



**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**

Contact: Brian Brustkern  
515/281-5834

FOR RELEASE

September 17, 2024

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Auditor of State Rob Sand today released a compilation report on the Cincinnati Sewer Utility, Cincinnati, Iowa.

**AUDIT FINDINGS:**

Sand reported five findings related to the receipt and disbursement of taxpayer funds. They are found on pages 27 through 31 of this report. The findings address issues such as a lack of fiduciary oversight, lack of segregation of duties, lack of reconciliations of utility billings, collections and delinquent accounts and lack of complete bank reconciliations. Sand provided the Utility with recommendations to address each of the findings.

All of the five findings discussed above are repeated from the prior year. 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 compilation report is available for review on the Auditor of State's website at [Audit Reports – Auditor of State](#).

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**CINCINNATI SEWER UTILITY**  
**AUDITOR OF STATE'S COMPILATION REPORT**  
**FINANCIAL STATEMENT**  
**SUPPLEMENTARY AND OTHER INFORMATION**  
**SCHEDULE OF FINDINGS**  
**JUNE 30, 2023**

**Cincinnati Sewer Utility**



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Des Moines, Iowa 50319-0006  
Telephone (515) 281-5834

Rob Sand  
Auditor of State

June 18, 2024

Officials of Cincinnati Sewer Utility  
Cincinnati, Iowa

Dear Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council:

I am pleased to submit to you the compilation report for the Cincinnati Sewer Utility for the year ended June 30, 2023. The compilation was performed in accordance with statements on Standards for Accounting and Review Services promulgated by the Accounting and Review Services Committee of the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants.

I appreciate the cooperation and courtesy extended by the officials and employees of Cincinnati Sewer Utility throughout the compilation. 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

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## Cincinnati Sewer Utility

### Officials

<u>Name</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Term Expires</u>
Jessica Lenik	Mayor	Jan 2024
Angela Jones	Mayor Pro Tem	Jan 2026
Rebecca Clark	Council Member	(Resigned Oct 2022)
Michael Kincaid	Council Member	(Resigned Aug 2022)
Debra Tait	Council Member	(Resigned Oct 2022)
Michael McClure (Elected Dec 2022)	Council Member	Jan 2024
Lisa Owens (Elected Dec 2022)	Council Member	Jan 2024
Rick McClure (Elected Dec 2022)	Council Member	Jan 2026
Ron Shady	Council Member	Jan 2026
Cynthia Sulser	City Clerk	Indefinite
Mike Craver	Attorney	Indefinite

**Cincinnati Sewer Utility**



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Rob Sand  
Auditor of State

Auditor of State's Compilation Report

To the Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council:

Management is responsible for the accompanying financial statement of the Cincinnati Sewer Utility, which comprises the Statement of Cash Receipts, Disbursements and Changes in Cash Basis Net Position as of and for the year ended June 30, 2023, and the related notes to the financial statement in accordance with the cash basis of accounting described in Note 1, and for determining that the cash basis of accounting is an acceptable financial reporting framework. We have performed a compilation engagement in accordance with Statements on Standards for Accounting and Review Services promulgated by the Accounting and Review Services Committee of the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants. We did not audit or review the financial statement nor were we required to perform any procedures to verify the accuracy or completeness of the information provided by management. Accordingly, we do not express an opinion, a conclusion, nor provide any assurance on the financial statement.

The financial statement is prepared in accordance with the cash basis of accounting which is a basis of accounting other than U.S. generally accepted accounting principles.

The other information, the Utility's Budgetary Comparison Information, the Schedule of the Sewer Utility's Proportionate Share of the Net Pension Liability (Asset) and the Schedule of Sewer Utility Contributions on pages 20 through 26 was subject to our compilation engagement. However, we have not audited or reviewed the information and, accordingly, we do not express an opinion or provide any assurance on it.

We are not independent with respect to the Cincinnati Sewer Utility.

This report, a public record by law, is intended solely for the information and use of the officials, employees and citizens of the Cincinnati Sewer Utility and other parties to whom the Cincinnati Sewer Utility may report. This report is not intended to be and should not be used by anyone other than these specified parties.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Brian R. Brustkern".

Brian R. Brustkern, CPA  
Deputy Auditor of State

June 18, 2024



**Cincinnati Sewer Utility**

## **Financial Statement**

**Cincinnati Sewer Utility**

Cincinnati Sewer Utility

Statement of Cash Receipts, Disbursements and  
Changes in Cash Basis Net Position

As of and for the year ended June 30, 2023

Operating receipts:	
Charges for service	\$ 90,853
Operating disbursements:	
Business type activities	<u>48,209</u>
Excess of operating receipts over operating disbursements	<u>42,644</u>
Non-operating receipts (disbursements):	
Interest on investments	196
Note proceeds	33,523
Debt service	(20,456)
Capital outlay	<u>(35,185)</u>
Net non-operating receipts (disbursements)	<u>(21,922)</u>
Change in cash basis net position	20,722
Cash basis net position beginning of year	<u>72,844</u>
Cash basis net position end of year	<u>\$ 93,566</u>
<b>Cash Basis Net Position</b>	
Restricted for debt service	<u>\$ 93,566</u>

See accompanying notes to financial statement.

