



**OFFICE OF AUDITOR OF STATE
STATE OF IOWA**

Rob Sand
Auditor of State

State Capitol Building
Des Moines, Iowa 50319-0006

Telephone (515) 281-5834 Facsimile (515) 281-6518

NEWS RELEASE

FOR RELEASE

June 28, 2019

Contact: Marlys Gaston
515/281-5834

Auditor of State Rob Sand today released an agreed-upon procedures report on the City of Mount Ayr, Iowa for the period July 1, 2017 through June 30, 2018. The agreed-upon procedures engagement was performed pursuant to Chapter 11.6 of the Code of Iowa.

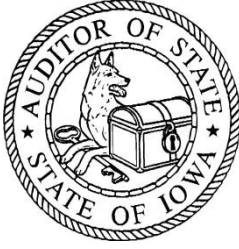
Sand recommended the City review its control procedures to obtain the maximum internal control possible. The City should also establish procedures to ensure bank and utility reconciliations are reviewed by an independent person.

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/reports/audit-reports/>.

#

CITY OF MOUNT AYR
AUDITOR OF STATE'S INDEPENDENT REPORT
ON APPLYING AGREED-UPON PROCEDURES
FOR THE PERIOD
JULY 1, 2017 THROUGH JUNE 30, 2018

City of Mount Ayr



OFFICE OF AUDITOR OF STATE
STATE OF IOWA

Rob Sand
Auditor of State

State Capitol Building
Des Moines, Iowa 50319-0006

Telephone (515) 281-5834 Facsimile (515) 281-6518

June 13, 2019

Officials of the City of Mount Ayr
Mount Ayr, 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 Mount Ayr, Iowa for the year ended June 30, 2018. The agreed-upon procedures 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 Mount Ayr throughout the agreed-upon procedures engagement. If I or this office can be of any further assistance, please contact me or Marlys Gaston of my staff at 515-281-5834.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rob Sand". The signature is stylized and cursive.

Rob Sand
Auditor of State

Table of Contents

	<u>Page</u>
Officials	3
Auditor of State's Independent Report on Applying Agreed-Upon Procedures	5-6
Detailed Recommendations:	<u>Finding</u>
Segregation of Duties	A 8
Bank Reconciliations	B 8
Reconciliation of Utility Billings, Collections and Delinquent Accounts	C 8
Business Transactions	D 9
Staff	10

City of Mount Ayr

Officials

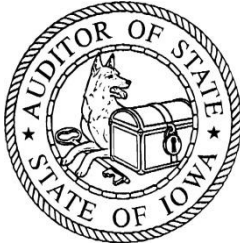
(Before January 2018)

<u>Name</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Term Expires</u>
Steven D. Fetty	Mayor	Jan 2018
Mack Greene	Council Member	Jan 2018
Brent Ricker	Council Member	Jan 2018
Brad Elliott	Council Member	Jan 2020
Ken Robertson	Council Member	Jan 2020
Don Solliday	Council Member	Jan 2020
Pamella Poore	City Clerk	Jan 2018
Amanda Cannon	Treasurer	Jan 2018
Jason C. Palmer	Attorney	Indefinite

(After January 2018)

<u>Name</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Term Expires</u>
Steven D. Fetty	Mayor	Jan 2020
Brad Elliott	Council Member	Jan 2020
Ken Robertson	Council Member	Jan 2020
Don Solliday	Council Member	Jan 2020
Mack Greene	Council Member	Jan 2022
Brent Ricker	Council Member	Jan 2022
Pamella Poore	City Clerk	Jan 2020
Amanda Cannon	Treasurer	Jan 2020
Jason C. Palmer	Attorney	Indefinite

City of Mount Ayr



OFFICE OF AUDITOR OF STATE
STATE OF IOWA

Rob Sand
Auditor of State

State Capitol Building
Des Moines, Iowa 50319-0006

Telephone (515) 281-5834 Facsimile (515) 281-6518

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

To the Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council:

