

NEWS RELEASE

Contact: Denise Arnold

FOR RELEASE _____

Gronewold, Bell, Kyhnn & Co. P.C. CPAs (the examiners) have released an examination report on the City of Murray, Iowa for the period July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2024. The examination was performed pursuant to Chapter 11.6 of the Code of Iowa.

The examiners reported three findings related to the City's compliance with certain Code of Iowa requirements, internal control procedures, and receipt and disbursement of taxpayer funds. They are found on page 5 of this report. The findings address issues such as a lack of segregation of duties, financial condition of City funds and proper recording of receipts.

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 examination report is available for review in the City Clerk's Office, in the office of the Auditor of State and on the Auditor of State's web site at <http://auditor.iowa.gov/reports/index.html>.

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CITY OF MURRAY, IOWA
INDEPENDENT ACCOUNTANT'S REPORT
ON APPLYING AGREED-UPON PROCEDURES
FOR THE PERIOD
JULY 1, 2023 THROUGH JUNE 30, 2024

CITY OF MURRAY, IOWA
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CITY OF MURRAY, IOWA
OFFICIALS
June 30, 2024

(Before January, 2024)

<u>Name</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Term Expires</u>
Jeannie Crees (Deceased September, 2023)	Mayor	
Jeff Robbins (Appointed November, 2023)	Mayor	January, 2024
Sarah Dinham	Council Member	January, 2026
Diana Moffitt-Robins	Council Member	January, 2024
Crissi Tracy	Council Member	January, 2024
Bethany Riemenschneider	Council Member	January, 2026
Pat O'Neil	Council Member	January, 2024
Denise Arnold	City Administrator/City Clerk	Indefinite
Hopkins and Heubner, P.C.	City Attorney	Indefinite
(After January, 2024)		
Jeff Robbins	Mayor	January, 2026
Sarah Dinham (Resigned January, 2024)	Council Member	
Rob Myers (Appointed March, 2024)	Council Member	January, 2026
Bethany Riemenschneider	Council Member	January, 2026
Steve Jurshak	Council Member	January, 2028
Ben Heath	Council Member	January, 2028
Pat O'Neil	Council Member	January, 2028
Denise Arnold	City Administrator/City Clerk	Indefinite
Hopkins and Heubner, P.C.	City Attorney	Indefinite

Gronewold, Bell, Kyhnn & Co. P.C.

CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS • BUSINESS AND FINANCIAL CONSULTANTS

1910 EAST 7th STREET BOX 369
ATLANTIC, IOWA 50022-0369
(712) 243-1800
FAX (712) 243-1265
CPA@GBKCO.COM

KENNETH P. TEGELS
CHRISTOPHER J. NELSON
DAVID A. GINTHER
DUSTIN T. VEENSTRA
FAITH E. HINRICHS

INDEPENDENT ACCOUNTANT'S 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 procedures to selected accounting records and related information of the City of Murray for the period July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2024, including procedures related to the City's compliance with certain Code of Iowa requirements identified below. The City of Murray'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 City of Murray's management has agreed to and acknowledged that the procedures performed are appropriate to meet the intended purpose to report, in accordance with Chapter 11.6 of the Code of Iowa, 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 may not be suitable for any other purpose. The procedures performed may not address all the items of interest to a user of this report and may not meet the needs of all users of this report and, as such, users are responsible for determining whether the procedures performed are appropriate for their purposes.

The procedures we performed are summarized as follows:

1. We observed selected City Council meeting minutes for compliance with Chapters 21, 372.13(6) and 380 of the Code of Iowa.
2. We obtained an understanding of the City's internal controls to determine if proper control procedures are in place and incompatible duties, from a control standpoint, are not performed by the same employee.
3. We observed surety bond coverage for compliance with Chapter 64 of the Code of Iowa.
4. We obtained and observed the City Clerk's financial reports and selected bank reconciliations to determine whether the bank balances properly reconciled to the general ledger account balances, journal entries and monthly financial reports provided to the City Council.
5. We scanned City funds for consistency with the City Finance Committee's recommended Uniform Chart of Accounts (COA) and to determine required funds and fund balances were properly maintained and accurately accounted for.