Cincinnati Sewer Utility  
Notes to Financial Statement  
June 30, 2023

**(1) Summary of Significant Accounting Policies**

A. Reporting Entity

The Cincinnati Sewer Utility is a department of the City of Cincinnati. The City operates under the Mayor-Council form of government with the Mayor and Council Members elected on a non-partisan basis.

The financial statement of the Cincinnati Sewer Utility is intended to present the financial position and results of the cash transactions of only that portion of the City of Cincinnati attributable to the transactions of the Cincinnati Sewer Utility.

B. Basis of Presentation

The accounts of the Sewer Utility are classified as an Enterprise Fund. Enterprise Funds are utilized to finance and account for the acquisition, operation and maintenance of governmental facilities and services supported by user charges.

Enterprise Funds distinguish operating receipts and disbursements from non-operating items. Operating receipts and disbursements generally result from providing services and producing and delivering goods in connection with an Enterprise fund's principal ongoing operations. All receipts and disbursements not meeting this definition are reported as non-operating receipts and disbursements.

C. Measurement Focus and Basis of Accounting

The Sewer Utility maintains its financial records on the basis of cash receipts and disbursements and the financial statement of the Sewer Utility is prepared on that basis. The cash basis of accounting does not give effect to accounts receivable, accounts payable and accrued items. Accordingly, the financial statement does not present financial position and results of operations of the Sewer Utility in accordance with U.S. generally accepted accounting principles.

D. Budgets and Budgetary Accounting

The budgetary comparison and related disclosures are reported as Other Information.

**(2) Cash and Pooled Investments**

The Sewer Utility's deposits in banks at June 30, 2023 were entirely covered by federal depository insurance or by the State Sinking Fund in accordance with Chapter 12C of the Code of Iowa. This chapter provides for additional assessments against the depositories to insure there will be no loss of public funds.

The Sewer Utility is authorized by statute to invest public funds in obligations of the United States government, its agencies and instrumentalities; certificates of deposit or other evidences of deposit at federally insured depository institutions approved by the City Council; prime eligible bankers acceptances; certain high rated commercial paper; perfected repurchase agreements; certain registered open-end management investment companies; certain joint investment trusts; and warrants or improvement certificates of a drainage district.

The Sewer Utility had no investments meeting the disclosure requirements of Governmental Accounting Standards Board Statement No. 72.

**(3) Bonds and Notes Payable**

A summary of changes in bonds and notes payable for the year ended June 30, 2023 is as follows:

	Beginning Balances	Increases	Decreases	Ending Balances	Due Within One Year
Business type activities:					
Sewer revenue bond	\$ 57,779	-	6,467	51,312	6,791
Sewer revenue notes - direct borrowing	105,000	-	9,000	96,000	9,000
Sewer anticipation project note - direct borrowing	180,706	33,523	-	214,229	-
Business-type activities total	\$ 343,485	33,523	15,467	361,541	15,791

Sewer Revenue Bond and Notes

A summary of the Utility’s June 30, 2023 revenue bond and notes payable is as follows:

Year	Sewer									
	Revenue Bond Issued Dec 15, 1988			Revenue Notes Issued Mar 2, 2011			Total			
	Ending June 30,	Interest Rates	Principal	Interest	Interest Rates	Principal	Interest	Principal	Interest	Total
2024		5.00%	\$ 6,791	2,566	3.00%	\$ 9,000	1,680	\$ 15,791	4,246	20,037
2025		5.00	7,130	2,226	3.00	10,000	1,522	17,130	3,748	20,878
2026		5.00	7,487	1,869	3.00	10,000	1,348	17,487	3,217	20,704
2027		5.00	7,861	1,495	3.00	10,000	1,172	17,861	2,667	20,528
2028		5.00	8,253	1,102	3.00	11,000	998	19,253	2,100	21,353
2029-2032		5.00	13,790	691	3.00	46,000	2,047	59,790	2,738	62,528
Total			\$ 51,312	9,949		\$ 96,000	8,767	\$ 147,312	18,716	166,028

Sewer Revenue Bond

In December 1988, the City issued a \$157,800 sewer revenue bond. The bond matures annually on July 1 and bears interest at 5.0% per annum, which is also due and payable every July 1. Proceeds from the bond provided financing for the construction of improvements to the sewer treatment plant. The bond is payable solely from sewer customer net receipts and is payable through 2029. During the year ended June 30, 2023, the City paid principal of \$6,467 and interest of \$2,889 on the bond.

