



# City of Saginaw

## City of Saginaw

**Meeting Date:** 01/19/2016

**Staff Contact:** Dolph Johnson  
Asst. City Manager

**Agenda Item:** 6  
(CC-0116-08)

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**SUBJECT:** Consideration and Action for Weaver and Tidwell, LLP to perform the 2015-2016 Fiscal Year Audit

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**BACKGROUND/DISCUSSION:**

Each year the Council must appoint a firm to perform the annual fiscal year audit. For the past several years, Weaver and Tidwell, LLP has performed the City's audit. A letter regarding the audit services is included in the attached.

**FINANCIAL IMPACT:**

N/A

**RECOMMENDATION:**

Staff recommends approval of Weaver and Tidwell, LLP to perform the 2015-2016 fiscal year audit.

Attachments

Engagement Letter from Weaver and Tidwell, LLP



January 12, 2016

Mr. Gary Brinkley, Mayor  
City of Saginaw, Texas  
333 W. McLeroy  
Saginaw, Texas 76179

Dear Mr. Brinkley:

You have requested that we audit the financial statements of the governmental activities, the business-type activities, each major fund, and the aggregate remaining fund information of the City of Saginaw, Texas (the City), as of September 30, 2016, and for the year then ended and the related notes to the basic financial statements, which collectively comprise the City's basic financial statements as listed in the table of contents. We are pleased to confirm our acceptance and our understanding of this audit engagement by means of this letter.

Accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America require that management's discussion and analysis and budgetary comparison information, among other items, be presented to supplement the basic financial statements. Such information, although not a part of the basic financial statements, is required by the Governmental Accounting Standards Board, who considers it to be an essential part of financial reporting for placing the basic financial statements in an appropriate operational, economic, or historical context. As part of our engagement, we will apply certain limited procedures to the required supplementary information (RSI) in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America. These limited procedures will consist primarily of inquiries of management regarding their methods of measurement and presentation, and comparing the information for consistency with management's responses to our inquiries. We will not express an opinion or provide any form of assurance on the RSI. The following RSI is required by accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. This RSI will be subjected to certain limited procedures but will not be audited:

1. Management's Discussion and Analysis
2. Schedule of Changes in Net Pension Liability and Related Ratios
3. Schedule of Contributions
4. Schedule of Revenues, Expenditures and Changes in Fund Balance – Budget and Actual – General Fund

Supplementary information other than RSI will accompany the City's basic financial statements. We will subject the following supplementary information to the auditing procedures applied in our audit of the basic financial statements and perform certain additional procedures, including comparing and reconciling the supplementary information to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the financial statements or to the financial statements themselves,

and additional procedures in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America. We intend to provide an opinion on the following supplementary information in relation to the financial statements as a whole:

1. Combining and Individual Fund Statements and Schedules

Also, the document we submit to you will include the following other additional information that will not be subjected to the auditing procedures applied in our audit of the financial statements:

1. Introductory Section
2. Statistical Section

### **Audit Objectives**

The objective of our audit is the expression of opinions as to whether your basic financial statements are fairly presented, in all material aspects, in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles and to report on the fairness of the supplementary information referred to above when considered in relation to the financial statements as a whole. We cannot provide assurance that an unmodified opinion will be expressed. Circumstances may arise in which it is necessary for us to modify our opinions, add emphasis-of-matter, or other-matter paragraphs. If our opinions on the financial statements are other than modified, we will discuss the reasons with you in advance. If, for any reason, we are unable to complete the audit or are unable to form or have not formed opinions, we may decline to express opinions or withdraw from this engagement.

### **Auditor Responsibilities**

We will conduct our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America (U.S. GAAS). Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the basic financial statements are free from material misstatement. An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgment, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to error, fraudulent financial reporting, misappropriation of assets, or violations of laws, governmental regulations, grant agreements, or contractual agreements. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial statements.

Because of the inherent limitations of an audit, together with the inherent limitations of internal control, an unavoidable risk that some material misstatements may not be detected exists, even though the audit is properly planned and performed in accordance with U.S. GAAS. In addition, an audit is not designed to detect immaterial misstatements or violations of laws or governmental regulations that do not have a direct and material effect on the financial statements. However, we will inform the appropriate level of management of any material errors, fraudulent financial reporting, or misappropriation of assets that comes to our attention. We will also inform the appropriate level of management of any violations of laws or governmental regulations that come to our attention, unless clearly inconsequential. Our responsibility as auditors is limited to the period covered by our audit and does not extend to any later periods for which we are not engaged as auditors.

In making our risk assessments, we consider internal control relevant to the City's preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the City's internal control. However, we will communicate to you in writing concerning any significant deficiencies or material weaknesses in internal control relevant to the audit of the financial statements that we have identified during the audit.