To the Honorable Mayor
and Members of the City Council

6. We observed the City's fiscal year 2024 Annual Financial Report to determine whether it was completed timely and accurately reflected the City's financial information.
7. The City had no investments.
8. We observed depository resolutions, the City's investment policy and reporting of unclaimed property to the State of Iowa to determine compliance with Chapters 12C.2, 12B.10B and 556.1(12) of the Code of Iowa.
9. We scanned debt, including general obligation and revenue bonds/notes, and related transactions for proper authorization and compliance with Chapters 75, 384 and 403.9 of the Code of Iowa and to determine whether the debt and related proceeds and repayments were properly accounted for.
10. The City had no TIF.
11. We traced selected receipts for accurate accounting and consistency with the recommended COA.
12. The City had no voter approved levies.
13. We traced selected disbursements to proper approval, adequate supporting documentation, accurate accounting and consistency with the recommended COA and compliance with the public purpose criteria established by Article III, Section 31 of the Constitution of the State of Iowa.
14. We traced transfers between funds to proper authorization and accurate accounting and to determine whether transfers were proper.
15. We traced selected payroll and related transactions to proper authorization and accurate accounting and determined whether payroll was proper.
16. We observed the annual certified budget for proper authorization, certification and timely amendment.

Based on the performance of the procedures described above, we identified various findings and recommendations for the City. Our findings and recommendations are described in the Detailed Findings and Recommendations section of this report. Unless reported in the Detailed Findings and Recommendations, no exceptions were noted during the performance of the specific procedures listed above.

We were engaged by the City of Murray's management to perform this agreed-upon procedures engagement and conducted our engagement 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. We were not engaged to and did not conduct an examination or review engagement, 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.

To the Honorable Mayor
and Members of the City Council

We are required to be independent of the City of Murray and to meet our other ethical responsibilities, in accordance with the relevant ethical requirements related to our agreed-upon procedures engagement.

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

Granevold, Bell, Kuhn & Co. P.C.

Atlantic, Iowa
October 24, 2024

DETAILED FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

CITY OF MURRAY, IOWA

Detailed Findings and Recommendations

For the period July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2024

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

- (1) Cash - handling, reconciling and recording.
- (2) Investments - investing, recordkeeping, custody and reconciling earnings.
- (3) Receipts - opening mail, collecting, depositing, recording, reconciling and posting.
- (4) Long-term debt - recordkeeping, compliance and debt payment processing.
- (5) Disbursements - purchasing, invoice processing, check writing, mailing, reconciling and recording.
- (6) Payroll - entering rates in the system, recordkeeping, preparing and distributing.
- (7) Utilities - entering rates in the system, billing, collecting, depositing, posting and maintaining accounts receivable.
- (8) Financial reporting - preparing and reconciling.
- (9) Journal entries - preparing and recording.

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

(B) Financial Condition - At June 30, 2024 the City's Capital Projects - Murray Rec Complex Fund and Debt Service Fund had deficit balances of \$(59,304) and \$(7,424), respectively. In order to eliminate the deficit in the Capital Projects - Murray Rec Complex Fund the City has entered into an agreement with the Murray Recreation Board whereby the Murray Recreation Board agreed to provide the City of Murray 35% of its concession stand profits until the deficit balance is eliminated. Also, the deficit balance in the Debt Service Fund was due to an overpayment during fiscal year ended June 30, 2024. This deficit balance will be eliminated with future debt service property tax receipts.

Recommendation - The City's actions to eliminate these deficits appear adequate in order to return these funds to a sound financial condition.

(C) Financial Reporting - Intergovernmental grant proceeds of \$50,000 were incorrectly recorded as miscellaneous receipts rather than intergovernmental receipts. Also, general obligation note proceeds of \$325,000 were incorrectly recorded as miscellaneous receipts rather than other financing sources.

Recommendation - The City should implement procedures to ensure receipts are properly recorded in accordance with the COA.

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