The resolution providing for the issuance of the revenue bond includes the following provisions:

- (a) The bond will only be redeemed from the future earnings of the enterprise activity and the bond holder holds a lien on the future earnings of the funds.
- (b) The City shall make annual payments of \$9,356, including interest at 5.0% per annum, to Farmers Home Administration in the years 1991 through 2029, inclusive.
- (c) User rates shall be established at a level which produces and maintains net receipts at a level not less than 125% the amount of principal and interest on the bond falling due in the same year.
- (d) Sufficient monthly transfers shall be made to a separate sewer revenue bond sinking account for the purpose of making the bond principal and interest payments when due.

- (e) Additionally, monthly transfers to a sewer revenue reserve account shall be made until an amount equal to the principal and interest due in any subsequent year has been accumulated. This account is restricted for the purpose of paying principal and interest payments on the bond.
- (f) All users of the System, including the City, shall pay for usage.

#### Sewer Revenue Capital Loan Notes – Direct Borrowing

On March 2, 2011, the City entered into an agreement with the Iowa Finance Authority (IFA) for the issuance of up to \$193,000 of sewer revenue capital loan notes with interest at 3.00% per annum. The Iowa Finance Authority approved a reduction to the interest rate from 3.00% per annum to 1.75% per annum effective December 1, 2021. The agreement also requires the City to annually pay a .25% servicing fee on the outstanding principal balance. The notes were issued pursuant to the provisions of Chapters 384.24A and 384.83 of the Code of Iowa to pay the cost of constructing improvements, extensions and a new pump station for the sewer utility system. At June 30, 2023, the City had drawn \$181,656, the final loan amount. An initiation fee of 1% of the authorized borrowing for the sewer revenue capital loan notes was charged by the Iowa Finance Authority and withheld from the first proceeds of the sewer revenue capital loan notes drawn by the City. The notes are payable solely from sewer customer net receipts and are payable through 2032. During the year ended June 30, 2023, the City paid principal of \$9,000 and interest of \$1,838 on the notes.

The resolution providing for the issuance of the sewer revenue capital loan notes includes the following provisions:

- (1) The notes will only be redeemed from the future earnings of the enterprise activity and the note holder holds a lien on the future earnings of the funds.
- (2) User rates shall be established at a level which produces and maintains net receipts at a level not less than 110% of the amount of principal and interest on the notes falling due in the same year.

The City has pledged future sewer customer receipts, net of specified operating disbursements, to repay \$181,656 sewer revenue capital loan notes issued March 2011 and \$157,800 of sewer revenue bond issued in December 1988. The notes and bond are payable solely from sewer customer net receipts. Annual principal and interest payments on the notes and bond are expected to require over 47% of net receipts. The total amount of principal and interest remaining to be paid on the notes and bond at June 30, 2023 is \$166,028. For the current year, excluding the .25% service fee, \$20,194 of principal and interest was paid and total customer net receipts were \$42,644.

#### Sewer Revenue Capital Loan Anticipation Project Note – Direct Borrowing

On December 11, 2015, the City entered into an agreement with the Iowa Finance Authority for the issuance of up to \$405,000 of a sewer revenue capital loan anticipation project note with no interest. The note was issued pursuant to the provisions of Chapters 384.24A and 384.83 of the Code of Iowa to pay the cost of planning and design related to the acquisition, construction, reconstruction, extending, remodeling, improving, repairing and equipping all or part of the municipal sewer system. The note is payable from the proceeds of an authorized loan agreement and a corresponding issuance of sewer revenue capital loan notes in an amount sufficient to repay the note. During the year ended June 30, 2023, the City drew down \$33,523 on the note. At June 30, 2023, the City had drawn \$214,229 against the anticipation note, leaving an unused credit line of \$190,771, and \$214,229 remains outstanding at that date. This anticipation note matures on December 11, 2024.

#### **(4) Pension Plan**

Plan Description – IPERS membership is mandatory for employees of the Utility, except for those covered by another retirement system. Employees of the Utility are provided with pensions through a cost-sharing multiple employer defined benefit pension plan administered by the Iowa Public Employees' Retirement System (IPERS). IPERS issues a stand-alone financial report which is available to the public by mail at PO Box 9117, Des Moines, Iowa 50306-9117 or at [www.ipers.org](http://www.ipers.org).

IPERS benefits are established under Iowa Code Chapter 97B and the administrative rules thereunder. Chapter 97B and the administrative rules are the official plan documents. The following brief description is provided for general informational purposes only. Refer to the plan documents for more information.

Pension Benefits – A Regular member may retire at normal retirement age and receive monthly benefits without an early-retirement reduction. Normal retirement age is age 65, any time after reaching age 62 with 20 or more years of covered employment or when the member's years of service plus the member's age at the last birthday equals or exceeds 88, whichever comes first. These qualifications must be met on the member's first month of entitlement to benefits. Members cannot begin receiving retirement benefits before age 55. The formula used to calculate a Regular member's monthly IPERS benefit includes:

- A multiplier based on years of service.
- The member's highest five-year average salary, except members with service before June 30, 2012 will use the highest three-year average salary as of that date if it is greater than the highest five-year average salary.

