

Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

The City of Cleveland, Tennessee was incorporated in 1903 under the provisions of Chapter 307 of The Acts of 1903. The City operates under the Council-Manager form of government as authorized under Chapter 78 of the Private Acts of 1993 and amended by Chapter 165 of the Private Acts of 1994 as it relates to the operation of the school system. The City provides the following services as authorized by its charter: health, public safety, welfare and general government services.

The following is a summary of significant policies:

A. Reporting Entity

The financial statements of the City of Cleveland include those of separately administered organizations that have a significant operational or financial relationship with the City.

Based on the foregoing criteria, the financial statements of the following organizations are included in the accompanying financial statements as part of the primary government:

Cleveland Board of Education

The Board of Education consists of seven members. Members are elected to four-year terms. The Council levies taxes for the Board's operations and issues debt for its capital projects. The financial position and results of operations of the Board of Education are reported in the School Fund, School Federal Projects Fund, and School Food Services Fund as governmental fund types, and included as part of the primary government due to the fact that it is not considered to be legally separate.

Cleveland Board of Public Utilities

The Board of Public Utilities consists of five members appointed by the City Council. The City Council has authority over the Board, prescribes the rules and regulations to which the Board must comply, and must approve their budget and proposed changes in rates. The financial position and results of operations of the Board of Public Utilities are presented in the Cleveland Utilities Water Division and Cleveland Utilities Electric Division in the Enterprise Fund section. The activities of the Board of Public Utilities are includable as part of the primary government due to the fact that it is not considered to be legally separate.

Cleveland/Bradley Public Library

The Cleveland/Bradley Public Library Board consists of seven members appointed by the City Council and the County Commission. The Board is fiscally dependent upon the City because the City Council approves the Library's budget and issues debt for its capital projects. The financial position and results of operation of the Cleveland Public Library Board are reported in the Library Fund as a governmental fund type and includable as part of the primary government due to the fact that it is not considered to be legally separate.

B. Government-wide and Fund Financial Statements

Government-wide Statements – The statement of net assets and the statement of activities display information about the primary government. These statements include the financial activities of the overall government. Eliminations have been made to minimize the double-counting of internal activities. These statements distinguish between the governmental and business-type activities of the City. Governmental activities generally are financed through taxes, intergovernmental revenues, and other non-exchange transactions. Business-type activities are financed in whole or in part by fees charged to external parties.

The statement of activities presents a comparison between direct expenses and program revenues for the different business-type activities of the City and for each function of the City's governmental activities. Direct expenses are those that are specifically associated with a program or function and, therefore, are clearly identifiable to a particular function. Program revenues include (a) fees, fines, and charges paid by the recipients of goods or services offered by the programs and (b) grants and contributions that are restricted to meeting the operational or capital requirements of a particular program. Revenues that are not classified as program revenue, including all taxes, are presented as general revenue.

Fund Financial Statements – The fund financial statements provide information about the City's funds, including its governmental funds and proprietary funds. Separate statements for each fund category are presented. The emphasis of fund financial statements is on major governmental and enterprise funds, each displayed in a separate column. All remaining governmental and enterprise funds are aggregated and reported as non-major funds.

Proprietary fund operating revenues, such as charges for services, result from exchange transactions associated with the principal activity of the fund. Exchange transactions are those in which each party receives and gives up essentially equal values. Non-operating revenues, such as subsidies and investment earnings, result from non-exchange transactions or ancillary activities.

The City reports the following major governmental funds:

General Fund. This is the City's primary operating fund. It accounts for all financial resources of the general government, except those required to be accounted for in another fund.

School Fund. This fund is used to account for the revenues and expenditures of the City of Cleveland Public School System.

The City reports the following major enterprise funds:

Cleveland Utilities Water Division. This fund is used to account for the provision of water and wastewater services to the residents of the City. All activities necessary to provide such services are accounted for in this fund, including, but not limited to, administration, operations, maintenance, financing, billing and collection.

