

City of Nolanville, Texas

Financial Policies

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Policies 1.-17. presented to City Council, October 6, 2011

Financial Policies and Procedures

1. Financials

A. Bank Depository

The City shall maintain funds in a Bank, designated as its depository for banking services. The initial selection of this depository was done by the City Council vote on _____ and will be reviewed thereafter every three years unless circumstances deem otherwise.

B. Accounts Payable

Four (4) individuals are authorized to sign checks written on the bank depository account: Mayor, City Manager, Assistant City Manager and City Treasurer. All checks greater than \$5,000 require two authorized signatures. No exceptions. Checks less than \$5,000 not signed by the City Manager or Assistant City Manager must be signed by two authorized signers, Mayor and City Treasurer.

C. Accounting

The Treasurer as the City's Chief Financial Officer will be responsible for establishing the structure for the City Chart of Accounts and for assuring that procedures are in place to properly record financial transactions and report the City's financial position. The Treasurer shall provide financial reports to the City Manager monthly.

D. Audit of Accounts

An independent audit of the City accounts will be performed annually. The Auditor is retained by and is accountable directly to the City Council.

2. Fiscal and Budgetary Policy

A. Purpose

The City of Nolanville is committed to financial management through integrity, prudent stewardship, planning, accountability, full disclosure and communication. The broad purpose of the Fiscal and Budgetary Policies is to enable the City to achieve and maintain a long-term stable and positive financial condition, and provide guidelines for the day-to-day planning and operations of the City's financial affairs.

Policy scope generally spans areas of accounting and financial reporting, internal controls, operating budget, revenue management, investment and asset management, debt management and forecasting. This is done in order to:

1. Fairly present and fully disclose the financial position of the City in conformity to generally accepted accounting principles (GAAP) and
2. Demonstrate compliance with finance-related legal and contractual issues in accordance with the Texas Local Government Code and other legal mandates.

3. Operating Budget

A. Budgeting is an essential element of the financial planning, control and evaluation process of municipal government. The "operating budget" is the City's annual financial operating plan. It provides for the payment of expenses incurred as the government works towards its annual goals and the ongoing pursuit of protecting the citizenry, promoting and protecting public health and welfare, and ensuring statutory requirements are followed.

1. Preparation: The budget is developed by staff and elected officials with assistance from the City Treasurer under the responsibility of the City Manager as budget officer.
2. Review: Preliminary budget is submitted for initial review NLT 45 days prior to end of fiscal year. At least two Public Hearings will be held prior to adoption.
3. Adoption: The Final Budget is placed on the agenda for adoption during the last month of the fiscal year (September).

B. **Balanced Budget:** The goal of the City is to balance the operating budget with current revenues, whereby current revenues would match and fund on-going expenditures. Any excess balances in the operating funds from previous years would be maintained for contingencies or as general reserves.

C. **Planning:** The budget process will be coordinated so that the major policy issues are identified prior to budget approval date. This will allow adequate time for consideration of appropriate decisions and analysis of financial impacts.

D. Reporting: Summary financial reports will be submitted to the Board on a monthly basis to maintain on-going understanding of current expenditures and income status.

E. Contingency Appropriations: The budget may include contingency appropriations within designated operating lines. These funds are used to offset unexpected maintenance or other expenses. Every effort will be made to minimize the need for contingency funds usage.

4. Revenue Management

A. Types: The city receives revenue from the following sources:

1. Property Taxes. Collected by the Bell County Tax Appraisal District and transmitted to the city via automatic bank drafts as collected.
2. Sales and Use Taxes. Collected by the State Comptroller and transmitted monthly or quarterly to the city vial automatic bank drafts.
3. Franchise Fees. The city, by ordinance, has levied fees on certain services being provided to city residents by vendors operating within the city. These fees are paid directly from the vendor to the city on a recurring schedule, normally quarterly.
4. Permit and License Fees: The city assesses fees by ordinance on many services provided by the city and fees for permitting specific functions within the city. These fees are collected by the city and deposited in the cities bank depository.
5. Investment Income. The city makes investments of money not needed for current expenditures. These investments will earn interest and it will be deposited in the bank depository or maintained in the investment account until needed by the city for expenditures.

B. Recording. The treasurer is responsible for recording the revenues received by the city in the books of accounts in a timely manner.