If a member retires before normal retirement age, the member's monthly retirement benefit will be permanently reduced by an early-retirement reduction. The early-retirement reduction is calculated differently for service earned before and after July 1, 2012. For service earned before July 1, 2012, the reduction is 0.25% for each month the member receives benefits before the member's earliest normal retirement age. For service earned on or after July 1, 2012, the reduction is 0.50% for each month the member receives benefits before age 65.

Generally, once a member selects a benefit option, a monthly benefit is calculated and remains the same for the rest of the member's lifetime. However, to combat the effects of inflation, retirees who began receiving benefits prior to July 1990 receive a guaranteed dividend with their regular November benefit payments.

Disability and Death Benefits – A vested member who is awarded federal Social Security disability or Railroad Retirement disability benefits is eligible to claim IPERS benefits regardless of age. Disability benefits are not reduced for early retirement. If a member dies before retirement, the member's beneficiary will receive a lifetime annuity or a lump-sum payment equal to the present actuarial value of the member's accrued benefit or calculated with a set formula, whichever is greater. When a member dies after retirement, death benefits depend on the benefit option the member selected at retirement.

Contributions – Contribution rates are established by IPERS following the annual actuarial valuation which applies IPERS' Contribution Rate Funding Policy and Actuarial Amortization Method. State statute limits the amount rates can increase or decrease each year to 1 percentage point. IPERS Contribution Rate Funding Policy requires the actuarial contribution rate be determined using the "entry age normal" actuarial cost method and the actuarial assumptions and methods approved by the IPERS Investment Board. The actuarial contribution rate covers normal cost plus the unfunded actuarial liability payment based on a 30-year amortization period. The payment to amortize the unfunded actuarial liability is determined as a level percentage of payroll based on the Actuarial Amortization Method adopted by the Investment Board.



In fiscal year 2023, pursuant to the required rate, Regular members contributed 6.29% of covered payroll and the Utility contributed 9.44% of covered payroll, for a total rate of 15.73%.

The Utility's contributions to IPERS for the year ended June 30, 2023 totaled \$1,708.

Net Pension Liability, Pension Expense (Reduction), Deferred Outflows of Resources and Deferred Inflows of Resources Related to Pensions – At June 30, 2023, the Utility reported a liability of \$7,252 for its proportionate share of the net pension liability. The net pension liability was measured as of June 30, 2022 and the total pension liability used to calculate the net pension liability was determined by an actuarial valuation as of that date. The Utility's proportion of the net pension liability was based on the Utility's share of contributions to IPERS relative to the contributions of all IPERS participating employers. At June 30, 2022, the Utility's proportion of the net pension liability was 0.000192%, which was an increase of 0.000290% from its proportion measured as of June 30, 2021.

For the year ended June 30, 2023 the Utility's pension expense (reduction), deferred outflows of resources and deferred inflows of resources totaled (\$104), \$7,349 and \$7,897, respectively.

There were no non-employer contributing entities to IPERS.

Actuarial Assumptions – The total pension liability in the June 30, 2022 actuarial valuation was determined using the following actuarial assumptions, applied to all periods included in the measurement.

Rate of inflation (effective June 30, 2017)	2.60% per annum.
Rates of salary increase (effective June 30, 2017)	3.25 to 16.25% average, including inflation. Rates vary by membership group.
Long-term investment rate of return (effective June 30, 2017)	7.00% compounded annually, net of investment expense, including inflation.
Wage growth (effective June 30, 2017)	3.25% per annum, based on 2.60% inflation and 0.65% real wage inflation.

The actuarial assumptions used in the June 30, 2022 valuation were based on the results of a quadrennial experience study covering the period of July 1, 2017 through June 30, 2021.

Mortality rates used in the 2022 valuation were based on the PubG-2010 mortality tables with future mortality improvements modeled using Scale MP-2021.

The long-term expected rate of return on IPERS' investments was determined using a building-block method in which best-estimate ranges of expected future real rates (expected returns, net of investment expense and inflation) are developed for each major asset class. These ranges are combined to produce the long-term expected rate of return by weighting the expected future real rates of return by the target asset allocation percentage and by adding expected inflation. The target allocation and best estimates of geometric real rates of return for each major asset class are summarized in the following table:

Asset Class	Asset Allocation	Long-Term Expected Real Rate of Return
Domestic equity	22.0%	3.57%
International equity	17.5	4.79
Global smart beta equity	6.0	4.16
Core plus fixed income	20.0	1.66
Public credit	4.0	3.77
Cash	1.0	0.77
Private equity	13.0	7.57
Private real assets	8.5	3.55
Private credit	8.0	3.63
Total	100.0%	

Discount Rate – The discount rate used to measure the total pension liability was 7.00%. The projection of cash flows used to determine the discount rate assumed employee contributions will be made at the contractually required rate and contributions from the Utility will be made at contractually required rates, actuarially determined. Based on those assumptions, IPERS' fiduciary net position was projected to be available to make all projected future benefit payments of current active and inactive employees. Therefore, the long-term expected rate of return on IPERS' investments was applied to all periods of projected benefit payments to determine the total pension liability.

