



E-Mail Newsletter

9 December 2022

Volume 126, Number 2

Meeting Dates

December 12th

2pm - Traffic Court

December 13th

6pm - BMIA

6pm - City Council

December 20th

6pm - BOA

*All City Boards, Commissions, & Authority meets at the Municipal Court House unless otherwise noted.



BETA Action

The Board of Trustees of the Blanchard Economic Trust Authority (BETA) met in regular session on Monday, December 5th and discussed, considered and took appropriate action on the following agenda items:

- »»» **Discussed** Economic Development in Blanchard regarding industrial prospects and commercial businesses.
- »»» **Discussed** Farmers Market for 2023.
- »»» **Adopted** Resolution No. 2022-01 approving 2023 Calendar of Meetings.
- »»» **Approved** Consent Docket.

The next meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Blanchard Economic Trust Authority will be **Monday, February 6th, 2023**.

Christmas On Main



Each December, the City comes alive with lights and fun for the whole family. Old City Hall will be a great place to see and visit with your friends and get a FREE picture with the jolly ole elf, himself. Then step outside for more festivities:

Special Events

December 21st

– WINTER BEGINS

December 23rd

– CITY OFFICES
CLOSED

December 24th

– CHRISTMAS EVE

December 25th

– CHRISTMAS

December 26th

– CITY OFFICES
CLOSED

December 31st

– NEW YEAR'S EVE

For Blanchard

City events:

Please visit our
website at

www.cityofblanchard.us

Library Events:

Please visit their
website at

https://pioneer.libnet.info/events?l=virtual_blanchar

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We're on the Web!

www.cityofblanchard.us



- » Pics with Santa from 2 - 4pm
- » Food Trucks and Train Rides from 2 - 4pm
- » Shop Blanchard Give Away at 4pm
- » Blanchard Kindergarten Kids performance at 5pm

The Blanchard Annual Lighted Christmas Parade will step off at 6pm on **Saturday, December 10th**. The theme of the Parade is "A Peanuts Christmas." Come dressed as your favorite character.

For more information, please visit the City's facebook. The Parade Entry Form is on the site for downloading.

Chamber Luncheon

The scheduled Blanchard Chamber Luncheon for Thursday, December 15th was cancelled for unforeseen circumstances.

Christmas Tree Farms

Oklahoma is home to twenty (20) Christmas Tree Farms where you can cut your own tree or purchase beautiful pre-cut evergreen trees and wreaths. Visit www.oklahomaaagriculture.com/activity/christmas-trees/1 to find a Christmas Tree farm near you.

Employment Opportunities

The City of Blanchard is looking for qualified applicants to fill the following positions:

- » **Chief of Police** (full-benefits).
- » **Police Officers** (full-benefits).
- » **Reserve Police Officers** (no benefits).
- » **Volunteer Firefighters** (pension and stipend per call).
- » **Dispatcher** (full-benefits).

After Hours

For Public Works after-hour incidents:

- *water leaks
- *waterline breaks
- *sewer backups
- *sewer line breaks
- *lift station alarms
- *manholes overflowing
- *low-water pressure
- *no water
- *potholes
- *road repairs
- *signs missing
- *signs down
- *roadway flooding
- *debris in road
- *street lite out

Please call
405.485.9391.

The Blanchard Emergency Communications Center is 24-7 and will contact the on-call personnel regarding the incident.



- » **Street Laborers** (full-benefits).
- » **Utility Laborers** (full-benefits).

Benefits for full-time employment include but not limited to:

- Medical benefits paid on behalf of employee.
- Nationwide Retirement Solutions Plan (City/BMIA employees only).
- OK Police Pension and Retirement System (police officers).
- 10 paid vacation days per year.
- 10 paid sick days per year.
- 9 paid holidays per year.
- 1-floating holiday.
- Life Insurance (paid by the City).
- Employee Assistance Program (EAP).

The City of Blanchard is an Equal Opportunity Employer (EOE). For more information, please contact the Human Resources Officer at 405.485.9392 or download an application from www.cityofblanchard.us.

5K Fun Run

Run, Run, Rudolph!

Everyone is invited to help support the Blanchard Running Club. The Booster Club for the Blanchard High School and Middle School Cross Country and Track will be sponsoring a 5K Fun Run. The Fun Run will be held **Saturday, December 10th**, beginning at **10** a.m. The starting line will be at the Flagpole on Main Street. Cost is \$25. 12 and under are FREE!

You can register by contacting BlanchardRunningClub@Gmail.com. For more information please contact Amanda Burnside @ 405.226.0802.

Shop Local

Here's what happens when you "shop local."

