

City of Burleson, Texas
FINANCIAL POLICY STATEMENTS
May 27, 2026

I. STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

The intent of the Financial Policy is to enable the City to achieve a long-term, stable, and positive financial condition. The guiding principles of the City's financial management include integrity, prudent stewardship, planning, accountability, and full disclosure.

The more specific purpose is to provide guidelines to management in planning and directing the City's finances and in developing recommendations to the City Council.

The scope of the financial policies includes the City's investment, debt, and continuing disclosure policies covering areas such as accounting, auditing, financial reporting, internal controls, operating and capital budgeting, revenue management, cash and investment management, expenditure control, debt management, and planning concepts, in order to:

- a. present fairly and with full disclosure the financial position and results of financial operations of the City in conformity to generally accepted accounting principles (GAAP) as set forth by the governmental accounting standards board (GASB), and
- b. determine and demonstrate compliance with finance related legal and contractual issues in accordance with provisions of the Texas Local Government Code and other pertinent legal documents and mandates.

II. GENERAL IMPLEMENTATION AND COMPLIANCE GUIDELINES

- A. FINANCE COMMITTEE. The committee will meet at least four times a year. The committee will report to the City Council at a Regular City Council meeting. The function of the committee will be:
 - 1) Fiscal policy review
 - 2) Auditor selection recommendation
 - 3) Investment and Debt policy review and guidance
 - 4) Long-range planning
 - 5) Financial Report review
- B. ANNUAL REVIEW. Based upon the results and recommendations of the Finance Committee review, the Council will annually approve the fiscal policies.
- C. IMPLEMENTATION, COMPLIANCE, ACCOUNTABILITY AND REVIEW. The Finance Director will be responsible for implementing these policies and will, to the best of his or her knowledge, make the City Manager, Finance Committee and the City Council aware of any variances in practice from these policies or any other deviation

from prudent financial practices in accordance with GAAP, the City Charter, state laws and/or ethics of the profession.

III. ACCOUNTING, AUDITING, AND FINANCIAL REPORTING

- A. ACCOUNTING. The City is solely responsible for the reporting of its financial affairs, both internally and externally. The City Manager is the City's Chief Administrative Officer and the head of the administrative branch of the City government. The City Manager may delegate some or all of the financial administrative duties but shall maintain supervisory authority over all functions as specified in the City's Charter Article VII, Section 68.
- B. AUDITING. An independent certified public accounting (CPA) firm will perform annual financial audits.
 - 1) Qualifications of the Auditor. In conformance with the City's Charter and according to the provisions of Texas Local Government Code, Chapter 103, the City will be audited annually by outside independent accountants. ("auditor").
 - 2) Auditor Repute. The auditor must be a CPA firm of good reputation and must demonstrate that it has the breadth and depth of staff to conduct the City's audit in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards and contractual requirements. The auditor must be registered as a partnership or corporation or certified public accountants, capable of demonstrating that it has sufficient staff which will enable it to conduct the City's audit in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards as required by the City Charter and applicable state and federal laws.
 - 3) Timing. The auditor's report on the City's financial statements will be completed within 180 days of the City's fiscal year end.
 - 4) Management Letter. The independent CPA firm shall provide a management letter, if one is issued, no later than March 31 following the end of each fiscal year. The auditor will prepare and will review the management letter with Management and the Finance Committee. The Finance Director shall respond in writing to the City Manager and City Council regarding the auditor's management letter, addressing the issues contained therein. The Council shall schedule its formal acceptance of the auditor's report upon the resolution of any issues resulting from the review.
 - 5) Responsibility of Auditor to City Council. The auditor is accountable to the City Council and will have access to direct communication with the City Council if the City Staff is unresponsive to auditor recommendations or if the Auditor considers such communication necessary to fulfill its legal and professional responsibilities.
 - 6) Rotation of Auditor. The City will not require an auditor rotation but will circulate requests for proposals for audit services at least every five years. Should the City

Council be dissatisfied with the auditor's performance, it may request new proposals at any time. Year-to-year authorization to continue shall be done by July 1st of each year.

