

COMMUNICATION WITH THOSE CHARGED WITH GOVERNANCE

Honorable Mayor and City Council
City of Alachua, Florida

We have audited the financial statements of the governmental activities, the business-type activities, each major fund, and the aggregate remaining fund information of the City of Alachua, Florida, (the City), for the year ended September 30, 2017. Professional standards require that we provide you with information about our responsibilities under generally accepted auditing standards and *Government Auditing Standards*, as well as certain information related to the planned scope and timing of our audit. We have communicated such information in our letter to you dated August 7, 2017. Professional standards also require that we communicate to you the following information related to our audit:

Qualitative Aspects of Accounting Practices

Accounting Policies

Management is responsible for the selection and use of appropriate accounting policies. The significant accounting policies used by the City are described in Note 1 to the financial statements.

We noted no transactions entered into by the City during the year for which there is a lack of authoritative guidance or consensus. All significant transactions have been recognized in the financial statements in the proper period.

Accounting Estimates

Accounting estimates are an integral part of the financial statements prepared by management and are based on management's knowledge and experience about past and current events and assumptions about future events. Certain accounting estimates are particularly sensitive because of their significance to the financial statements and because of the possibility that future events affecting them may differ significantly from those expected. The most sensitive estimates affecting the financial statements were:

- **Accumulated Depreciation and Depreciation Expense**

Management estimates accumulated depreciation and depreciation expense for capital assets using the straight-line method of depreciation and by determining estimated useful lives based on the classes of depreciable property described in the notes to the financial statements.

- **Unbilled Revenue Receivable and Revenues**

Management's estimate of the unbilled revenue receivable on the statement of net position consists of actual cycle billings that are billed subsequent to year-end for consumption prior to September 30, 2017, multiplied by the average percentage of the cycle bills applicable to fiscal year 2017.

- **Cost of Roads and Right-of-ways**

Management's estimate of the cost of roads and related right-of-ways is based on historical costs and an analysis of peer group cost estimates.

Certified Public Accountants

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Qualitative Aspects of Accounting Practices (*Concluded*)

Accounting Estimates (Concluded)

■ **Other Postemployment Benefit Obligations (OPEB)**

As described in Note 14 to the financial statements, management's estimate of the net OPEB obligation is based upon actuarial methods and assumptions, which are selected based on risk and market factors affecting governmental entities of similar sizes and employee census information.

■ **Net Pension Liability, Pension Related Deferred Outflows and Inflows of Resources, and Pension Expense**

The City's share of the net pension liability, deferred outflows, deferred inflows, and pension expense of the Florida Retirement System's Pension and Health Insurance Subsidy plans are estimates based on actuarial studies performed by a qualified actuary retained by the Florida Division of Retirement.

We evaluated the key factors and assumptions used to develop these estimates in determining that they are reasonable in relation to the financial statements taken as a whole.

The financial statement disclosures are neutral, consistent, and clear.

Difficulties Encountered in Performing the Audit

We encountered no significant difficulties in dealing with management in performing and completing our audit.

Corrected and Uncorrected Misstatements

Professional standards require us to accumulate all known and likely misstatements identified during the audit, other than those that are trivial, and communicate them to the appropriate level of management. Management has corrected all such misstatements. In addition, none of the misstatements detected as a result of audit procedures and corrected by management were material, either individually or in the aggregate, to each opinion unit's financial statements taken as a whole.

Disagreements with Management

For purposes of this letter, a disagreement with management is a financial accounting, reporting, or auditing matter, whether or not resolved to our satisfaction, that could be significant to the financial statements or the auditors' report. We are pleased to report that no such disagreements arose during the course of our audit.

Management Representations

We have requested certain representations from management that are included in the management representation letter dated March 30, 2018.

Management Consultations with Other Independent Accountants

In some cases, management may decide to consult with other accountants about auditing and accounting matters, similar to obtaining a "second opinion" on certain situations. If a consultation involves application of an accounting principle to the City's financial statements or a determination of the type of auditors' opinion that may be expressed on those statements, our professional standards require the consulting accountant to check with us to determine that the consultant has all the relevant facts. To our knowledge, there were no such consultations with other accountants.

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Other Audit Findings or Issues

We generally discuss a variety of matters, including the application of accounting principles and auditing standards, with management each year prior to retention as the governmental unit's auditors. However, these discussions occurred in the normal course of our professional relationship and our responses were not a condition to our retention.

Other Matters

We applied certain limited procedures on the required supplementary information (RSI) that supplements the basic financial statements. Our procedures consisted of inquiries of management regarding the methods of preparing the information and comparing the information for consistency with management's responses to our inquiries, the basic financial statements, and other knowledge we obtained during our audit of the basic financial statements. We did not audit the RSI and do not express an opinion or provide any assurance on the RSI.

We were engaged to report on the supplementary information, which accompany the financial statements but are not RSI. With respect to this supplementary information, we made certain inquiries of management and evaluated the form, content, and methods of preparing the information to determine that the information complies with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America, the method of preparing it has not changed from the prior period, and the information is appropriate and complete in relation to our audit of the financial statements. We compared and reconciled the supplementary information to the underlying accounting records used to prepare the financial statements or to the financial statements themselves.

We were not engaged to report on the introductory section and statistical section, which accompany the financial statements but are not RSI. We did not audit or perform other procedures on this other information and we do not express an opinion or provide any assurance on it.

Restriction on Use

This information is intended solely for the use of the City Council and management of the City and is not intended to be and should not be used by anyone other than these specified parties.

Purvis, Gray and Company, LLP

March 30, 2018
Gainesville, Florida