As part of obtaining reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement, we will perform tests of the City's compliance with the provisions of applicable laws, regulations, contracts, and agreements. However, the objective of our audit will not be to provide an opinion on overall compliance and we will not express such an opinion.

We may from time to time, and depending on the circumstances, use third-party service providers in serving your account. We may share confidential information about you with these service providers, but remain committed to maintaining the confidentiality and security of your information. Accordingly, we maintain internal policies, procedures, and safeguards to protect the confidentiality of your personal information. In addition, we will secure confidentiality agreements with all service providers to maintain the confidentiality of your information and we will take reasonable precautions to determine that they have appropriate procedures in place to prevent the unauthorized release of your confidential information to others. In the event that we are unable to secure an appropriate confidentiality agreement, you will be asked to provide your consent prior to the sharing of your confidential information with the third-party service provider. Furthermore, we will remain responsible for the work provided by any such third-party service provider.

### **Management Responsibilities**

Our audit will be conducted on the basis that management acknowledge and understand that they have responsibility:

- a. For the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America;
- b. For the design, implementation, and maintenance of internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to error, fraudulent financial reporting, misappropriation of assets, or violations of laws, governmental regulations, grant agreements, or contractual agreements; and
- c. To provide us with:
  - i. Access to all information of which management is aware that is relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements such as records, documentation, and other matters;
  - ii. Additional information that we may request from management for the purpose of the audit; and
  - iii. Unrestricted access to persons within the City from whom we determine it necessary to obtain audit evidence.
- d. For including the auditor's report in any document containing financial statements that indicates that such financial statements have been audited by the City's auditor;
- e. For identifying and ensuring that the City complies with the laws and regulations applicable to its activities; and
- f. For adjusting the financial statements to correct material misstatements and confirming to us in the management representation letter that the effects of any uncorrected misstatements aggregated by us during the current engagement and pertaining to the current year under audit are immaterial, both individually and in the aggregate, to the financial statements as a whole; and
- g. With respect to any nonaudit/nonattest services we perform, including the preparation of financial statements, for (a) making all management decisions and performing all management functions; (b) assigning an individual with suitable skills, knowledge, and experience to oversee the services; (c) evaluating the adequacy of the services performed; (d) evaluating and accepting responsibility for the results of the services performed; and (e) establishing and maintaining internal controls, including monitoring ongoing activities.
- h. With regard to the supplementary information referred to above: (a) for the preparation of the supplementary information in accordance with the applicable criteria; (b) to provide us with the appropriate written representations regarding supplementary information; (c)

to include our report on the supplementary information in any document that contains the supplementary information and that indicates that we have reported on such supplementary information; and (d) to present the supplementary information with the audited consolidated financial statements, or if the supplementary information will not be presented with the audited consolidated financial statements, to make the audited financial statements readily available to the intended users of the supplementary information no later than the date of issuance by you of the supplementary information and our report thereon.

During the course of our engagement, we will request information and explanations from management regarding the City's operations, internal controls, future plans, specific transactions and accounting systems and procedures. At the conclusion of our engagement, we will require, as a precondition to the issuance of our report, that management provide certain representations in a written representation letter. The City agrees that as a condition of our engagement to perform an audit that management will, to the best of its knowledge and belief, be truthful, accurate and complete in all representations made to us during the course of the audit and in the written representation letter. The procedures we perform in our engagement and the conclusions we reach as a basis for our report will be heavily influenced by the written and oral representations that we receive from management. False or misleading representations could cause us to expend unnecessary efforts in the audit; or, worse, could cause a material error or a fraud to go undetected by our procedures. Thus, the City agrees that we will not be liable for any damages or otherwise responsible for any misstatements in the City's financial statements that we may fail to detect as a result of false or misleading representations that are made to us by management. Moreover, the City agrees to indemnify and hold us harmless from any claims and liabilities, including reasonable attorneys' fees, expert fees and costs of investigation and defense, arising out of or related to this engagement if false or misleading representations are made to us by any member of the City's management.

### **Reporting**

We will issue a written report upon completion of our audit of the City's basic financial statements. Our report will be addressed to the governing body of the City.

### **Other**

We understand that your employees will prepare all confirmations we request and will locate any documents or invoices selected by us for testing.

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In the unlikely event that circumstances occur which we in our sole discretion believe could create a conflict with either the ethical standards of our firm or the ethical standards of our profession in continuing our engagement, we may suspend our services until a satisfactory resolution can be achieved or we may resign from the engagement. We will notify you of such conflict as soon as practicable, and will discuss with you any possible means of resolving them prior to suspending our services.