C. FINANCIAL REPORTING.

1) External Reporting.

- a. Scope. The Annual Comprehensive Financial Report (ACFR) shall be prepared in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles (GAAP).
- b. Timing. The Report shall be presented to the Council within 180 calendar days of the City's fiscal year end. If City staffing limitations preclude such timely reporting, the Finance Director will inform the City Council of the delay and the reasons thereof.
- c. Awards. The Report shall be presented annually to the Government Finance Officer's Association (GFOA) for evaluation and consideration for the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting.

2) Internal Reporting.

The Finance Department will prepare internal financial reports, sufficient to plan, monitor, and control the City's financial affairs. Internal financial reporting objectives are addressed throughout these policies.

IV. OPERATING BUDGET.

A. PREPARATION. Budgeting is an essential element of the financial planning, control, and evaluation process of municipal government. The City's "operating budget" is the City's annual financial operating plan. The scope of the budget includes all funds for which the City will adopt a formal budget, including Government Funds and Proprietary Funds.

- 1) Budgetary Process. The budget is prepared by the City Manager or his/her designee with the cooperation of all City Departments. The proposed budget should be presented to the City Council between 60 and 90 days prior to the fiscal year end and should be enacted by the City Council prior to fiscal year end in accordance with the Charter.
- 2) Awards. If feasible, the operating budget will be submitted to the GFOA annually for evaluation and consideration for the Award for Distinguished Budget Presentation.
- 3) Basis of Budgeting. The basis of budgeting will be the same as the basis of accounting; that is, that budgets for the General Fund and the Special Revenue Funds are prepared on the modified accrual basis of accounting, and budgets for the Utility (Proprietary) Funds are prepared on a full accrual basis, except that

capital purchases and depreciation are not adjusted until year-end financial reporting.

- 4) Financial Forecast. A five-year financial forecast shall be prepared annually, projecting revenues and expenditures for all operating and capital funds. This forecast shall be used as a planning tool in developing the following year's operating budget.
- 5) Proposed Budget Format. A proposed budget shall be prepared by the City Manager with the participation of all of the City's Department Directors, within the provisions of the City Charter. The budget shall include at least four basic segments for review and evaluation. These segments are: (1) personnel costs, (2) operations and maintenance costs, (3) capital and other (non-capital) project costs, and (4) revenues. A four-column format should be used such that prior year actual, current year budget and revised, and next year proposed are all clearly shown.
- 6) Council Participation. The budget review process shall include Council participation in the development of each of the four segments of the proposed budget and a Public Hearing to allow for citizen participation in the budget preparation. The budget process shall span sufficient time to address policy and fiscal issues by the Council. The budget process will be coordinated so as to identify major policy issues for City Council consideration prior to the budget approval date so that proper decision analysis can be made.
- 7) Filing and Adoption. Upon the presentation of a proposed budget document acceptable to the Council, the Council shall call and publicize a public hearing and adopt by Ordinance such budget as the City's Official Budget, effective for the fiscal year beginning. A copy of the proposed budget shall be filed with the City Secretary in accordance with the provisions of the City Charter. Should the Council fail to take final action on or before the last day of the fiscal year, the budget as submitted by the City Manager shall be deemed to have been finally adopted by the City Council. If a tax rate is not adopted by September 30, the tax rate for that year will be the lower of the no-new-revenue rate calculated for the tax year or the rate adopted by the taxing unit for the preceding year in accordance with State Law (Tax Code Sec.26.05. (c))
- 8) Amending the Official Budget. The council may amend the budget for municipal purposes in accordance with state law.
- 9) Encumbrances. Encumbrances outstanding at the end of each fiscal year shall be reflected as reservations of fund balance. Subsequent year's payments on previously encumbered funds will be reflected as expenditures in the current year. For Encumbrances that are brought forward from the previous year, budgets will be adjusted by the encumbered amount in the current year.

