

MEMORANDUM



TO: VICTOR CARDENAS, CITY MANAGER
FROM: CARL A. JOHNSON, JR., CFO
TINA GLENN, ASSISTANT CITY TREASURER
CC: CORTNEY HANSON, CITY CLERK
SUBJECT: QUARTERLY INVESTMENT REPORT – DECEMBER 31, 2024
DATE: APRIL 10, 2025

Attached to this memo is the investment report for the City of Novi as of December 31, 2024. This memo outlines the investment factors and trends that were playing a role in our investment decisions for the second quarter of the fiscal year.

Nationally

According to the minutes of the Federal Open Market Committee (FOMC) meetings held on December 17-18, 2024, "The information available at the time of the meeting indicated that real gross domestic product (GDP) had continued to expand at a solid pace in 2024. Labor market conditions had eased since early 2024, but the unemployment rate remained low. Consumer price inflation was below its year-earlier rate but was still somewhat elevated."¹

According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics News Release, "Total nonfarm payroll employment increased by 256,000 in December, and the unemployment rate changed little at 4.1 percent, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. Employment trended up in health care, government, and social assistance. Retail trade added jobs in December, following a job loss in November."²

The City is continuing to invest pursuant to the Investment Policy and the Retirement Health Care Investment Policy. The City's funds are invested in a variety of instruments including commercial paper, money market accounts, certificates of deposit, agencies, and pooled accounts. The primary focus and order of priority is on safety of capital, liquidity, and lastly return on investment.

Risk

As required by the Governmental Accounting Standard Board, GASB 40 identifies several reporting and disclosure requirements for public funds that are designed to manage and limit risk in deposits and investments. These disclosures are only required as part of the year-end financial statements, the applicable risks are as follows:

Interest Rate Risk: Interest rate risk is the risk that changes in interest rates will adversely affect the fair value of the investment or the government's cash flows. Disclosure of interest rate risk addresses the exposure of investments to changes in market value as

¹ <https://www.federalreserve.gov/monetarypolicy/files/fomcminutes20241218.pdf>

² <https://www.bls.gov/news.release/pdf/empst.pdf>

interest rates increase or decrease from current levels. In accordance with the City investment policy, the City limits its exposure to possible decline in fair market value by controlling duration or maturities. Investment maturities for operating funds shall be scheduled to coincide with projected cash flow needs, considering large routine expenditures (payroll, debt service), as well as considering sizable blocks of anticipated revenue (taxes, state revenue sharing payments).

Credit Risk: Credit risk is the risk that the investment counterparty will not fulfill its promise to pay the government when required. There is credit risk associated with the financial institutions, brokers, and investment instruments the City does business with. The City's investment officer must also be held to the highest standards. The City's investment policy utilizes the prudent person rule: "Investments are made with judgment and care - under circumstances then prevailing - which persons of prudence, discretion, and intelligence exercise in the management of their own affairs, not for speculation, but for investment, considering the probable safety of their capital as well as the probable income to be derived." Any commercial paper purchased must be rated within the highest classification established by at least two standard rating services. Obligations of the State or its subdivisions must be rated of investment grade by at least one rating service. Because the State of Michigan does not require collateralization of public funds, the City's policy restricts Certificates of Deposit investments to those with financial institutions that are members of the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC) or the National Credit Union Administration.

Concentration of Risk: Governments must disclose any single issuer that comprises more than 5% of the investment value in the portfolio. This disclosure is to ensure that there is proper diversification and not a concentration of public funds with any one issuer. While CD's and commercial paper are being used only occasionally for diversification, the City's funds are primarily invested in guaranteed accounts and treasuries. To reduce concentration risk, the City's investments are diversified amongst several highly rated financial institutions.

Investment Report

Attached is a summary listing of investments by issuer that the City held on December 31, 2024 (excluding Retiree Healthcare and Pension Investments that are not subject to Public Act 20 Investment Limitations). The listing includes the market value, type of investment, days to maturity, interest rate (yield) and amount of investment (book value). The book and market value for the Fifth Third checking account represents the bank balance on December 31, 2024, and does not include any month end reconciling items.

A comprehensive detailed listing of each investment's details and maturity date is maintained in the Treasurer's office. The report includes all investment accounts by issuer including all pooled fund accounts. Please note that all investments included in this report are in accordance with the City's Investment Policy and State statutes and meet the City's investment objectives including Safety of Capital, Liquidity, and lastly Return on Investment. The issue of non-compliance with the MERS Retiree Health Care Account is currently being addressed and remedies are being considered.