1. More of your money will be kept in the Blanchard local economy: For every \$100 you spend at locally owned businesses, \$68 stays in Blanchard. What happens when you spend that same \$100 at a national chain? Only \$43 stays in the community*.

2. You embrace what makes Blanchard unique: You wouldn't want your house to look like everyone else's in the U.S. So why would you want your community to look that way?

3. You create local jobs: Local businesses are better at creating higher-paying jobs for your neighbors. When you shop locally, you help create jobs for firemen, police officers, and many other essential professions.

4. You help the environment: Buying from a locally



Holiday Closing

City offices will be closed for the observance of Christmas and New Year's on:

- **Friday, December 23rd (for Xmas Eve)**
- **Monday, December 26th (for Xmas)**
- **Monday, January 2nd (New Year's Day)**

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 (December 27th)** following the Christmas Holidays and **Tuesday (January 3rd)** after New Year's.

News Release

With reliable high-speed internet service and billions of dollars on the line, every Oklahoman is strongly encouraged to check their addresses for current service availability on a newly released map by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC), the Oklahoma Broadband Office announced today.

The map, available at <https://broadbandmap.fcc.gov/home>, allows visitors to look up their addresses and check to see if the information provided is accurate. If not, visitors can provide corrected information by clicking the Availability Challenge link.

Any Oklahoman, business, school, church, library, or place with internet service can look at the map and challenge the information.

The request to check the map is urgent. The FCC has set a deadline of January 13, 2023, to provide correct information.

"If the final map contains bad information, thousands of Oklahomans could be left out."

owned business conserves energy and resources in the form of less fuel for transportation and less packaging.

5. You nurture community: Local business owners know you, and you know them. Studies have shown that local businesses donate to community causes at more than twice the rate of chains.

6. You conserve your tax dollars: Shopping in a local business district means less infrastructure, less maintenance, and more money available to beautify the community. Also, spending locally instead of online ensures that your sales taxes are reinvested where they belong - in Blanchard.

7. You create more choice: Locally owned businesses pick the items and products they sell based on what they know you like and want. Local businesses carry a wider array of unique products because they buy for their own individual markets.



Simultaneously to the public challenge process, the office, Native American tribes, and other internet-related groups are scouring the map data and will challenge any erroneous entries they find.

Oklahoma policymakers are focused on expanding and enhancing high-speed internet due to its many economic, health, and public safety benefits. The broadband office is regularly updating its website at broadband.ok.gov with the most recent information.

About the Oklahoma Broadband Office. Oklahoma launched an aggressive effort to ensure fast and affordable broadband internet service is available throughout the state and the Oklahoma Broadband Office is a key component.

Created by the Legislature in May 2022, the office is on a five-year mission to develop and administer grant programs to make affordable, high-speed internet available to all Oklahomans. It also coordinates efforts throughout the state to ensure broadband expansion is conducted effectively and efficiently.

This effort builds on previous work to connect the entire state with the economy of the 21st Century. The benefit to families, farms, businesses, and communities is this generation's equivalent to the impact of rural electrification nearly 100 years ago.

Oil 'n Gas

There were **NO** oil wells permitted or completed in Blanchard according to the Oklahoma Corporation Commission since **Friday, December 2nd**.

On the BMIA Agenda

The Authority will hold their December meeting on Tuesday,

8. You take advantage of their expertise: You are their friends and neighbors, and locally owned businesses have a vested interest in knowing how to serve you. They're passionate about what they do. Why not take advantage of it?

9. You invested in entrepreneurship: Creativity and entrepreneurship are what the American economy is founded upon. Nurturing local business ensures a strong community.

10. You made Blanchard a destination: The more interesting and unique Blanchard community, the more we will attract new neighbors, visitors and guests. This **BENEFITS EVERYONE!**

* Source: Civic Economics - Andersonville Study of Retail Economics.



December 13th to discuss, consider and take appropriate action on the following agenda items:

»»» Resolution accepting FYE2022 Audit Report on the Authority's Financial Statements for Fiscal Year 2021-22 beginning July 1, 2021 and ending as of and for June 30, 2022, as prepared by HSPG & Associates.

»»» Lease-Purchase of a 2020 Peterbilt Vacuum Truck from OK Water in the amount of \$400,000.

»»» Consent Agenda.

The full agenda packet is be available on the City's website at www.cityofblanchard.us.

On the Council Agenda

The Blanchard City Council will hold their December meeting on Tuesday, December 13th to discuss, consider and take appropriate action on the following agenda items:

»»» Public Hearing on Planning Commission's recommendation to rezone property to R-E, Residential Estates District for Lot 32 of Block 1, Rolling Hills Estate.