Both of us agree that any dispute between you and Weaver and Tidwell, L.L.P., arising from the engagement, this agreement, or the breach of it, may, if negotiations and other discussion fail be first submitted to mediation in accordance with the provisions of the Commercial Mediation Rules of the American Arbitration Association (AAA) then in effect. Both of us agree to conduct any mediation in good faith and make reasonable efforts to resolve any dispute by mediation. Mediation is not a pre-condition to the arbitration provided for below and the failure or refusal by either party to request or participate in mediation shall not preclude the right of either party to initiate arbitration. We agree to conduct the mediation in Dallas, Texas or another mutually agreed upon location.

Both of us agree that any dispute arising from the engagement, this agreement or the breach of it shall be subject to binding arbitration under the provisions of the Federal Arbitration Act (9 U.S.C. § 1, et seq.) and of the Dispute Resolution Rules for Professional Accounting and Related Services Disputes of the AAA (the Rules), and judgment on the award rendered by the arbitrator may be entered in any court of competent jurisdiction. The arbitration shall be heard before one or more arbitrators selected in accordance with the Rules. The parties agree to conduct the arbitration in Dallas, Texas or another mutually agreed upon location. The arbitrator may only award direct damages and may not award consequential, exemplary, or punitive damages. The prevailing party in any arbitration or litigation shall be entitled to recover from the other party reasonable attorneys' and expert witness fees, court costs, and the administrative costs, arbitrator's fees, and expenses of the AAA incurred in the arbitration or litigation in addition to any other relief that may be awarded.

Notwithstanding the provisions of the immediately preceding paragraph, neither of us shall be compelled to arbitrate any dispute between us which arises out of any claim asserted against either of us by a third party, unless the third party (whether one or more) agrees to join the arbitration or can be compelled to join it.

If any term of this engagement letter is declared illegal, unenforceable, or unconscionable, that term shall be severed and the remaining terms of the engagement letter shall remain in force. Both of us agree that the arbitrator(s) or Court, as the case may be, should modify any term declared to be illegal, unenforceable, or unconscionable in a manner that will retain the intended term as closely as possible.

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If a dispute arising from the engagement or from this agreement or any term of it or any alleged breach of it is submitted to a Court for interpretation or adjudication, both of us irrevocably waive right to trial by jury and agree that the provisions of this engagement letter regarding damages, attorneys' fees, and expenses shall be applied and enforced by the Court.

If you intend to publish or otherwise reproduce the financial statements and make reference to our firm, you agree to provide us with printers' proofs or masters for our review and approval before printing. You also agree to provide us with a copy of the final reproduced material for our approval before it is distributed.

During the course of the engagement, we may communicate with you or your personnel via fax or e-mail, and you should be aware that communication in those mediums contains a risk of misdirected or intercepted communications.

Mr. Robert Loritz is the engagement partner for the audit services specified in this letter. His responsibilities include supervising our services performed as part of this engagement and signing or authorizing another qualified firm representative to sign the audit report.

Our fees are based on the time required by the individuals assigned to the engagement, plus direct expenses. Individual hourly rates vary according to the degree of responsibility involved and the skill required. If we anticipate that our fees will exceed our agreed amount due to conditions beyond our control, we will notify you of the expected increase and arrive at a new fee estimate. Our invoices for these fees will be rendered each month as work progresses and are payable on presentation. For bills not paid within 60 days of the billing date, a late charge will be added to the outstanding balance. The late charge will be assessed at .5% on the unpaid balance per month.

During the course of the audit we may observe opportunities for economy in, or improved controls over, your operations. We will bring such matters to the attention of the appropriate level of management, either orally or in writing.

The audit documentation for this engagement is the property of Weaver and Tidwell, L.L.P. and constitutes confidential information. However, we may be requested to make certain audit documentation available to regulators or other outside parties pursuant to authority given to it by law or regulation, or to peer reviewers. If requested, access to such audit documentation will be provided under the supervision of Weaver and Tidwell, L.L.P.'s personnel. Furthermore, upon request, we may provide copies of selected audit documentation to regulators or other outside parties. The regulators or other outside parties may intend, or decide, to distribute the copies of information contained therein to others, including other governmental agencies.

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We agree to retain our audit documentation or work papers for a period of at least five years from the date of our report.

Please sign and return the attached copy of this letter to indicate your acknowledgment of, and agreement with, the arrangements for our audit of the financial statements including our respective responsibilities.

We appreciate the opportunity to be your financial statement auditors and look forward to working with you and your staff.

Yours truly,

*Weaver and Tidwell, L.L.P.*  
WEAVER AND TIDWELL, L.L.P.

RJL:res

RESPONSE:

This letter correctly sets forth the understanding.

Acknowledged and agreed on behalf of the City of Saginaw by:

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_