- B. **BALANCED BUDGET.** The operating budget will be balanced with current revenues and other resources greater than or equal to current expenditures/expenses. Use of beginning balances and other reserves to balance operations will be discussed with the City Council during the budget process.
- C. **REPORTING.** Monthly financial reports will be prepared to enable the Department Managers to manage their budgets and to enable the Finance Director to monitor and control the budget as authorized by the City Manager. Summary financial reports will be presented to the departments. City Council will receive a financial summary of key funds within 30 days after the end of each month with the exception of the first quarter of the fiscal year. The report will be provided within 30 days after the first quarter of the fiscal year.
- D. **ACTIVITY INDICATORS AND STATISTICS.** Where appropriate, activity indicators and statistics will be used as guidelines and reviewed for efficiency and effectiveness. This information will be considered in the annual budgeting process and reported to the City Council regularly.
- E. **OPERATING POSITION.** The guidelines that the City should be following to assure fiscal stability are those outlined in Financial Condition/ Reserves/Stability Ratios.

V. REVENUE MANAGEMENT.

- A. The City will strive for the following optimum characteristics in its revenue system:
 - 1) **SIMPLICITY.** The City, where possible and without sacrificing accuracy, will strive to keep the revenue system simple in order to reduce compliance costs and to make it more understandable to the taxpayer or service recipient. The City will avoid nuisance taxes or charges as revenue sources.
 - 2) **CERTAINTY.** A knowledge and understanding of revenue sources increase the reliability of the revenue system. The City will understand its revenue sources and enact consistent collection policies to provide assurances that the revenue base will materialize according to budgets and plans.
 - 3) **EQUITY.** The City shall make every effort to maintain equity in its revenue system structure, i.e., the City shall seek to minimize or eliminate all forms of subsidy between entities, funds, services, utilities, and customers. The City shall require that there be a balance in the revenue system, i.e., the revenue base will have the characteristic of fairness and neutrality as it applies to cost of service, willingness to pay, and ability to pay.
 - 4) **ADMINISTRATION.** The benefits of a revenue will generally exceed the cost of collecting and administering the revenue program. The cost of collection will be reviewed periodically for cost effectiveness as a part of the indirect cost and cost of

services analysis. Where appropriate, the City will use the administrative processes of State or Federal collection agencies in order to reduce administrative costs.

- 5) DIVERSIFICATION AND STABILITY. In order to protect from fluctuations in revenue sources due to changes in the economy and variations in weather, a diversified revenue system will be maintained to provide stability.
 - 6) GRANTS AND RESTRICTED REVENUES. In order to maintain flexibility in the revenue system, grants and restricted revenues shall be pursued on a cost-benefit basis. All grants and other federal/state, and restricted funds shall be managed and accounted for to comply with the laws, regulations, and guidance of the grantor.
- B. The following considerations and issues will guide the City in its revenue policies concerning specific sources of funds:
- 1) COST/BENEFIT OF ABATEMENT. The City will use due caution in the analysis of any tax or fee incentives that are used to encourage development. Ideally, a cost/benefit (fiscal impact) analysis will be performed as a part of such caution.
 - 2) NON-RECURRING REVENUES. One-time or non-recurring revenues will not be used to finance current ongoing operations. Non-recurring revenues should be used only for one-time expenditures such as long-lived capital needs.
 - 3) PROPERTY TAX REVENUES. All real and business personal property located within the City shall be valued at fair market value for any given year based on the current appraisal supplied to the City by the Central Appraisal District of Johnson County and Tarrant Appraisal District. Total taxable valuation will be reappraised and reassessed in accordance with State statute, in order to maintain current market values.