Sensitivity of the Utility's Proportionate Share of the Net Pension Liability to Changes in the Discount Rate – The following presents the Utility's proportionate share of the net pension liability calculated using the discount rate of 7.00%, as well as what the Utility's proportionate share of the net pension liability would be if it were calculated using a discount rate that is 1% lower (6.00%) or 1% higher (8.00%) than the current rate.

	1% Decrease (6.00%)	Discount Rate (7.00%)	1% Increase (8.00%)
Utility's proportionate share of the net pension liability	\$ 13,511	7,252	1,736

IPERS' Fiduciary Net Position – Detailed information about IPERS' fiduciary net position is available in the separately issued IPERS financial report which is available on IPERS' website at [www.ipers.org](http://www.ipers.org).

## **(5) Risk Management**

The City is a member of the Iowa Communities Assurance Pool, as allowed by Chapter 670.7 of the Code of Iowa. The Iowa Communities Assurance Pool (Pool) is a local government risk-sharing pool whose 800 members include various governmental entities throughout the State of Iowa. The Pool was formed in August 1986 for the purpose of managing and funding third-party liability claims against its members. The Pool provides coverage and protection in the following categories: general liability, automobile liability, automobile physical damage, employment practices liability, public officials liability, cyber liability and law enforcement liability, and property. There have been no reductions in insurance coverage from prior years.

Each member's annual casualty contributions to the Pool fund current operations and provide capital. Annual casualty operating contributions are those amounts necessary to fund, on a cash basis, the Pool's general and administrative expenses, claims, claims expenses and reinsurance expenses estimated for the fiscal year, plus all or any portion of any deficiency in capital. Capital contributions are made during the first six years of membership and are maintained at a level determined by the Board not to exceed 300% of basis rate.

The Pool also provides property coverage. Members who elect such coverage make annual property operating contributions which are necessary to fund, on a cash basis, the Pool's general and administrative expenses, reinsurance premiums, losses and loss expenses for property risks estimated for the fiscal year, plus all or any portion of any deficiency in capital. Any year-end operating surplus is transferred to capital. Deficiencies in operations are offset by transfers from capital and, if insufficient, by the subsequent year's member contributions.

The City's property and casualty contributions to the risk pool are recorded as disbursements from its operating funds at the time of payment to the pool. The City's contributions to the Pool for the year ended June 30, 2023 were \$12,951. The Sewer Utility's share of the City's contributions to the Pool for the year ended June 30, 2023 was paid by the City.

The Pool uses reinsurance and excess risk-sharing agreements to reduce its exposure to large losses. The Pool retains general, automobile, employment practices, law enforcement, cyber, and public officials' liability risks up to \$500,000 per claim. Claims exceeding \$500,000 are reinsured through reinsurance and excess risk-sharing agreements up to the amount of risk-sharing protection provided by the City's risk-sharing certificate. Property and automobile physical damage risks are retained by the Pool up to \$250,000 each occurrence, each location. Property risks exceeding \$250,000 are reinsured through reinsurance and excess risk-sharing agreements up to the amount of risk-sharing protection provided by the City's risk-sharing certificate.

The Pool's intergovernmental contract with its members provides that in the event a casualty claim, property loss or series of claims or losses exceeds the amount of risk-sharing protection provided by the City's risk-sharing certificate, or in the event a casualty claim, property loss or series of claims or losses exhausts the Pool's funds and any excess risk-sharing recoveries, then payment of such claims or losses shall be the obligation of the respective individual member against whom the claim was made or the loss was incurred. As of June 30, 2023, settled claims have not exceeded the risk pool or reinsurance coverage since the Pool's inception.

Members agree to continue membership in the Pool for a period of not less than one full year. After such period, a member who has given 60 days' prior written notice may withdraw from the Pool. Upon withdrawal, payments for all casualty claims and claims expenses become the sole responsibility of the withdrawing member, regardless of whether a claim was incurred or reported prior to the member's withdrawal. Upon withdrawal, a formula set forth in the Pool's intergovernmental contract with its members is applied to determine the amount (if any) to be refunded to the withdrawing member.

