



E-Mail Newsletter

22 September 2023

Volume 135, Number 4

Meeting Dates

September 26th
5:30pm ~ PreMeeting
6pm ~ BMIA
6pm ~ Council

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

City of Blanchard
P.O. Box 480
122 N. Main Street
Blanchard, OK 73010
Phone: (405) 485-9392
Fax: (405) 485-3199

E-mail:
citymanager@cityofblanchard.us

We're on the Web!
www.cityofblanchard.us

Action Required

Pioneer will be replacing the traditional copper wire network with fiber-optic technology! Your Pioneer service(s) must be moved to the fiber network **BEFORE OCTOBER 16, 2023, OR YOU WILL NOT HAVE SERVICE FROM PIONEER.**

Pioneer provides service to your home over traditional copper wire network. They are in the final stages of upgrading their entire network with new fiber-optic technology. Fiber-optic technology can bring you additional services, and more reliable performance.

Fiber-optic technology uses cables made of glass or plastic strands that transmit light. This technology is more efficient than standard copper wiring. Fiber-optic technology can transfer more information, faster, with higher quality, and over greater distances. The fiber-optic cables aren't affected by electrical interference, making the upgraded network more reliable, and secure.

To maintain their fiber-optic networks as their primary network, they will terminate the existing copper network on October 16, 2023. Once the copper network has been terminated, if you have NOT converted to the fiber-optic network you will NOT have service. Please visit the local Pioneer office or call 405.387.8155 to speak to a representative about getting upgraded to the new fiber network.

If you already have Pioneer Internet service, your current Internet plan will be upgraded to one of their fiber plans, providing you with upgraded features like: symmetrical download and upload speeds, enhanced experience, and more reliable service. Plus, your internet equipment will also be upgraded to their newest gateway, which offers amazing WiFi 6 technology providing increased coverages and enhanced WiFi performance.

Special Events

23rd ~ Farmers Market
23rd ~ First Day of Autumn
24th ~ Yom Kippur Begins
25th ~ Yom Kippur Ends
30th ~ Farmers Market
30th ~ Mufflers on Main

For more info, visit the Parks Facebook Page regarding City sponsored events

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,blanchard>

Autumnal Equinox



Fall began today, September 23rd at 1:50 a.m. CST.

The Autumnal Equinox is defined as the point at which the Sun appears to cross the celestial equator from north to south. The celestial equator is the circle in the

celestial sphere halfway between the celestial poles. Another definition of fall is nites of below-freezing temperatures combined with day of temperatures below 70 degrees Fahrenheit. The word equinox means "equal nite"; nite and day are the same length of time. The equinoxes are times when the Sun's apparent motion undergoes the most rapid change. Around the time of the equinoxes, variations in the position on the horizon when the Sun rises and sets can be noticed from one day to the next by alert observers.

BOA Agenda

The Blanchard Board of Adjustment will meet for their September meeting on Tuesday, September 19, 2023, to discuss, consider and take appropriate action re:

A. **HELD** Public Hearing to solicit public input regarding the approval or denial of a variance to allow the applicant to apply a side yard setback of 11 feet to their property:

Applicant: Hogland
Address: 310 W Veterans Memorial HWY
Legal: See Staff Report

B. **APPROVED** the Finding of Fact on the application as submitted.
C. **HELD** Public Hearing to solicit public input regarding the approval or denial of a variance to allow the applicant to build in front of the established build line.

Applicant: Kacy Cogburn
Address: 1614 W Veterans Memorial HWY
Legal: See Staff Report

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.

- D. **APPROVED** the Finding of Fact on the application as submitted.
- E. **PRESENTATION** regarding training concerning the roles and responsibilities of the planning commission and the board of adjustment, and discussion concerning the training.
- F. **APPROVED** Consent Agenda.
- The next meeting will be **Tuesday, October 17th, 2023.**

BOA Appeal

The Blanchard Board of Adjustment denied a variance in August on an application filed for the August meeting.

Richardson's Homes (John E. Morwood (Plaintiff) v Blanchard Board of Adjustment filed a Notice of Appeal in the District Court of McClain County.

The case will be heard De Novo.

Farmers Market

The 2023 Blanchard Farmers Market is open for business every **Saturday** beginning at **8am** until **12 Noon** thru October.



Please visit our website under **RESIDENTS** and make application to participate.

Great State Fair of Oklahoma

The annual 2023 Great State Fair of Oklahoma ends tomorrow **Sunday, September 24TH** at the OKC Fairgrounds on May Avenue.