A 98% collection rate shall serve each year as a goal for tax collections. All taxes shall be aggressively pursued each year by the City's appointed tax assessor/collector. Tax accounts delinquent July 1st shall be submitted for collection each year to an attorney selected by the City Council. A penalty shall be assessed on all property taxes delinquent in accordance with State law and shall include all court costs, as well as an amount for compensation of the attorney as permitted by State law and in accordance with the attorney's contract with the City. Annual performance criteria will be developed for the attorney.
 - 4) INTEREST INCOME. Interest earned from investment of available monies, whether pooled or not, will be distributed to the funds in accordance with the operating and capital budgets which, wherever possible, will be in accordance with the cash balance of the fund from which monies were provided to be invested.
 - 5) USER-BASED FEES AND SERVICE CHARGES. For services associated with a user fee or charge, the direct and indirect costs of that service will be offset by a fee where possible. There will be an annual review of fees and charges to ensure that fees provide adequate coverage of the costs of services. User charges may be classified

as "Full Cost Recovery", "Partial Cost Recovery," and "Minimal Cost Recovery," based upon City Council policy.

- 6) **UTILITY RATES.** The City will review and adopt utility rates annually that will generate revenues required to fully cover operating expenditures, meet the legal restrictions of all applicable bond covenants, and provide for an adequate level of working capital needs. This policy does not preclude drawing down cash balances to finance current operations. However, it is best that any extra cash balance be used instead to finance capital projects. Components of Utility Rates will include transfers to the General Fund as follows:
 - a. General and Administrative Charge. An administrative fee will be charged to the Utility Fund for services of general overhead, such as administration, finance, personnel, data processing, and legal counsel. This fee will be documented through a cost allocation procedure.
 - b. Franchise payment. A rate consistent with those charged to private utilities will be charged to the Utility Fund. This rate may be either raised or lowered so as to be consistent with those of the private utilities.
 - c. Payment in lieu of Property Tax (PILOT). A fee will be charged to the Utility Fund to equate to property taxes lost due to municipal ownership. Total Assets from the most recent audited financials will be used as a basis, barring the absence of known market value. The tax rate from the same fiscal year as the most recent audited financials will be applied to this base to determine the PILOT charge.
- 7) **REVENUE MONITORING.** Revenues received will be compared to budgeted revenues throughout the fiscal year and significant variances will be investigated.

VI. EXPENDITURE CONTROL

- A. **APPROPRIATIONS.** The level of budgetary control is at the Department level budget in the General and Enterprise Funds, and at the fund level in all other funds. When budget adjustments among Departments and/or funds are necessary, these must be approved by the City Council. Budget appropriations at lower levels of control, which is defined as transfers, shall be made in accordance with the applicable administrative procedures.
- B. **AMENDMENTS TO THE BUDGET.** In accordance with the City Charter, all budget amendments shall be approved by the Council.
- C. **CENTRAL CONTROL.** No recognized or significant salary or capital budgetary savings in any Department shall be spent by the Department Director without the prior authorization of the City Manager. However, Department Directors are authorized to approve budgetary line items transfers in the same fund within their own assigned

departments. The City Manager assigns Departments to each Director as areas of their responsibilities, and documents it in the City's Organization Chart.

- D. PURCHASING. All purchases should be in accordance with the City's purchasing policies as defined in the Purchasing Manual. In accordance with the Charter provisions, purchases, and contracts as per the City's Procurement Policy, will be reviewed and recommended by staff and presented to Council for approval.
- E. PROMPT PAYMENT. All invoices approved for payment by the proper City authorities shall be paid by the Finance Department within thirty (30) calendar days of receipt in accordance with the Government Code, Chapter 2251, Section 2251.021.
- F. EQUIPMENT FINANCING. ~~Equipment is accounted for at the original acquisition cost, which includes purchase price plus any costs incurred to place the equipment in service. Equipment may be leased or financed when the unit purchase price is \$5,000 or more and the useful life is at least five years. Departments shall contact the Finance Department for transfer or disposal instructions.~~ Vehicles and equipment with a replacement cost greater than \$300,000 will be funded by the issuance of certificates of obligation, and the debt service payment will not exceed the unit's useful life.
- G. RISK MANAGEMENT. The City will aggressively pursue every opportunity to provide for the Public's and City employees' safety and to manage its risks. The goal shall be to minimize the risk of loss of resources through liability claims with an emphasis on safety programs. All reasonable options will be investigated to finance risks. Such options may include risk transfer, insurance, and risk retention.
- H. AUTHORIZATION OF INVESTMENTS AND PAYMENTS. Two signatures are required to conduct business on behalf of the City of Burleson, Texas. Both the City Manager and the Director of Finance, or their designee(s), are hereby authorized to approve investments and payments for the City.
- I. AUTHORIZATION OF ELECTRONIC TRANSFERS BY THE CITY. In general, electronic transfer responsibilities and processes are set by the Director of Finance in accordance with banking resolutions adopted by the City Council and the Investment Policy. Processes will require two individuals assigned by the Director of Finance to separate the duties of initiating a transaction and approval of a transaction.