C. Scheduling. The treasurer shall maintain a schedule of all anticipated revenues to insure funds are received when expected.

5. Expenditure Policies

A. Budget Amendments: The Board may authorize with a majority vote, emergency expenditures as an amendment to the original budget.

B. Prompt Payment: All invoices will be approved for payment by Department heads or Mayor, depending on the purchase criteria, and paid within the established terms of the vendor. The treasurer shall make all effort to receive any prompt payment discount.

6. Asset Management

A. Cash Management and Investments: The Council formally approved a separate Investment Policy that complies with the requirements of the Public Funds Investment Act (PFIA) section 2256 of the Texas Local Government Code. This policy is reviewed annually by the City Council and applies to all financial assets held by the City:

1. Statement of Cash Management Philosophy: The City shall maintain a comprehensive cash management program to include the effective collection of all accounts receivable, the prompt deposit of receipts to the City's depository, the payment of obligations, and the prudent investment of idle funds.

2. Objectives: The City's investment program will be conducted to accomplish the following listed in priority order.

- a. Safety of the principal invested.
- b. Liquidity and availability of cash to pay obligations when due.
- c. Receive the highest possible rate of return (yield) consistent with the City's Investment Policy

3. Safekeeping and Custody: Investments may only be purchased through broker/dealers who meet the criteria detailed in the investment policy, which also addresses internal controls related to investments.

B. Fixed Assets: These assets will be reasonably safeguarded and properly accounted for, and prudently insured. See capitalization policy.

7. Debt Management

The City recognizes the primary purpose of capital facilities is to provide services to the community. Any need for financing other than what can be serviced by the City Depository will be considered through usage of:

- a. Grants
- b. Use of Reserve Funds
- c. Use of Current Funds
- d. Short Term Loans
- e. Long Term Bonds

8. Financial Reserves

The City of Nolanville will maintain budgeted minimum reserves in the ending working capital fund balances to provide a secure, healthy financial base for the City in the event of a natural disaster or other emergency, allow stability of City operations should revenues fall short of budgeted projections and provide available resources to implement budgeted expenditures without regard to actual timing of cash flow into the City.

Operating Reserves: The City will maintain reserves in the general fund at a minimum of \$250,000.00.

9. Internal Controls

Whenever possible, written procedures will be established and maintained by the Treasurer for all functions involving cash handling and/or accounting throughout the City. These procedures will embrace the general concepts of fiscal responsibility set forth in this policy statement.

10. Petty Cash Procedures

The City Secretary may keep a petty cash fund amount of \$100.00 in a lockable money box/cash register during operating hours and a lockable file cabinet after hours. The City Secretary shall be responsible for the petty cash. Only the City Secretary is authorized to exchange money from the box/register.

Receipts for all petty cash transactions shall be held in the money box until receipts are tallied, recorded and charged to the appropriate accounts. A check made payable to "Cash" will be written in the amount tallied by the receipts. The City Secretary will be responsible for cashing that check to replenish the petty cash fund balance.

Random audits of the petty cash box shall be made by the City Treasurer or Mayor in the presence of the City Secretary.

The Petty Cash Fund shall not be used to cash checks for any persons.

11. Fixed Asset Capitalization Policy

The following criteria will be utilized by the City of Nolanville:

- The asset must be owned by the City of Nolanville,
- The expected useful life of the asset must be longer than one year, or extend the life of an identifiable existing asset by more than one year,
- The original cost of the asset must be at least \$2,500,
- The asset must be tangible,
- On-going repairs and general maintenance are not capitalized.

New Purchases - All costs associated with bringing the asset into working order will be capitalized as part of the asset cost. This will include start up costs, engineering or consultant type fees as part of the asset cost once the decision or commitment to purchase the asset is made.

Improvements and Replacement – Improvements will be capitalized when they extend the original life of an asset or when they make the asset more valuable than it was originally. The replacement of assets components will normally be expensed unless they are a significant nature and meet all the capitalization criteria.

Inventory – A permanent record will be maintained of the City's fixed assets, including description, cost, and date of acquisition.

Recording - All capital assets will be recorded in the General Fixed Assets Account Group in the city's books of accounts.

