



After Hours

For Public Works after-hour incidents (ie: water leaks, sewer backups, low-water pressure, no water, 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.

2021 American Rescue Plan Act

President Biden signed into law the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021. It provides \$130.2 billion for local governments. Under the bill, local governments of every size will receive dedicated allotments.

Tentatively, the City of Blanchard is scheduled to receive an estimated \$1,430,000. However, these are just estimated amounts based on our population. Our annual budget will be considered in the final amount. Currently the data does not contain local budget information, so it does not reflect instances where we would reach a cap of 75% of its most recent budget as of January 27, 2020. The use of the funds are restricted.

The U.S. Senate passed a version that adds as eligible categories for use of these funds investing in water, sewer and broadband infrastructure. In addition:

- The Senate added a requirement that, to be authorized under this section, monies must be spent by December 31, 2024.
- The Senate added a requirement that the funding for localities be distributed in two tranches.

Authority Agenda

The Governing Body (City Council) of the City of Blanchard will hold their March regular meeting on Tuesday, March 23rd following the City Council meeting beginning at 6:00 P.M.:

- Bid Award.
- Bid Award.
- Equipment Acquisition.
- 2016 Series Revenue Note Pay-Off.
- Rush Springs Aquifer.
- Policy for Water Pressure Testing.
- Rush Springs Aquifer.
- Consent Agenda.

The complete agenda packet can be found on the City's website at Board of Trustees' meeting will be Tuesday, April 27th.

Bid Notice

Sealed bids of the purchase of two (2) new lift station pumps and one (1) submersible sewage grinder has been extended until Tuesday, March 23rd, at which time they will be publicly opened in the Conference Room, Blanchard City Hall, 122 N. Main St, Blanchard, OK 73010.

Please contact Emily Pehrson, Public Works Director, at 405.485.9392 or publicworks@cityofblanchard.us with any questions or to receive a bid specification packet. Packets are also available at www.cityofblanchard.us.

The City/Authority reserves the right to waive informalities in the bids and reject any or all bids for any reason whatsoever at the sole discretion of the City/Authority. The successful bidder will be notified in writing.

BIDS RECEIVED

The Authority received three (3) sealed bids for the construction of water and sanitary sewer improvements to serve a new commercial development within the TIF District.

Miller Inc. dba J&C Construction submitted the lowest and best bid on Thursday, March 18th.

A contract is anticipated to be awarded by the Board of Trustees of the Authority at their Tuesday (March 23rd) meeting.

Carbon-monoxide Warning

Due to the upcoming extreme cold and power outages, please be aware of the hazards of the following types of heating:

- ◆ **Never** use gas grills, propane grills, charcoal grills in a house, garage or enclosed area;
- ◆ All gas fire heaters **MUST** be vented to the outside to remove carbon monoxide from an enclosed are; and
- ◆ **Please** read and follow all manufacturer instructions for any heater.

Council Agenda

The Governing Body (City Council) of the City of Blanchard will hold their March regular meeting on Tuesday, March 23rd beginning at 6:00 P.M.

- Zoning Public Hearing.
- Zoning Ordinance.
- Ordinance Emergency Clause.
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- Ordinance Emergency Clause.
- Zoning Public Hearing.
- Zoning Ordinance.
- Ordinance Emergency Clause.
- Oil & Gas Ordinance.

- Ordinance Emergency Clause.
- Tax Ordinance.
- Ordinance Emergency Clause.
- Second Amendment Resolution.
- Regulatory Sign Resolution.
- Fair Housing Month Resolution.
- OPEH&W Healthcare.
- Special Event Permits.
- Floating Holiday.
- Debt Write-Off.
- Roads & Bridges.
- ACOG 911.
- Consent Agenda.
- Executive Session.

The complete agenda packet can be found on the City's website at www.cityofblanchard.us.

The next City Council meeting will be Tuesday, April 27th.

March Meeting Calendar

23rd ~ City Council [6 pm]

23rd ~ BMIA Board of Trustees [6 pm]

March Special Events

20th ~ Spring Begins

23rd ~ Adult Traffic Court [2pm]

23rd ~ Youth Traffic Court [4pm]

28th ~ Palm Sunday

Municipal Election

Blanchard voters will choose among 5 candidates at the **April 6th** Municipal Election for the Blanchard Council seats in Wards 1 and 4.