Halloween

Trick or Treat" nite in Blanchard will be **Tuesday, October 31st** from **6 pm** to **9 pm**.

Please drive carefully with caution and watch out for little ghosts and goblins!



Shop Local

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

1. 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 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. 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. Buying from a locally owned business conserves energy and resources in the form of less fuel for transportation and less packaging.

5. 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. 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. Locally owned

For Halloween safety tips for your kids, pets, etc. please go to <https://nnw.org/halloween-safety-tips>.

House Numbering

In an emergency, first responders (fire, police and ambulance) and utility service technicians depend on clearly marked addresses to find the right home as quickly as possible. Finding a residence can be challenging if street addresses (house numbers) are unreadable, hidden, unlit or missing. You can help emergency responders and service technicians locate your home by following these tips:

- Replace aging or faded numbers;
- Clear all obstructions (hanging plants, bushes, flags, etc.) from blocking your house number;
- Post large numbers to allow visibility from the street;
- Place your numbers near the street or on the curb, with a reflective coating and contrasting background;
- Allow numbers to be seen from all directions (if your home is on a corner, have numbers posted on all sides).

The BMC §4-402 requires all building and houses to be numbered. The even numbers (2,4,6, etc.) shall be on the east side of the streets extending north and south, and on the south side of the streets extending east and west; the odd numbers (1,3,5, etc.) shall be on the opposite side of streets.

Mufflers On Main

The City's 9th annual car and truck show will be held on **Saturday, September 30th** from **10am to 2pm**, on Main Street.

There will be entertainment for all with food vendors, games and live bands. For more information, contact Chris Wittenbach at 405-485-9392 or parks@cityofblanchard.us.



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.

8. 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. Creativity and entrepreneurship are what the American economy is founded upon. Nurturing local business ensures a strong community.

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

* Civic Economics -
Andersonville Study of
Retail Economics.

Now Hiring

The City of Blanchard has openings in MULTIPLE DEPARTMENTS for both full-time and part-time positions.

Please visit our website at www.cityofblanchard.us for all the current openings (postings will be available ASAP).

The City is an Equal Opportunity Employer (EOE).

Oil 'n Gas

There were **NO** oil wells permitted or completed in Blanchard according to the Oklahoma Corporation Commission since **Friday, September 15th**.

On the BMIA Agenda

The Board of Trustees of the Blanchard Municipal Improvement Authority will meet in regular session on Tuesday, September 26th beginning at 6pm to discuss, consider and take appropriate action re: the following:

- Request for water service outside the City Limits.
- Request for sewer exemption for new dental office.
- Consent Agenda.

The entire agenda with backup is available on the City's website at www.cityofblanchard.us.

On the Council Agenda

The City Council of the City of Blanchard will meet in regular session on Tuesday, September 26th beginning at 6pm to discuss, consider and take appropriate action re: the following:

- **PUBLIC HEARING.**

Open, conduct, and close Public Hearing to receive public comments on a Zoning Application for a PUD overlay submitted by:

Applicant:	Richard Hamilton
Current Zoning:	A-1, Agricultural District
Proposed Zoning:	R-E, Residential Estates District
Location:	A part of the E/2 NE/4 NW/4 in Sec 33 T9N-R4W

PC Resolution No: 2023-23

- **ORDINANCE.**

Discussion and vote on a motion adopting an Ordinance accepting the recommendation of the Planning Commission and approve the above Zoning Reclassification from the A-1, Agricultural District to the R-E, Rural Estates District, as recommended by the Planning Commission, declaring repealer and providing for severability.

- **EMERGENCY CLAUSE.**

Take appropriation action re: adopting an Emergency Clause for Ordinance No. _____.

- **ORDINANCE.**

Discussion and vote on a motion adopting an Ordinance amending the Code of Ordinances; amending Sections 1-318 and 1-319 of Article 3 of Chapter 1; re-titling Chapter 15; repealing Articles 1 - 3 of Chapter 15; amending Articles 1 and 8 of Chapter 21; and adding a new section 22-332 of Article 3 of Chapter 22 of the Code of Ordinances, as amended, concerning the powers, roles, and responsibilities of the City Council, Planning Commission, and Board of Adjustment generally concerning the municipality's zoning power, and specifically concerning citizen planner training requirements; declaring repealer and providing for severability.

- **EMERGENCY CLAUSE.**

Take appropriation action re: adopting an Emergency Clause for Ordinance No. _____.