VII. ASSET MANAGEMENT

- A. INVESTMENTS. The Finance Director shall promptly invest all City funds with the Bank Depository in accordance with the provisions of the current Bank Depository Agreement or in any negotiable instrument that the Council has authorized under the provisions of the Texas Public Funds Investment Act and in accordance with the City Council approved Investment Policy.

- B. CASH MANAGEMENT. The City's cash flow will be managed to maximize the cash available to invest. Such cash management will entail the centralization of cash collections, where feasible, including property tax payments, utility bills, municipal fines, building and related permits and licenses, and other collection offices as appropriate. Cycle billing will be used where appropriate.
- C. FIXED ASSETS AND INVENTORY. These assets will be reasonably safeguarded and properly accounted for and prudently insured. A fixed asset of the City shall be defined as a purchased or otherwise acquired piece of equipment, vehicle, furniture, fixture, capital improvement, addition to existing capital investments, land, buildings, or accessioned Library materials. The cost or value of any such acquisition must be \$5,000 or more within an expected useful life greater than one year. All City departments with inventory are required to conduct a physical inventory under their control on an annual basis.
- D. DEPOSITORIES. The City Council, having given due consideration to all of its options and taking into consideration what is in the best interest of the municipality, hereby authorizes the consideration of applications of depositories not doing business within the City of Burleson, Texas so long as that bank maintains a business location within a five-mile radius of Burleson City Hall. This authorization encompasses all of the depository uses and requirements of the City.

VIII. CAPITAL BUDGET AND PROGRAM

- A. PREPARATION. The City will develop a 5-year capital improvement plan (CIP) to include all capital projects being considered and all resources for capital funding. The budget will be prepared on a fiscal year ending calendar and reported annually. The 5-year CIP will be prepared by the Department Director and presented to the City Council during the budget process. The Finance Director will work closely with Departments to ensure funding capacity is available.
- B. CONTROL. All capital project expenditures must be appropriated in the capital budget at a project level. The Finance Department must certify the availability of such appropriations, or the availability of resources needed to be appropriated before a capital project contract is presented to the City Council for approval. Any remaining funds of a completed project not allocated by the City Council will be closed into an unallocated account in the same fund. Similar projects are to be grouped together in a fund based on the type of project and source of funding, using the similar Capital Projects Fund classifications for reporting purposes in the Annual Comprehensive Financial Report (ACFR).
- C. PROGRAM PLANNING. The capital budget will include capital improvements program plans for future years. The planning time frame should normally be at least five years. The replacement and maintenance for capital items should also be projected for the

next 5 years. Future maintenance and operational costs will be considered at the initiation of a project so the costs can be included in the relevant operating budget.

- D. FINANCING PROGRAMS. Where applicable, assessments, impact fees, pro-rata charges, or other fees should be used to fund capital projects having a primary benefit to specific, identifiable property owners.
- E. INFRASTRUCTURE MAINTENANCE. The City recognizes that deferring maintenance increases future capital costs. Therefore, a portion of the appropriate fund's budget will be set aside each year to maintain the quality of the City's infrastructure. The inclusion of infrastructure maintenance and replacement costs in the current operating budget will place the burden of the costs and repairs on the current users of the systems.
- F. REPORTING. Periodic financial reports will be prepared to enable Department Managers to manage their capital budgets and to enable the Finance Department to monitor and control the capital budget as authorized by the City Manager. Summary capital projects status reports should be presented to the City Council quarterly.