The City also carries commercial insurance purchased from other insurers for coverage associated with workers compensation and employee blanket bond in the amount of \$1,000,000 and \$40,000, respectively. The City assumes liability for any deductibles and claims in excess of coverage limitations. Settled claims resulting from these risks have not exceeded commercial insurance coverage in any of the past three fiscal years.

**(6) Subsequent Events**

On January 4, 2024, the City entered into a contract with Joiner Construction Company, Inc. for \$2,379,500 for construction of a sewer project. On February 14, 2024 the City approved a loan and disbursement agreement between the City and the Iowa Finance Authority for the issuance of \$1,143,000 Sewer Revenue Capital Loan Notes, Series 2024. The loan is for the costs of acquisition, construction, reconstruction, extending, remodeling, improving, repairing and equipping of the System, including those costs associated with improvements and extensions to the Municipal Sewer Utility, including improvements to reduce ammonia and E-Coli bacteria.

In addition, the City was awarded a \$500,000 grant from the Wastewater and Drinking Water Treatment Financial Assistance Program (WTFAP) in March of 2024. Financial assistance under the award is to be used for eligible costs to install or upgrade wastewater treatment facilities and systems, drinking water treatment facilities and systems, including source water protection projects, and for engineering or technical assistance for facility planning and design.

**Cincinnati Sewer Utility**

## **Other Information**

Cincinnati Sewer Utility  
 Budgetary Comparison Schedule  
 of Receipts, Disbursements, and Changes in Balance –  
 Budget and Actual

Other Information

Year ended June 30, 2023

	Actual	Budgeted Amount Original/Final	Final to Actual Variance
Receipts:			
Intergovernmental	\$ -	4,000,000	(4,000,000)
Use of money and property	196	-	196
Charges for service	90,853	116,000	(25,147)
Total receipts	91,049	4,116,000	(4,024,951)
Disbursements:			
Business type activities	103,850	5,113,506	5,009,656
Deficiency of receipts under disbursements	(12,801)	(997,506)	984,705
Other financing source, net	33,523	1,000,000	(966,477)
Change in cash balance	20,722	2,494	18,228
Cash balance beginning of year	72,844	86,600	(13,756)
Cash balance end of year	\$ 93,566	89,094	4,472

See accompanying accountant's compilation report.

Cincinnati Sewer Utility

Notes to Other Information – Budgetary Reporting

June 30, 2023

The Sewer Utility prepares a budget on the cash basis of accounting and submits it to the City Council. In accordance with the Code of Iowa, the City Council annually adopts a budget, which includes the Sewer Utility, on the cash basis following required public notice and hearing. The annual budget may be amended during the year utilizing similar statutorily prescribed procedures.

Formal and legal budgetary control is based upon classes of disbursements, known as functions, not by fund. The Sewer Utility's disbursements are budgeted in the City's business type activities function. The Sewer Utility's budget is reflected in the original and final budgeted amount. The Sewer Utility's budget was not amended during the year.

During the year ended June 30, 2023, disbursements in the business type activities function, which includes the Sewer Utility, did not exceed the amount budgeted.



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Cincinnati Sewer Utility

Schedule of the Sewer Utility's Proportionate Share of the Net Pension Liability (Asset)

Iowa Public Employees' Retirement System  
For the Last Nine Years\*

Other Information

	2023	2022	2021	2020
Utility's proportion of the net pension liability (asset)	0.000192%	(0.000098)% **	0.000387%	0.000324%
Utility's proportionate share of the net pension liability (asset)	\$ 7,252	337	27,191	18,743
Utility's covered payroll	\$ 15,580	19,513	32,355	26,254
Utility's proportionate share of the net pension liability (asset) as a percentage of its covered payroll	46.55%	1.73%	84.04%	71.39%
IPERS' net position as a percentage of the total pension liability (asset)	91.40%	100.81%	82.90%	85.45%

\* In accordance with GASB Statement No. 68, the amounts presented for each fiscal year were determined as of June 30 of the preceding fiscal year.

\*\* Overall plan net pension asset.

See accompanying accountant's compilation report.

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2019	2018	2017	2016	2015
0.000169%	0.000136%	0.000157%	0.000145%	0.000190%
10,685	9,080	9,877	7,169	12,662
11,923	19,563	12,475	16,546	20,896
89.62%	46.41%	79.17%	43.33%	60.60%
83.62%	82.21%	81.82%	85.19%	87.61%

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Cincinnati Sewer Utility

Schedule of Sewer Utility Contributions

Iowa Public Employees' Retirement System  
For the Last Ten Years

Other Information

	2023	2022	2021	2020
Statutorily required contribution	\$ 1,708	1,470	1,842	3,054
Contributions in relation to the statutorily required contribution	(1,708)	(1,470)	(1,842)	(3,054)
Contribution deficiency (excess)	\$ -	-	-	-
Utility's covered payroll	\$ 18,098	15,580	19,513	32,355
Contributions as a percentage of covered payroll	9.44%	9.44%	9.44%	9.44%

See accompanying accountant's compilation report.