- **ORDINANCE.**

Discussion and vote on a motion adopting Ordinance approving a replacement of the Official Zoning Map combined with the Municipal Boundaries in accordance with the BMC 20-201(3); declaring repealer and providing for severability.

- **EMERGENCY CLAUSE.**

Take appropriation action re: adopting an Emergency Clause for Ordinance No. _____.

- **RESOLUTION.**

Discuss and vote on a motion adopting a Resolution approving the Bridge Inspection responsibility by Local Government for compliance with the National Bridge Inspection Standards for Bridge Inspection Contracts for April 1, 2024 to March 31, 2026.

- **RESOLUTION.**

Discuss and vote on a motion adopting a Resolution approving a 4-Way stop at Main and Broadway, as requested by Mayor Scalf.

- **ENGINEERING SERVICES.**

Discussion, consideration, possible action, and/or amendments concerning entering into a Master Services Agreement with Freese and Nichols for Engineering Services for Tax Increment Financing District No. 2, and Task Authorization No. 1 concerning survey, scoping, and preliminary engineering for the project, PROVIDED HOWEVER, in the event the city council declines to enter into a Master Services Agreement with Freese and Nichols, the city Council may also discuss, consider and take possible action to direct city staff to initiate immediate negotiations with the engineering firm that scored second highest in the evaluation process undertaken by city staff so that the city council may consider a Master Services Agreement with the second highest scoring firm at the earliest possible time.

- **LION'S PARK RESTROOM UPDATES.**

Discuss and vote on a motion to accept the quote in the amount of \$10,600 submitted by Jeff's Plumbing for repairs to the restrooms at Lion's Park as requested by Councilman Whitt.

- **ROAD IMPROVEMENTS.**

Further discussion, consideration and take appropriate action re: the status of Phase I and Phase II of Section Line Road Improvements.

- **FIRE STATION COMPLETION.**

Further discussion, consideration and take appropriate action re: The status of subcontractor payments; and bonds.

- **CONSENT AGENDA.**

- **EXECUTIVE SESSION.**

The entire agenda packet with backup will be available on the City's website at www.cityofblanchard.us.

Police Blotter

- **9/22/23** ~ ADAMS, Chassidy arrested for McClain County Warrants.
- **9/16/23** ~ MONTARO, Brandon arrested for Domestic in Front of a Child and Domestic by Strangulation.

Road Opened

10th Street NE between Rockwell Avenue and MacArthur Avenue reopened to thru traffic yesterday.



School Bond Election

The Blanchard Public Schools will submit to the school patrons a proposed bond issue. The election will be **Tuesday, October 10th**.

Polls will be open from 7am to 7pm.

School In Session



The Blanchard Public Schools are in session!

Please drive carefully in posted school zones. The speed limit is 25 mph ... and fines are double for speeding.

Senior Nutrition Center

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

(September 25TH - 29TH)

Monday ~ Chicken Patty, Mashed Potatoes, Veggies, Bread, Dessert.

Tuesday ~ Cook's Choice, Dessert.

Wednesday ~ Chicken Salad, Carrot Raisin Salad, Beets, Crackers, Dessert.

Thursday ~ Chili Beans, Salad, Corn, Cornbread, Dessert.

Friday ~ Fish, 3-Baked Beans, Coleslaw, Bun, Dessert.

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, 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.

Upcoming Special Events

- * **September 30th** ~ Mufflers on Main
- * **October 21st** ~ Ride for the Memorial Poker Run
- * **October 21st** ~ Wine Art Music Festival (Main Street)
- * **October 31st** ~ Pumpkinfest (Main Street)
- * **October 31st** ~ Halloween (City-wide)
- * **November 10th** ~ Veterans Memorial Dedication
- * **November 11th** ~ Veterans Day Parade (Main Street)
- * **December 9th** ~ Christmas Events & Parade of Lites

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

Water Restrictions

The City of Blanchard has lifted its water restrictions due to cooler weather.

HOWEVER, permanent outside watering restrictions are in place for odd - even days.

REMINDER, the Board of County Commissioners extended a McClain County burn ban for another 14 days.

Zoning Case

An application to re-zone property from A-1, Agricultural District to R-E, Residential Estates District from Richard Hamilton has been recommended for approval to the City Council on the following described property:

E2 of NE4 of NW4 of Section 33-T9N-R4W, IM, McClain County, Oklahoma.

The recommended approval of said zoning.

The Blanchard City Council will hold a Public Hearing on the Planning Commission's recommendation **6:00p.m., Tuesday, September 26th, 2023**, during its regularly scheduled meeting.