

OFFICE OF AUDITOR OF STATE
STATE OF IOWA

Rob Sand
Auditor of State

State Capitol Building
Des Moines, Iowa 50319-0006

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NEWS RELEASE

FOR RELEASE

March 9, 2020

Contact: Marlys Gaston
515/281-5834

Auditor of State Rob Sand today released an agreed-upon procedures report on the City of Durant, Iowa, for the period July 1, 2018 through June 30, 2019. The agreed-upon procedures engagement was performed pursuant to Chapter 11.6 of the Code of Iowa.

Sand reported six findings related to the receipt and disbursement of taxpayer funds. They are found on pages 7 and 8 of this report. The findings address issues such as the lack of segregation of duties, disbursements exceeding budgeted amounts and community center contracts not including concession requests to support amounts owed to the City. Sand provided the City with recommendations to address each of the findings.

Four of the six findings discussed above are repeated from the prior year report. The City Council has a fiduciary responsibility to provide oversight of the City's operations and financial transactions. Oversight is typically defined as the "watchful and responsible care" a governing body exercises in its fiduciary capacity.

A copy of the agreed-upon procedures report is available for review on the Auditor of State's web site at <https://auditor.iowa.gov/audit-reports>.

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CITY OF DURANT
AUDITOR OF STATE'S INDEPENDENT REPORT
ON APPLYING AGREED-UPON PROCEDURES
FOR THE PERIOD
JULY 1, 2018 THROUGH JUNE 30, 2019

City of Durant



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January 29, 2020

Officials of the City of Durant
Durant, Iowa

Dear Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council:

I am pleased to submit to you the agreed-upon procedures report for the City of Durant, Iowa, for the year ended June 30, 2019. The agreed-upon procedures engagement was performed pursuant to Chapter 11.6 of the Code of Iowa and in accordance with attestation standards established by the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants and the standards for attestation engagements contained in Government Auditing Standards.

I appreciate the cooperation and courtesy extended by the officials and employees of the City of Durant throughout the agreed-upon procedures engagement. If I or this office can be of any further assistance, please contact me or my staff at 515-281-5834.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rob Sand".

Rob Sand
Auditor of State

Table of Contents

	<u>Page</u>
Officials	3
Auditor of State's Independent Report on Applying Agreed-Upon Procedures	4-5
Detailed Findings and Recommendations:	<u>Finding</u>
Segregation of Duties	A 7
Certified Budget	B 7
Community Center Contract and Receipts	C 7
Transfers	D 8
Journal Entry Approval	E 8
Monthly City Clerk's Report	F 8
Staff	9

City of Durant

Officials

<u>Name</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Term Expires</u>
Scott Spengler	Mayor	Jan 2020
Kevin Mundt	Council Member	Jan 2020
Brian Utter	Council Member	(Resigned July 2019)
Noel Price (Appointed Sept 2019)	Council Member	Nov 2019
Diane Quiram	Council Member	Jan 2022
Dave Schulz	Council Member	Jan 2022
Dan Sterner	Council Member	Jan 2022
Deana Cavin	City Clerk	Indefinite
Kathy Keese	Deputy City Clerk	Indefinite
Mitch Richman	Treasurer	Jan 2020
Julie Sprague	Attorney	Indefinite



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Auditor of State's Independent Report on Applying Agreed-Upon Procedures

To the Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council:

We have performed the procedures below which were established at Iowa Code Chapter 11.6, to provide oversight of Iowa cities. Accordingly, we have applied certain procedures to selected accounting records and related information of the City of Durant for the period July 1, 2018 through June 30, 2019, including procedures related to the City's compliance with certain Code of Iowa requirements identified below. The City of Durant's management, which agreed to the performance of the procedures performed, is responsible for compliance with these requirements and for the City's records.

This agreed-upon procedures engagement was conducted in accordance with attestation standards established by the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants and the standards for attestation engagements contained in Government Auditing Standards, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States. The sufficiency of these procedures is solely the responsibility of those parties specified in the report. Consequently, we make no representation regarding the sufficiency of the procedures described below, either for the purpose for which this report has been requested or for any other purpose.

The procedures we performed are summarized as follows:

1. We observed selected City Council meeting minutes for compliance with Chapters 21, 372.13(6) and 380 of the Code of Iowa.
2. We obtained an understanding of the City's internal controls to determine if proper control procedures are in place and incompatible duties, from a control standpoint, are not performed by the same employee.
3. We observed surety bond coverage for compliance with Chapter 64 of the Code of Iowa.
4. We obtained and observed the City Clerk's financial reports and selected bank reconciliations to determine whether the bank balances properly reconciled to the general ledger account balances and monthly financial reports provided to the City Council.
5. We scanned City funds for consistency with the City Finance Committee's recommended Uniform Chart of Accounts (COA) and to determine required funds and fund balances are properly maintained and accurately accounted for.
6. We observed the City's fiscal year 2018 Annual Financial Report to determine whether it was completed and accurately reflects the City's financial information.
7. We scanned investments to determine compliance with Chapter 12B of the Code of Iowa.
8. We scanned depository resolutions, the City's investment policy and reporting of unclaimed property to the State of Iowa to determine compliance with Chapters 12C, 12B.10B and 556.1(12) of the Code of Iowa.