We performed the procedures below, which were established at Iowa Code Chapter 11.6 to provide oversight of Iowa cities. Accordingly, we have applied certain tests and procedures to selected accounting records and related information of the City of Mount Ayr for the period July 1, 2017 through June 30, 2018, including procedures related to the City's compliance with certain Code of Iowa requirements identified below. The City of Mount Ayr'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 reviewed selected City Council meeting minutes for compliance with Chapters 21, 372.13(6) and 380 of the Code of Iowa.
2. We reviewed 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 reviewed surety bond coverage for compliance with Chapter 64 of the Code of Iowa.
4. We obtained and reviewed 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 reviewed 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 reviewed 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 reviewed investments to determine compliance with Chapter 12B of the Code of Iowa.
8. We reviewed compliance with Chapters 12C.2, 12B.10B and 556.1(12) of the Code of Iowa pertaining to required depository resolutions, investment policy and reporting of unclaimed property to the State of Iowa.

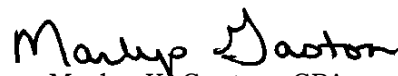
9. We reviewed debt, including general obligation and revenue bonds/notes, and related transactions for proper authorization and compliance with Chapters 75, 384 and 403.9 of the Code of Iowa and to determine whether the debt and related proceeds and repayments were properly accounted for.
10. We reviewed and tested 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 reviewed 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 reviewed and tested selected receipts for accurate accounting and consistency with the recommended COA.
13. We reviewed and tested selected disbursements for 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.
14. We reviewed transfers between funds for propriety, proper authorization and accurate accounting.
15. We reviewed and tested selected payroll and related transactions for propriety, proper authorization and accurate accounting.
16. We reviewed the annual certified budget for proper authorization, certification and timely amendment.

Based on the performance of the procedures described above, we identified various recommendations for the City. Our recommendations are described in the Detailed Recommendations section of this report. Unless reported in the Detailed 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 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 Mount Ayr 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

June 13, 2019

Detailed Recommendations

City of Mount Ayr

Detailed Recommendations

For the period July 1, 2017 through June 30, 2018

- (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 – reconciling bank accounts, initiating cash receipt and disbursement transactions and handling and recording cash.
- (2) Investments – detailed recordkeeping, custody of investments and reconciling earnings.
- (3) Receipts – opening mail, collecting, depositing, recording, reconciling and posting.
- (4) Utilities – billing, collecting, depositing, posting and reconciling.
- (5) Long-term debt – recordkeeping and reconciling.
- (6) Disbursements – invoice processing, check writing, reconciling and recording.
- (7) Financial reporting – preparing and reviewing.

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) Bank Reconciliations – The City's bank reconciliations were not reviewed by an independent person.

Recommendation – The City should establish procedures to ensure the bank reconciliations are reviewed by an independent person. The reviews should be documented by the signature or initials of the reviewer and the date of the review.

- (C) Reconciliation of Utility Billings, Collections and Delinquent Accounts – Utility billings, collections and delinquent accounts were not properly reconciled throughout the year. Although the software generates a reconciliation report, all amounts in the report are not compared to the utility records to ensure accuracy. In addition, an independent person does not review and approve the reconciliation.

Recommendation – Procedures should be established to compare amounts on the software generated reconciliation report to utility records for accuracy. An independent person should review the reconciliations and adjustments and should monitor delinquent accounts. The review of the reconciliation should be documented by the signature or initials of the reviewer and the date of the review.

City of Mount Ayr

Detailed Recommendations

For the period July 1, 2017 through June 30, 2018

- (D) Business Transactions – Business transactions between the City and City officials or employees which may represent conflicts of interest are detailed as follows:

<u>Name, Title and Business Connection</u>	<u>Transaction Description</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Brad Elliott, City Council Member, co-owner of Podium Inks	Trash bin decals, street signs, banners and Little League t-shirts and jerseys	\$ 3,550
Brent Ricker, City Council Member, owner of Ricker Air Conditioning	Myer sewer pump, insulation supplies and A/C work at Snack Shack	13,910

In accordance with Chapter 362.5(3)(k) of the Code of Iowa, the above transactions may represent a conflict of interest since total transactions were more than \$2,500 during the fiscal year.

Recommendation – The City should consult legal counsel to determine the disposition of this matter.

City of Mount Ayr

Staff

This engagement was performed by:

Marlys K. Gaston, CPA, Deputy
Tiffany M. Ainger, CPA, Senior Auditor II
Christopher M. Anderson, Staff Auditor
Nichole D. Tucker, Staff Auditor