»»» Ordinance accepting Planning Commission's recommendation to rezone property to R-E.

»»» Ordinance Emergency.

»»» Public Hearing on Planning Commission's recommendation to rezone property to R-E, Residential Estates District for Lot 4, East Park Addition.

»»» Ordinance accepting Planning Commission's recommendation to rezone property to R-E.

»»» Ordinance Emergency.

»»» Public Hearing on Planning Commission's recommendation to rezone property to C-6, General Commercial District for ALL of Blocks 97, 98, 104, 105, 114, 115 and Less Lots 7 - 12 of Block 97, Old Town Blanchard.

»»» Ordinance accepting Planning Commission's recommendation to rezone property to C-6.



- »»» Ordinance Emergency.
- »»» Public Hearing on Planning Commission's recommendation to amend the Zoning Code to incorporate regulations pertaining to Farmers Market.
- »»» Ordinance accepting Planning Commission's recommendation to amend Zoning Code by adding Farmers Market.
- »»» Ordinance Emergency.
- »»» Public Hearing on CDBG Grant #18226 CDBG 17 and #18537 CDBG 21; Water System Improvements - Waterline Replacement Project in Old Town; Final Performance Report.
- »»» Final Pay Application to ORR Construction in the amount of \$48,980.35.
- »»» Resolution closing out CDBG 21 Grant Project.
- »»» Public Hearing on the City's intent to apply for FY2023 CDBG Grant in the amount of \$600,000 for funding Phase 2 of the Old Town Waterline Replacement Project.
- »»» Resolution adopting a Citizen's Participation Plan for proposed FY23 CDBG Grant Project.
- »»» Resolution authorizing a FY23 CDBG Grant Application.
- »»» Resolution adopting a Leveraged (Matching) Funds for proposed FY23 CDBG Project Phase 2.
- »»» Resolution adopting a Residential Anti-Displacement Plan for proposed FY23 CDBG Project Phase 2.
- »»» Proclamation proclaiming 2023 Fair Housing.
- »»» Resolution approving an Agreement with Parkhill to prepare the FY2023 CDBG Citizen's Participation Plan for FY23 CDBG Grant Application and administer the Project, if funded.
- »»» Resolution approving Task Order #2 for Parkhill to provide survey, design, and obtain DEQ Permit of Phase II project.
- »»» Public Hearing authorizing staff to apply for the 2023 Recreational Trails Program thru the OK Tourism & Recreation Department for matching grant to expand walking trails in Crystal Lake Park linking South Park.
- »»» Resolution accepting FYE2022 Audit Report on the City's Financial Statements for Fiscal Year 2021-22 beginning July 1,



2021 and ending as of and for June 30, 2022, as prepared by HSPG & Associates.

»»» Resolution approving a revised Agreement with the Blanchard Chamber of Commerce for annual May Daze.

»»» Resolution calling a General Election for the purpose of electing a candidate to serve as Ward 1 and Ward 2 Councilman.

»»» Resolution approving an Agreement to provide emergency dispatch services to the Town of Dibble.

»»» Resolution accepting a Permanent Easement granted by DL Rogers Corp and DLR Family Real Estate LLC for road and utility purposes in Blanchard Crossing.

»»» Resolution authorizing Project Application with ODOT for the Municipal Road Drilling Activity Fund for road improvements of 1-mile on Morgan Road from 10th north to 25th.

»»» Resolution authorizing Project Application for the Municipal Road Drilling Activity Fund with ODOT for road improvements of 1/2-mile on County Line Road from 85th north.

»»» Resolution approving Agreement with Keith & Associates to provide a dietetics experience for participating trainees at the Blanchard Senior Nutrition Center.

»»» Proposed Ordinance prohibiting trucks over 1-ton to operate on section line roads without a permit.

»»» Special Event Permit allowing ReThread Consignments to conduct sidewalk sales throughout 2023.

»»» Request by Gary Lytle to address the City Council pertaining to drainage in the Quail Haven Addition.

»»» Status of road improvements; approval of Change Order #2; and amending engineering agreement with Glenn Sullivan & Associates.

»»» Status regarding the completion of Fire Station No.2.

»»» Status regarding improvements to the South Park Concession and Press Box building.

»»» Consent Agenda.

»»» Executive Session.



The full agenda packet will be available on the City's website on Monday.

Planning Commission Action

The Blanchard Planning Commission held their December meeting on Thursday, December 8th and discussed, considered and took appropriate action on the following agenda items:

»»» **Held** Public Hearing:

»»» **Adopted** Resolution recommending approval of proposed changes to Zoning Code pertaining to farmers market.

