, which occurred at this time of year.



## Council Action

The City Council of the City of Blanchard met in regular session on **Tuesday, December 14<sup>th</sup>** and discussed, considered and took appropriate action on the following agenda items:

- **CONDUCTED** Public Hearing for PC's recommendation to rezone property owned by Pioneer Telephone from A-1 to R-1;
- **ADOPTED** Zoning Ordinance No. 748.
- **APPROVED** Emergency Clause for Zoning Ordinance No. 748.
- **ADOPTED** Resolution No. 2021-51 appointing Danny Roberts to the Planning Commission.
- **ADOPTED** Resolution No. 2021-52 authorizing OMAG to distribute Escrow Account in the amount of \$5,739.40.
- **ADOPTED** Resolution No. 2021-53 accepting Judge's recommendation to dismiss \$1,100 on 3 deceased defendants.
- **APPROVED** out-of-state travel for the City Planner to attend the ICSC Conference in Dallas February 1- 3.
- **APPROVED** Special Event Permit authorizing ReThread Consignment to conduct monthly sale events on the sidewalk in 2022.
- **APPROVED** Consent Agenda.
- **HELD** Executive Session.

The next regular meeting will be Tuesday, January 25<sup>th</sup>, 2022.

## December Meetings

21<sup>st</sup> ~ Traffic Court (2pm)

21<sup>st</sup> ~ Board of Adjustment

## December Special Events

21<sup>st</sup> ~ Winter Solstice (9:59am CST)

24<sup>th</sup> ~ Christmas Eve

24<sup>th</sup> ~ Christmas Observance (City Hall  
CLOSED)

25<sup>th</sup> ~ Christmas

31<sup>st</sup> ~ New Year's Eve (City Hall CLOSED)

## Holiday Closing



- Friday, December 24<sup>th</sup> (for Xmas Eve)
- Monday, December 27<sup>th</sup> (for Xmas)
- Friday, December 31<sup>st</sup> (New Year's)

If you have a police or fire emergency, please call 911. If you have a water or sewer emergency, please call 485.9391. Trash service collection as usual.

City Offices will reopen on the **Tuesday** following the Christmas Holidays, and Monday, January 3<sup>rd</sup> after New Year's.

## Moving Forward!

Attached is an informational flyer

[https://scontent-dfw5-1.xx.fbcdn.net/v/t39.30808-6/s1080x2048/269493477\\_4500320733428012\\_7478103136076024053\\_n.jpg?\\_nc\\_cat=101&ccb=1-5&nc\\_sid=8bfeb9&nc\\_ohc=vqAfusggpVgAX8QsrHI&nc\\_ht=scontent-dfw5-1.xx&oh=00\\_AT9YJfdfIAEtDSzSgkzN7Vyn3evuqD2BlcpT6SpOiIqcw&oe=61C19D09](https://scontent-dfw5-1.xx.fbcdn.net/v/t39.30808-6/s1080x2048/269493477_4500320733428012_7478103136076024053_n.jpg?_nc_cat=101&ccb=1-5&nc_sid=8bfeb9&nc_ohc=vqAfusggpVgAX8QsrHI&nc_ht=scontent-dfw5-1.xx&oh=00_AT9YJfdfIAEtDSzSgkzN7Vyn3evuqD2BlcpT6SpOiIqcw&oe=61C19D09) regarding the upcoming municipal sales tax election slated for **Tuesday, February 8<sup>th</sup>, 2022.**

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## New Year's Day



In Scotland, December 31<sup>st</sup> is known as Hogmanay, the word children use to ask for their traditional present of an oatmeal cake (which is why this is also called Cake Day). The first person to cross the threshold into your home, called the first footer, is an indication of the year to come. Although the tradition varies, if the first footer is tall and dark, the year will be a good one.

To celebrate, the City allows the discharge of fireworks on **Friday, December 31<sup>st</sup>** from 12:00 Noon to 12:00 Midnite; and on **Saturday, January 1<sup>st</sup>** from 12:01 am to 12:30 am.