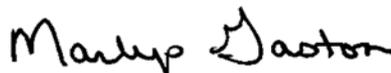
9. We scanned debt, including general obligation and revenue bonds/notes, and related transactions for proper authorization and compliance with Chapters 75, 384 and 403.9 of the Code of Iowa and to determine whether the debt and related proceeds and repayments were properly accounted for.
10. We scanned selected tax increment financing (TIF) transactions, including receipts, disbursements and transfers, for compliance and accurate accounting, including compliance with the TIF reporting requirements of Chapter 384.22 of the Code of Iowa.
11. We observed the City's TIF debt certification forms filed with the County Auditor, including requests for collection of reduced TIF amounts and to decertify certain TIF obligations, as applicable, for proper support and compliance with Chapter 403.19(6) of the Code of Iowa.
12. We traced selected receipts to accurate accounting and consistency with the recommended COA.
13. The City had no voter approved levies.
14. We traced selected disbursements to proper approval, adequate supporting documentation, accurate accounting and consistency with the recommended COA and compliance with the public purpose criteria established by Article III, Section 31 of the Constitution of the State of Iowa.
15. We traced transfers between funds to proper authorization and accurate accounting and determined whether transfers were proper.
16. We traced selected payroll and related transactions to proper authorization and accurate accounting and determined whether payroll was proper.
17. We observed the annual certified budget for proper authorization, certification and timely amendment.

Based on the performance of the procedures described above, we identified various findings and recommendations for the City. Our findings and recommendations are described in the Detailed Findings and Recommendations section of this report. Unless reported in the Detailed Findings and Recommendations, items of non-compliance were not noted during the performance of the specific procedures listed above.

We were not engaged to and did not conduct an examination or review, the objective of which would be the expression of an opinion or conclusion, respectively, on specific accounting records and related information of the City, including compliance with specific Code of Iowa requirements. Accordingly, we do not express such an opinion or conclusion. Had we performed additional procedures, other matters might have come to our attention that would have been reported to you.

The purpose of this report is to report, in accordance with Chapter 11.6 of the Code of Iowa, certain agreed-upon procedures and the resulting findings and recommendations pertaining to selected accounting records and related information of the City, including the City's compliance with certain Code of Iowa requirements. This report is not suitable for any other purpose.

We would like to acknowledge the many courtesies and assistance extended to us by personnel of the City of Durant during the course of our agreed-upon procedures engagement. Should you have any questions concerning any of the above matters, we shall be pleased to discuss them with you at your convenience.


Marlys K. Gaston, CPA
Deputy Auditor of State

January 29, 2020

Detailed Findings and Recommendations

City of Durant

Detailed Findings and Recommendations

For the period July 1, 2018 through June 30, 2019

(A) Segregation of Duties – Management is responsible for establishing and maintaining internal control. A good system of internal control provides for adequate segregation of duties so no one individual handles a transaction from its inception to completion. In order to maintain proper internal control, duties should be segregated so the authorization, custody and recording of transactions are not under the control of the same employee. This segregation of duties helps prevent losses from employee error or dishonesty and maximizes the accuracy of the City’s financial statements. Generally, one individual has control over each of the following areas for the City:

- (1) Cash – handling, reconciling and recording.
- (2) Receipts – opening mail, collecting, depositing, recording, reconciling and posting.
- (3) Payroll – recordkeeping, preparing and distributing.
- (4) Utilities – billing, collecting, depositing and posting.
- (5) Financial reporting – preparing and reconciling.
- (6) Journal entries – preparing and recording.

Recommendation – We realize segregation of duties is difficult with a limited number of employees. However, the City should review its control procedures to obtain the maximum internal control possible under the circumstances utilizing currently available staff, including elected officials. Independent reviews of reconciliations should be documented by the signature or initials of the reviewer and the date of the review.

(B) Certified Budget – Disbursements during the year ended June 30, 2019 exceeded the amounts budgeted in the public works and culture and recreation functions prior to the March 25, 2019 amendment and in the capital projects function prior to the May 28, 2019 amendment. Chapter 384.20 of the Code of Iowa states, in part, “Public monies may not be expended or encumbered except under an annual or continuing appropriation.”

Recommendation – The budget should have been amended in accordance with Chapter 384.18 of the Code of Iowa before disbursements were allowed to exceed the budget.

(C) Community Center Contracts and Receipts – The City rents out the Community Center to the public for personal events using two types of contracts, wedding and non-wedding contracts. The wedding contract requires a deposit at the time the contract is signed, and rent must be paid in its entirety before the event. The non-wedding contract does not require a deposit but requires rent to be paid in its entirety at the time the contract is signed. Both contract types also allow for concession requests to be added to the overall fees for the event.

For four contracts observed, the contracts did not include the concession requests for which receipts were collected.

Recommendation – The City should ensure the Community Center rental contracts include all concession requests for each event to support the total owed to the City for each contract.

City of Durant

Detailed Findings and Recommendations

For the period July 1, 2018 through June 30, 2019

- (D) Transfers – One transfer, occurring in August 2018 was not authorized either through the approved budget or by resolution of the City Council.

Recommendation – The City should ensure all transfers are approved by the City Council. Effective April 17, 2019 Rule 545-2.5 of the Iowa Administrative Code requires transfers between funds be passed by resolution and include a clear statement of the reason or purpose for the transfer, the name of the affected funds and the dollar amount to be transferred.

- (E) Journal Entry Approval – Journal entries are not approved by an independent person.

Recommendation – Journal entries should be reviewed and approved by an independent person and evidence of the approval should be documented by the signature or initials of the reviewer and the date of the approval.

- (F) Monthly City Clerk's Report – For three months during the year, the City Clerk's monthly report to the City Council did not include a comparison of actual disbursements to the certified budget by function.

Recommendation – To provide better control over budgeted disbursements, provide the opportunity for timely amendments to the certified budget and to aid the City Council in fulfilling their fiduciary oversight responsibility, the monthly City Clerk's reports should include comparisons to the certified budget by function.

City of Durant

Staff

This engagement was performed by:

Marlys K. Gaston, CPA, Deputy
Gwen D. Fangman, CPA, Manager
William J. Sallen, CPA, Staff Auditor
David A. Slocum, Staff Auditor