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2019	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014
2,345	1,065	1,747	1,114	1,478	1,866
(2,345)	(1,065)	(1,747)	(1,114)	(1,478)	(1,866)
-	-	-	-	-	-
26,254	11,923	19,563	12,475	16,546	20,896
8.93%	8.93%	8.93%	8.93%	8.93%	8.93%

Cincinnati Sewer Utility  
Notes to Other Information – Pension Liability  
Year ended June 30, 2023

Changes of benefit terms:

There are no significant changes in benefit terms.

Changes of assumptions:

The 2022 valuation incorporated the following refinements after a quadrennial experience study:

- Changed mortality assumptions to the PubG-2010 mortality tables with mortality improvements modeled using Scale MP-2021.
- Adjusted retirement rates for Regular members.
- Lowered disability rates for Regular members.
- Adjusted termination rates for all membership groups.

The 2018 valuation implemented the following refinements as a result of a demographic assumption study dated June 28, 2018:

- Changed mortality assumptions to the RP-2014 mortality tables with mortality improvements modeled using Scale MP-2017.
- Adjusted retirement rates.
- Lowered disability rates.
- Adjusted the probability of a vested Regular member electing to receive a deferred benefit.
- Adjusted the merit component of the salary increase assumption.

The 2017 valuation implemented the following refinements as a result of an experience study dated March 24, 2017:

- Decreased the inflation assumption from 3.00% to 2.60%.
- Decreased the assumed rate of interest on member accounts from 3.75% to 3.50% per year.
- Decreased the discount rate from 7.50% to 7.00%.
- Decreased the wage growth assumption from 4.00% to 3.25%.
- Decreased the payroll growth assumption from 4.00% to 3.25%.

The 2014 valuation implemented the following refinements as a result of a quadrennial experience study:

- Decreased the inflation assumption from 3.25% to 3.00%.
- Decreased the assumed rate of interest on member accounts from 4.00% to 3.75% per year.
- Adjusted male mortality rates for retirees in the Regular membership group.
- Moved from an open 30-year amortization period to a closed 30-year amortization period for the UAL (unfunded actuarial liability) beginning June 30, 2014. Each year thereafter, changes in the UAL from plan experience will be amortized on a separate closed 20-year period.

Cincinnati Sewer Utility

Schedule of Findings

Year ended June 30, 2023

**Findings Related to the Financial Statement:**

**INTERNAL CONTROL DEFICIENCIES:**

2023-001 City Council Oversight

Criteria – 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.

Condition – Many of the findings included in this report indicate the City Council needs to exercise additional fiduciary oversight.

Cause – The City Council has not developed and implemented policies and procedures to ensure proper fiduciary oversight.

Effect – Lack of proper oversight could result in unauthorized or unsupported transactions and could increase the opportunity for errors or misappropriation going unnoticed.

Recommendation – Oversight by the City Council is essential and should be an ongoing effort. In the future, the City Council should exercise due care and require and review pertinent information and documentation prior to making decisions affecting the Sewer Utility. Appropriate policies and procedures should be adopted, implemented and monitored to ensure compliance.

Response – The Council/Mayor now receives bank reconciliations in Council packets each month which includes all account balances, and they get a list of all expenditures and deposits each month. They will review and sign off each month.

Conclusion – Response acknowledged. The City Council should establish policies and procedures for the City Council to provide oversight over the Sewer Utility operations, including oversight to ensure the findings in this report are properly addressed.

2023-002 Segregation of Duties

Criteria – 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 Sewer Utility’s financial statements.

Cincinnati Sewer Utility

Schedule of Findings

Year ended June 30, 2023

Condition – Generally, one individual in the Sewer Utility has control over each of the following areas for which no compensating controls exist:

- (1) Cash – handling, reconciling and recording.
- (2) Investing – recordkeeping, investing, custody of investments and reconciling earnings.
- (3) Receipts – opening mail, collecting, depositing, reconciling and posting.
- (4) Disbursements – invoice processing, check writing, mailing, reconciling and recording.
- (5) Payroll – recordkeeping, preparing and distributing.
- (6) Utilities – billing, collecting, depositing and posting.
- (7) Debt – recordkeeping, compliance and debt payment processing.
- (8) Computer system – performing all general accounting functions and controlling all data input and output.
- (9) Compensated absences – maintaining records and balances.

Cause – The Sewer Utility has a limited number of employees and procedures have not been designed to adequately segregate duties or provide compensating controls through additional oversight of transactions and processes.

Effect – Inadequate segregation of duties could adversely affect the Sewer Utility's ability to prevent or detect and correct misstatements, errors or misappropriation on a timely basis by employees in the normal course of performing their assigned functions.