IX. FINANCIAL CONDITIONS, RESERVES, AND STABILITY RATIOS

- A. OPERATIONAL COVERAGE. (NO OPERATING DEFICITS). The City will maintain an operational coverage factor of 1.00, such that current operating revenues (plus approved fund balance appropriations) will equal or exceed current operating expenditures.

Deferrals, short-term loans, or one-time sources will be avoided as budget balancing techniques. Reserves will be used only for emergencies or non-recurring expenditures, except when balances can be reduced because their levels exceed guideline minimums.

B. OPERATING RESERVES/FUND BALANCES

1) Governmental funds of the City of Burleson shall be defined as follows:

- 1) General Fund. The general fund should be used to account for and report all financial resources not accounted for and reported in another fund.
- 2) Special Revenue Funds. Special revenue funds are used to account for and report the proceeds of specific revenue sources that are restricted or committed to expenditure for specified purposes other than debt service or capital projects. The restricted or committed proceeds of specific revenue sources should be expected to continue to comprise a substantial portion of the inflows reported in the fund. Other resources (investment earnings and transfers from other funds, for example) also may be reported

in the fund if those resources are restricted, omitted, or assigned to the specified purpose of the fund. Governments should discontinue reporting a special revenue fund and instead report the fund's remaining resources in the general fund, if the government no longer expects that a substantial portion of the inflows will derive from restricted or committed revenue sources.

- 3) Capital Projects Funds. Capital projects funds are used to account for and report financial resources that are restricted, committed, or assigned to expenditure for capital outlays, including the acquisition or construction of capital facilities and other capital assets. Capital projects funds exclude those types of capital-related outflows financed by proprietary funds or for assets that will be held in trust for individuals, private organizations, or other governments.
 - 4) Debt Service Funds. Debt service funds are used to account for and report financial resources that are restricted, committed, or assigned to expenditure for principal and interest, even if it is being accumulated for future years' payments. Debt service funds should be used to report resources if legally mandated.
- 2) Ending fund balances of the City of Burleson shall be reported according to the following classifications:
1. RESTRICTED
 2. COMMITTED
 3. ASSIGNED
 4. UNASSIGNED
- 3) Order of expenditure --When committed, assigned and unassigned resources can be used for the same purpose, funds shall be spent in the sequence of committed resources first, assigned second, and unassigned last.
- 4) It is the goal of the City that the unassigned fund balance of the General Fund should be at least 20% of the General Fund annual expenditures. This percentage is the equivalent of 73 days' expenditures. In order to adhere to the principles of matching current revenues with current expenditures and minimizing property taxes, the City will strive to maintain the fund balance if the unassigned balance grows beyond 90 days' expenditures.
- 5) The Water and Wastewater Fund working capital should be maintained at least 20% of total operating expenditures or the equivalent of 73 days.
- 6) It is the goal of the City that the fund balance of the 4A Corp and 4B Corp, should maintain at least a 20% minimum of total operating expenditure or the equivalent of 73 days.

- 7) General Obligation Debt Service Funds will have a reserve of approximately \$1,000,000. The policy above does not include the debt service reserves normally established to market revenue bonds. The City's policy and bond ordinance requirements are to maintain these debt service reserves at the level of the average annual debt service.

C. CAPITAL AND DEBT SERVICE FUNDS

- 1) Items in the Capital Projects Funds shall have the goal to be completed and paid for within 36 months of receipt of proceeds. Balances will be used to generate interest income to offset construction costs.
- 2) Revenue Obligations will maintain Debt Coverage Ratios as specified by the bond covenants. The City is currently required to have net revenues in excess of average annual debt by 1.25 times. Net revenues must also exceed the maximum outstanding debt by 1.10 times. Both these tests must be met in order to issue additional bonds.
- 3) Obligations of Burleson's economic development corporations will maintain coverage ratios as specified by bond covenants. If the City issues obligations partially secured by a limited pledge of the corporations' sales tax revenues, not subject to the coverage ratios of the revenue bond covenants, coverage shall be maintained at no less than 1.25 times average annual debt service, and 1.15 times the maximum annual debt service. Both of these tests must be met in order to issue additional bonds.