## Oil 'n Gas

The Oklahoma Corporation Commission reported since **December 10<sup>th</sup>** that NO oil wells were completed or permitted within the municipal limits of the City.

## Oklahoma Highway System

Nearly \$8 billion in upgrades heading to Oklahoma!

Thanks to an influx of federal grants and additional state funding, the Oklahoma Department of Transportation (ODOT) is maximizing new dollars to plan for more than 1,600 critically needed highway construction and safety projects in the next eight years.

With more than 300 new projects added to the Eight-Year Construction Plan for 2022-2029 approved on Monday, October 4<sup>th</sup>, the department will commit an additional nearly \$2 billion into highway infrastructure and the state's economy. This brings a total impact of nearly \$8 billion by the end of the decade. Commissioners also approved a \$484 million investment in preventative maintenance through the companion Asset Preservation Plan for 2022-2025.

With the restoration of \$180 million in state appropriated funding and an anticipated 2023 increase in the

Rebuilding Oklahoma Access and Driver Safety (ROADS) Fund annual cap from \$575 million to \$590 million, ODOT was able to budget for more critically needed projects in this plan update.

Additionally, Oklahoma is one of the first states to take advantage of the federal Transportation Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (TIFIA) Rural Project Initiative at the U.S. Department of Transportation to accelerate rural, two-lane improvement projects already in the Eight-Year Plan. Use of low-interest TIFIA loans helps increase funding for Oklahoma to add more projects into the plan.

FFY 2022-2029 Eight-Year Construction Work Plan:

- Nearly \$8 billion in total investment
- 1,657 total projects
- Addresses 685 bridges through rehabilitation or replacement, including the last few remaining structurally deficient bridges
- Nearly 2,296 miles of roadway improvements, which includes more than 1,013 miles of safety improvements on two-lane highways with deficient or no shoulders.

## Police Blotter

The following individuals were arrested:

- **December 12<sup>th</sup>** ~ COX, Susan arrested for Local Warrants and Midwest City Warrant.
- **December 15<sup>th</sup>** ~ KELLAR, Jennifer arrested on Active Grady County Warrant.

## School Break

The Blanchard Public Schools will be closed for the Christmas Holidays, NO CLASSES. Students will be out of school from **December 20<sup>th</sup>, 2021** to **January 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2022**. School resumes on Monday, January 3<sup>rd</sup>.

## Senior Dining Program

The Blanchard Senior Nutrition Center serves a fully balanced lunch (entrees, sides, desserts, tea and coffee) for all senior citizens five (5) days a week beginning at **11:30am, Monday thru Friday**:

### MENU

- **20<sup>th</sup>** ~ Smoked Sausage, Cabbage, Parsley Potatoes, Cornbread, Dessert.
- **21<sup>st</sup>** ~ Chicken Patty, Mashed Potatoes, Gravy, Vegetables, Bread, Dessert.
- **22<sup>nd</sup>** ~ Tater Tot Casserole, Corn, Salad, Dessert.
- **23<sup>rd</sup>** ~ Navy Beans, Spinach, Beets, Cornbread, Dessert.
- **24<sup>th</sup>** ~ **CLOSED.**

If you are 60 or older, you are eligible to participate free of charge. However, a suggested donation of \$2.00 is requested to insure the continuance in meeting the nutritional needs of our elderly citizens. Citizens under the age of 60 may participate but are required to pay \$5.00 for the meal. If you need a ride to the Center located at 101 S. Main Street, the City contracts with Delta Transit to provide bus service. Rides are available by calling 1-866-THAT-BUS.

For more information or this week's lunch menu, please call (405) 485-9260.

## Upcoming Events

**Tuesday, 12-21** ~ Winter Begins

**Friday, 12-24** ~ Christmas Eve

**Saturday, 12-25** ~ Christmas Day

**Friday, 12-31** ~ New Year's Eve

## Winter Solstice

The winter solstice is one of the two times each year that the Sun is at its farthest point from the equator and appears to stand still. It occurs on **Tuesday, December 21<sup>st</sup> at 9:59 a.m. CST**. The word *solstice* is derived from the Latin *sol*, or "Sun," and *stitium*, or "stoppage."