»»» **Adopted** Resolution recommending approval of Oasis Ranch Section 5.

»»» **Approved** Consent Docket.

The next meeting of the Planning Commission will be **Thursday, January 12, 2023**.

Park Events

The upcoming **2022** events are:

- **December 10th** ~ Downtown Christmas Events
- **December 10th** ~ Christmas Parade of Lites.

Details of each event will be posted on the City's Facebook Page and the City's website.

Police Blotter

- No Arrests.

Road Improvements

The Haskell Lemon Group (Contractor) began section line road improvements on Monday (December 5th).



County Line Road between 10th Street NW for one-mile to 25th Street NW is the first road segment to be repaired and paved.

Please avoid this area due to construction! If you need to visit the Blanchard High School campus, please use Paulk Drive to access the school.

Phase I improvements total \$7,158,655 and will include South County Line Road from 250th North to OK-76; Morgan Road from US-62 to 25th Street NW, County Line Road between 10th Street NW to 25th Street NW and 55th Street NE from OK-76 east for one-half mile.

Sales Tax Collections

The sales tax collections for the month of December is more than forty-three percent (43.94%) of the monthly budgeted amount based on five (5%) of \$9,740,484.80 retail sales in Blanchard.

Month	\$ Amount	% +/-
Jul '22	341,443.27	19.73
Aug '22	433,295.74	26.51
Sep '22	493,098.78	109.33
Oct '22	454,007.33	40.16
Nov '22	457,106.95	41.12
Dec '22	487,024.24	38.91
Jan '23	0	0.00
Feb '23	0	0.00
Mar '23	0	0.00
Apr '23	0	0.00
May '23	0	0.00
Jun '23	0	0.00
Totals	2,665,976.31	43.20

Senior Dining

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**

» **Monday, December 12th** ~ Spaghetti, Salad, Corn, Dessert.

» **Tuesday, December 13th** ~ Sausage, Gravy, Potatoes, Biscuits, Dessert.

» **Wednesday, December 14th** ~ Tetrazzini, Green Beans, Carrots, Dessert.

» **Thursday, December 15th** ~ Hobo Beans, Pickles and Onions, Okra, Cornbread, Dessert.

» **Friday, December 16th** ~ Ribbette, Coleslaw, Baked Beans, Dessert.

If you are 60 years of age or older, you are eligible to participate free of charge. However, a 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, 101 S. Main Street, please call 1-866-THAT-BUS. The City contracts with Delta Transit to provide bus services.

For more information regarding the Senior Center, please call 405.485.9260.

So...Think, Shop, Live Blanchard

Please keep in mind that Blanchard's quality of life and the local economy relies on where residents spend their money and do their shopping. Sales tax is a direct and vital lifeline to essential services like public safety (police, fire, 911 services), public facilities, projects, programs and services. Shopping locally keeps businesses here in Blanchard, providing jobs and benefiting community schools and non-profits. If there's one thing we can all do to make our dollars work for this community, it's to shop local! Grab dinner in Blanchard on your way home. You'd be surprised what a difference that can make. Shopping locally benefits the entire community. Make



your tax dollars work for you and our community.

Use Tax Collections

The use tax collections for the month of December more than thirty-seven percent (37.85%) more than the monthly budgeted amount based on \$2,933,520.60 of retail sales outside of Blanchard.

Month	\$ Amount	% +/-
Jul '22	100,869.95	9.82
Aug '22	94,050.49	-7.25
Sep '22	137,513.39	31.61
Oct '22	119,613.15	-14.97
Nov '22	102,787.23	-16.37
Dec '22	146,676.03	29.92
Jan '23	0	0.00
Feb '23	0	0.00
Mar '23	0	0.00
Apr '23	0	0.00
May '23	0	0.00
Jun '23	0	0.00
Totals	701,510.24	29.26

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 **Wednesday, December 21st** at **3:48 p.m. CST**.

The word *solstice* is derived from the Latin *sol*, or "Sun," and *stitium*, or "stoppage." The Halcyon Days also occur around this time. According to ancient legend, a grieving wife named Alcyone, or Halcyon, threw herself into the sea upon discovering the drowned body of her beloved husband, Ceyx. The gods took pity on the pair, transforming them into kingfishers with the power to still the stormy seas for 14 days



around the time of the winter solstice while they built their nest and hatched their young.

Xmas Parade

The City's annual Christmas Parade will be **Saturday, December 10th** beginning at **6pm**. We currently have over fifty (50) entries this year.

Parade Entry Forms are still available on the City's website at www.cityofblanchard.us.