12. Accepting Personal Checks

The City of Nolanville will accept personal and company checks from both residents and non-residents of Nolanville. When accepting a check, the following actions must be accomplished:

- a. Check must be made out to the “City of Nolanville”.
- b. Check must be dated the date of issuance, (no post dated checks).
- c. The maker of the check must provide a government issued photo ID stating name, birth date, driver’s license number, social security number, or other identifying number.
- d. The acceptor of the check shall write the identifying number on the check.
- e. The check may not be written for more than the invoiced amount.

13. Returned Checks

When a check has been returned by the bank to the City stamped “Non-Sufficient Funds”, the City Secretary will add a \$25.00 fee to the amount owed and notify the check writer by certified mail of the status of the check and inform the check writer that the money owed will have to be paid by cash, money order, or cashier’s check within ten (10) days of the date of the notification letter. If the money owed is not received within ten days, the check shall be submitted to the Bell County Sheriff’s office Hot Check Department for criminal prosecution.

When a check has been returned by the bank to the City stamped “Account Closed”, the City Secretary will add a \$25.00 fee to the amount owed and notify the check writer by certified mail of the status of the check and inform the check writer that the money owed will have to be paid by cash, money order, or cashier’s check within ten (10) days of the date of the notification letter. If the money owed is not received within ten days, the check shall be submitted to the Bell County Sheriff’s office Hot Check Department for criminal prosecution.

14. Outstanding Checks

A check written by the City shall be valid for a period of ninety (90) days. If a check has not cleared the bank in sixty (60) days, the Treasurer shall try to ascertain why the check has not been paid. If it is determined that the payee did not receive the check, the City will wait an additional thirty (30) days, then issue a stop payment order and issue a new check to the payee.

15. Bank Card (Credit/Debit) Policy

Bank cards may be used to satisfy court obligations, payment for fines, court costs, etc. A convenience fee based on a schedule provided by the credit card service provider will be added to the obligation. The fee will be added to the individual charge by the provider.

Bank cards may not be used for payment of other city fees, licenses, permits etc. Those payments may only be made using cash, check, or money orders.

16. Purchasing Policy

All purchases made and paid for by City funds are to be used for City purposes only.

Department Heads are authorized to initiate and/or approve purchases for their department as needed according to the following criteria: and, as directed by the following.

A. Purchases less than \$500: (commonly used items for daily operations)

These purchases shall be made utilizing a purchase order approved by the department head. Vendor invoices, tickets, sales slips, etc, notation of item receipt will be submitted to the treasurer for payment.

B. Purchases greater than \$500 and less than \$5,000:

If item or supplies have been budgeted, purchase may be made utilizing a purchase order approved by the City Manager or Assistant City Manager. If item or supplies have not been budgeted, department head must submit the purchase order to the City Manager or Assistant City Manager for approval and possible budget amendment. Vendor invoices, tickets, sales slips, etc, notation of item receipt will be submitted to the treasurer for payment.

C. Purchases \$5,000 or more:

All purchases greater than \$5,000 must be approved by the City Council. See paragraph 17 below for required pricing information. Purchases for supplies and/or services from vendors on an annual basis that exceed \$5,000 shall be approved in advance, at least annually, by the City Council. Examples of these types of actions are: Electricity charges, Health Plans, Insurance charges, Legal Counsel, Judge Expenses, Auditor, etc. Vendor invoices, tickets, sales slips, etc, notation of item receipt will be submitted to the treasurer for payment.

17. Price Quotations

If the anticipated expenditure exceeds \$5,000, the purchase shall not be made until price quotations have been obtained from at least three (3) suppliers. If the goods or services are not available from as many as three (3) suppliers, price quotations shall be obtained from the available suppliers. "No Bid" is considered to be a price quotation.

Prices may be obtained either in writing or by telephone.

Quotations shall be received for goods and services of comparable quality.

The purchase shall be made from the supplier quoting the lowest price unless cause can be shown as to reason to accept a higher bid.

PASSED & APPROVED this, the 2nd day of October, 2014 by vote of 5 (ayes) 0 (nays) to 0 (abstentions) of the City Council of Nolanville, Texas.

CITY OF NOLANVILLE:

ATTEST:

Christina Rosenthal., **Mayor**

Crystal Briggs, **City Secretary**