Cleveland Utilities Electric Division. This fund is used to account for the provision of electric service to the residents of the City. All activities necessary to provide such services are accounted for in this fund, but not limited to, administration, operation, maintenance, financing, billing and collection.

Additionally, the government reports the following fund type:

Internal Service Fund. This fund is used to account for the maintenance of all vehicles owned by the City of Cleveland and various other government agencies.

C. Measurement focus, Basis of Accounting

The government-wide financial statements are reported using the economic resources measurement focus and the accrual basis of accounting, as are the proprietary fund financial statements. Revenues are recorded when earned and expenses are recorded when a liability is incurred, regardless of the timing of related cash flows. Property taxes are recognized as revenue in the year for which they are levied. Grants and similar items are recognized as revenue as soon as all eligibility requirements imposed by the provider have been met.

Governmental fund financial statements are reported using the current financial resources measurement focus and the modified accrual basis of accounting. Revenues are recognized as soon as they are both measurable and available. Revenues are considered to be available when they are collectible within the current period or soon enough thereafter to pay liabilities of the current period. The City considers all revenues reported in the governmental funds to be available if the revenues are collected within sixty days after year-end. Property taxes, sales taxes, franchise taxes, gasoline taxes, wholesale beer taxes, income taxes, mixed drink taxes and in-lieu of taxes are susceptible to accrual. Licenses and permits, fines and forfeitures, gross receipts taxes and excise taxes are recorded as revenue

when received in cash because they are generally not measurable until actually received. Expenditures are recorded when the related fund liability is incurred, except for principal and interest on general long-term debt, claims and judgements, and compensated absences, which are recorded only when payment is due. General capital asset acquisitions are reported as expenditures in governmental funds. Proceeds of general long-term debt and acquisitions under capital leases are reported as other financing sources.

Proprietary funds distinguish operating revenues and expenses from non-operating items. Operating revenues and expenses generally result from providing services and producing and delivering goods in connection with the proprietary fund's principal ongoing operation. The principal operating revenues of the City's enterprise funds and internal service fund are charges to customers for sales and services. Cleveland Utilities – Water Division also recognizes as operating revenue the portion of the tap fees intended to recover the cost of connecting new customers to the system. Operating expenses for enterprise funds and the internal service fund include the cost of sales and services, administrative expenses, and depreciation on capital assets. All revenues and expenses not meeting this definition are reported as non-operating revenues and expenses. The effect of inter-fund activity has been eliminated from the government-wide financial statements.

All governmental and business-type activities and enterprise funds of the City follow FASB Statements and Interpretations, Accounting Principles Board Opinions, and Accounting Research Bulletins, unless those pronouncements conflict with GASB pronouncements, in which case, GASB prevails.

D. Cash and Cash Equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents consist of demand deposits and certificates of deposit with original maturities of three months or less, primarily with local financial institutions.

E. Investments

Investments are stated at fair value based on quoted market prices, except for non-negotiable certificates of deposit that are reported at cost, which approximates fair value. Legal provisions of the city charter require that all investments be properly insured or collateralized with a federal depository. State statutes authorize the government to invest in obligations of the U.S. Treasury, commercial paper, corporate bonds, repurchase agreements, and pooled investment funds

F. Receivables and Payables

Activities between funds that are representative of lending/borrowing arrangements outstanding at the end of the fiscal year are referred to as either "due to/from other funds" or "advances to/from other funds." All other outstanding balances between funds are reported as "due to/from other funds." Any residual

balances outstanding between the governmental activities and business-type activities are reported in the government-wide financial statements as “internal balances.”

All trade and property tax receivables are shown net of an allowance for uncollectibles. The reserve method is used to estimate the allowance for electric and water service receivables.

The City’s property tax is levied each October 1, on the assessed value as of the prior January 1, for all real and personal property located in the City. City property tax revenues are recognized when levied to the extent they result in current receivables. Taxes not collected as of March 1 of the following year are considered delinquent and are subject to lien on April 1 of the succeeding year.