Recommendation – The Sewer Utility should review its control procedures to obtain the maximum internal control possible under the circumstances utilizing currently available staff, including elected officials, to provide additional control through review of financial transactions, reconciliations and reports. These independent reviews should be documented by the signature or initials of the reviewer and the date of the review.

Response – We started providing a printout of the budget in the monthly City Council packets along with bank reconciliations/monthly expenditures/bank account balances. The City Council/Mayor will review and sign off each month.

Conclusion – Response acknowledged. Elected officials can be used to provide additional control through review of financial transactions, reconciliations and reports. These independent reviews should be documented by the signature or initials of the reviewer and the date of the review.

Cincinnati Sewer Utility

Schedule of Findings

Year ended June 30, 2023

2023-003 Bank Reconciliations

Criteria – An effective internal control system provides for internal controls related to ensuring proper accounting for all funds by reconciling bank and book balances.

Condition – The Enterprise, Sewer Fund activity is accounted for in a pooled bank account maintained by the City. A complete bank reconciliation, including all bank and investment accounts, is not prepared. We subsequently obtained information for June 30, 2023 and reperformed a bank reconciliation. At June 30, 2023, there was a \$104 difference between bank and book balances.

Cause – Procedures have not been designed and implemented to ensure all accounts are reconciled and the amounts recorded in the books are complete, accurate and properly accounted for.

Effect – The lack of a complete bank to book reconciliation can result in unrecorded transactions, undetected errors and the opportunity for misappropriation.

Recommendation – To improve financial accountability and control, the City should prepare monthly bank reconciliations which include all bank and investment accounts and variances between book and bank balances should be investigated and resolved in a timely manner. The reconciliations should be reviewed by an independent person and the review should be documented by the signature or initials of the independent reviewer and the date of review.

Response – All bank accounts are now reconciled on a monthly basis and reports given to Council. The Mayor reviews and initials the monthly bank reconciliations.

Conclusion – Response acknowledged. The bank reconciliation should include all bank and investment balances.

2023-004 Reconciliation of Utility Billings, Collections and Delinquent Accounts

Criteria – An effective internal control system provides for internal controls related to maintaining delinquent account listings, reconciling utility billings, collections and delinquent accounts and comparing utility collections to deposits to ensure proper recording of utility receipts, the propriety of adjustments and write-offs and the propriety of delinquent account balances.

Condition – Utility billings, collections and delinquent accounts were not reconciled throughout the year. Also, utility collections were not reconciled to deposits.

Cause – Policies have not been established and procedures have not been implemented to reconcile utility billings, collections and delinquent accounts and reconcile utility collections to deposits.

Effect – This condition could result in unrecorded or misstated utility receipts, improper or unauthorized adjustments and write-offs and/or misstated delinquent account balances.



Cincinnati Sewer Utility

Schedule of Findings

Year ended June 30, 2023

Recommendation – Procedures should be established to reconcile utility billings, collections and delinquent accounts for each billing period and to reconcile collections to deposits. The City Council or a Council-designated independent person should review the reconciliations and monitor delinquencies. The review of the reconciliations should be documented by the signature or initials of the reviewer and the date of review.

Response – A monthly delinquent report is now run each month. Procedures will be established for the reconciliation. We will give the reconciliation and delinquent report to the City Council each month.

Conclusion – Response acknowledged. An independent person should review the reconciliations and review should be documented by the signature or initials of the reviewer and the date of review.

**INSTANCES OF NONCOMPLIANCE:**

No matters were noted.

Cincinnati Sewer Utility

Schedule of Findings

Year ended June 30, 2023

**Other Findings Related to Statutory Matters:**

2023-A Deposit and Investments – The City has not adopted a written investment policy as required by Chapter 12B.10B of the Code of Iowa.

Recommendation – The City should adopt a written investment policy which complies with the provisions of Chapter 12B.10B of the Code of Iowa.

Response – We will adopt an investment policy at our July 10, 2024 Council meeting.

Conclusion – Response accepted.

2023-B Other Information Required by the Farmers Home Administration Sewer Bond Resolution

Insurer	Description	Amount	Expiration Date
Iowa Communities Assurance Pool	Property	\$ 3,029,124	Feb 15, 2024
	General liability	2,000,000	Feb 15, 2024
	Auto liability	2,000,000	Feb 15, 2024
	Wrongful acts official liability	2,000,000	Feb 15, 2024
	Law enforcement liability	2,000,000	Feb 15, 2024
	Auto physical damage	196,746	Feb 15, 2024
	Crime	10,000	Feb 15, 2024
Iowa Municipalities Workers Compensation Association	Workers' Compensation	1,000,000	Jul 1, 2023

Statistical Information

Description	Amount
Sewer customers served at June 30, 2023	181
Sewer rates in effect at June 30, 2023	
First 1,000 gallons or less per month	\$ 29.95
All over 1,000 gallons, per month, per 1,000 gallons	\$ 12.15

Cincinnati Sewer Utility

Staff

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