Oil 'n Gas

The Oklahoma Corporation Commission reported since **March 12th** that NO oil wells

were completed or permitted within the municipal limits of the City of Blanchard, either in McClain nor Grady Counties.

Police Blotter

Blanchard jail activity:

- 3/13/21 ~ RENNERT, George arrested on DUI.
- 3/13/21 ~ WITCHER, Gerald arrested on Outstanding Warrant.

Rate Case

Public Service Company of Oklahoma filed a Notice of Intent with the Oklahoma Corporation Commission advising regulators the Company will file for a change in customer rates.

- In a previous case, PSO agreed to file a base rate case between October 2020 and October 2021.
- PSO has made substantial investments and incurred increased expenses that are not included in current rates, which are based on 2018 costs.

By OCC rule, the Notice is simply a way to notify the OCC 45 days in advance of PSO's future application, which will be filed on or around April 30, 2021 with more details and testimony.

For more information, please visit <https://www.psoklahoma.com/company/news/>.

Real ID



Oklahoma has recently begun distributing licenses which will satisfy the REAL ID standards for Oklahoma

residents. In October all persons boarding

commercial planes or entering federal facilities, including military bases, will be required to present a REAL ID compliant card. If you already hold a passport or military ID then your identification will meet these standards. State residents are not required to obtain an Oklahoma REAL ID. However, if you plan to fly, even on domestic airlines, federal law requires that you must possess a REAL ID compliant license. The state has provided a resource for educating residents on the implementation of REAL IDs. You may access this resource on the following website <https://www.realid.ok.gov>. If you have questions regarding your need to obtain a REAL ID or if you are wondering how to obtain a REAL ID, please visit the state's REAL ID website.

Senior Nutrition

The dining area of the Blanchard Senior Nutrition Site will reopen on Monday, March 22nd.

If you are 60 or older, you are eligible to participate free of charge. However, a suggested donation of \$2.00 is requested. Citizens under the age of 60 may participate but are required to pay \$5.00 for the meal.

Please call 485-9260, if you would like to be considered for a home delivered meal. Please be advised, the home delivery will begin the next business day. The Center is still delivering lunches daily.

Spring Equinox



Spring will begin on **Saturday, March 20th** at **4:37 a.m.** CDT. The word equinox is

derived from the Latin words meaning “equal nite.” The Vernal, or spring, equinox is the point at which the Sun appears to cross the celestial equator from south to north, signaling the beginning of nature’s renewal in the Northern Hemisphere.

Tax Payment Deadline

Oklahomans now have until **June 15, 2021** to pay their 2020 individual and business income taxes, and their first quarter 2021 estimated income tax payments. As a result of the recent disaster declaration issued by FEMA, the IRS announced the tax deadline extension for all individuals who reside or own a business in all of Oklahoma’s 77 counties to provide relief for those affected by February’s historic winter storms. Following the announcement from the IRS, the Oklahoma Tax Commission ordered the payment deadline extension to provide further relief to Oklahoma taxpayers. The Oklahoma Tax Commissioners elected to adjust the payment deadline extension from April 15 to June 15 for all individuals that reside or own a business in Oklahoma.

Due dates for other tax types, including sales and withholding, remain the same. For more information, visit the Oklahoma Tax Commission website.

Think, Shop, Live Blanchard!

Please keep in mind that Blanchard’s quality of life and local economy rely upon 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), facilities (city hall, etc.), projects (water & sewer and street improvements), programs (4th of July Celebration) and services (senior citizens nutrition).

Shopping locally keeps businesses here in Blanchard, providing jobs and benefiting public 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 your community!

Vaccine Appointments

Walmart has announced it that COVID-19 vaccine appointments are available this weekend and next weekend at local Walmart Pharmacies. Eligible persons may call 1-833-886-0023 to schedule an appointment. Appointments are also available to eligible household members.

What to bring to the appointment. On the day of your appointment please bring your ID, proof of vaccine eligibility, if applicable, and insurance (red, white and blue card if over 65) if you have one.

Please plan to stay on-site for at least 15 minutes after your shot while they monitor you for allergic reaction.