X. TREASURY AND DEBT MANAGEMENT

- A. CASH MANAGEMENT. A periodic review of cash flow position will be performed to determine performance of cash management and investment policies. A detailed policy structure will be followed with respect to Cash/Treasury Management. The underlying theme will be that idle cash will be invested with the intent to 1) safeguard assets, (2) maintain liquidity, and 3) maximize return. Where legally permitted, pooling of investments will be done.

The City will adhere to the investments authorized through the Texas' Public Funds Investment Act and the city's established comprehensive Investment Policies and Guidelines. Such policies clarify acceptable investment securities, brokers, terms, and other pertinent investment information.

- B. DEBT MANAGEMENT. The City's Debt Management Policy establishes parameters and provides guidance governing the issuance, management, continuous evaluation of and reporting on all debt obligations issued by the City, and to provide for the

preparation and implementation necessary to ensure compliance and conformity with this policy.

XI.INTERNAL CONTROLS

- A. WRITTEN PROCEDURES. Written procedures will be established and maintained by the Director of Finance for all functions and financial cycles including cash handling and accounting throughout the City. These procedures will embrace the general concepts of fiscal responsibility set forth in this policy statement.
- B. DEPARTMENT DIRECTORS AND MANAGERS RESPONSIBILITY. City administrators and managers are charged with the responsibility for establishing a network of processes with the objective of controlling the operations of the City in a manner which provides reasonable assurance that:
 - 1) Data and information published either internally or externally is accurate, reliable, complete, and timely. The actions of administrators and employees are in compliance with the City's charter, plans, policies and procedures, and all relevant laws and regulations.
 - 2) The City's resources, including its people, systems, data/information, assets, and citizens are adequately protected.
 - 3) Resources are acquired economically and employed effectively.
 - 4) The City's internal controls promote the achievement of plans, programs, goals, and objectives.

Each Department Manager is responsible for ensuring that good internal controls are followed throughout his or her Department, that all Finance Department directives or internal controls are implemented, and that all independent auditor internal control recommendations are addressed.

XII.STAFFING AND TRAINING

- A. ADEQUATE STAFFING. Staffing levels will be adequate for the fiscal functions of the City to operate effectively. Overtime shall be used only to address temporary or seasonal demands that require excessive hours. Workload shedding alternatives will be explored before adding staff.
- B. TRAINING. The City will support the continuing education efforts of all financial staff including the investment in time and materials to maintain a current perspective concerning financial issues. Staff will be held accountable for communicating, teaching, sharing with other staff members all information and training materials acquired from seminars, conferences, and related education efforts.

- C. AWARDS, CREDENTIALS AND RECOGNITION. The City will support efforts and involvement resulting in meeting standards and receiving exemplary recitations on behalf of any of the City's fiscal policies, practices, processes, products, or personnel. Staff certifications may include Certified Public Accountant, Management Accountant, Certified Internal Auditor, and Certified Cash Manager. Further, the Finance Director will try to obtain and maintain the designation of Certified Government Finance Officer as awarded by the GFOA of Texas.

The City will strive to maintain a high level of excellence in its accounting policies and practices as it prepares its Financial Report. The Report will be presented to the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) for review of qualifications necessary to obtain the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting. Additionally, if feasible the City will submit its annual budget to GFOA for consideration for the Distinguished Budget Award and submit the Investment Policy to obtain the Certificate of Distinction from the Government Treasurers' Organization of Texas.

- D. TRANSPARENCY. A reasonable effort will be made to ensure relevant financial information is made available to all citizens in a 'user friendly' format in an easy-to-understand terminology. In pursuit of this goal, the city will seek recognition through state and national transparency and reporting programs.
- E. Continuing Disclosure The continuing disclosure policy and procedures are attached as Attachment "A" to this Policy.