G. Inventories and Prepaid Items

Inventories are valued at the lower of average cost or market, using the first-in, first-out method. The costs of governmental fund-type inventories are recorded as expenditures when consumed rather than when purchased.

Certain payments to vendors reflect costs applicable to future accounting periods and are recorded as prepaid items.

H. Restricted Assets

Certain proceeds of the Cleveland Utilities – Water Division revenue bonds, as well as certain resources set aside for their repayment, are classified as restricted assets on the balance sheet because they are maintained in separate bank accounts and their use is limited by applicable bond covenants. They are represented mostly by cash and certificates of deposit. When both restricted and unrestricted resources are available for use, it is the government’s policy to use restricted resources first, then unrestricted resources as they are needed.

I. Capital Assets

Capital assets, which include property, plant, equipment, and infrastructure assets (e.g., primary roads, secondary roads, drainage), are reported in the applicable governmental or business-type activities columns in the government-wide financial statements. Capital assets are defined by the government as assets with an initial, individual cost of more than \$500 and an estimated useful life in excess of two years. Such assets are recorded at historical cost or estimated historical cost if purchased or constructed. Donated capital assets are recorded at estimated fair market value at the date of donation. The cost of normal maintenance and repairs that do not add to the value of the asset or materially extend assets’ lives are not capitalized.

Property, plant and equipment are depreciated using the straight-line method over the following estimated useful lives:

<u>Asset Class</u>	<u>Years</u>
Infrastructure – Roads	50
Infrastructure – Drainage	20
Buildings	20-50
Vehicles	5
Equipment	5-10
Other Improvements	25

Cleveland Utilities

<u>Electric Division</u>		<u>Water Division</u>	
<u>Class</u>	<u>Years</u>	<u>Class</u>	<u>Years</u>
Structures, Transmission and distribution systems	33-50	Structures, Transmission and distribution systems	25-50
Equipment	10-20	Equipment	10-20
Transportation equipment	5	Transportation equipment	5

Cleveland Utilities uses a composite straight-line rate expressed as a percentage of average depreciable plant. The 2009 rates for the Electric Division and Water Divisions were 3.5% and 3.0% respectively. When property subject to depreciation is retired or otherwise disposed of in the normal course of business, its costs, together with the cost of removal less salvage, is charged to the reserve for depreciation. Replacements of property (exclusive of minor items of property) for Cleveland Utilities are charged to utility plant accounts.

J. Compensated Absences

It is the City’s policy to permit employees to accumulate earned but unused vacation and sick pay benefits. There is no liability for unpaid accumulated sick leave since the government does not have a policy to pay any amounts when employees separate from service with the government. All vacation pay is accrued when incurred in the government-wide and proprietary fund financial statements. A liability for these amounts is reported in governmental funds only if they have matured, for example, as a result of employee resignations and retirements.

K. Long-term obligations

In the government-wide financial statements and the proprietary fund types in the fund financial statements, long-term debt and other long-term obligations are reported as liabilities in the applicable governmental activities, business-type activities, or proprietary fund type statement of net assets. Bond premiums and discounts, as well as issuance costs, are deferred and amortized over the life of the bonds. Bonds payable are reported net of the applicable bond premium or discount.

In the fund financial statements, governmental fund types recognize bond premiums and discounts, as well as bond issuance costs, during the current period. The face amount of debt issued is reported as other financing sources. Premiums received on debt issuance are reported as other financing sources while discounts on debt issuance are reported as other financing uses. Issuance costs, whether or not withheld from the actual debt proceeds received, are reported as debt service expenditures.

L. Fund Equity

In the fund financial statements, government funds report reservations of fund balance for amounts that are not available for appropriation or are legally restricted by outside parties for use for a specific purpose. Designations of fund balance represent tentative management plans that are subject to change.

M. Budgets and Budgetary Accounting

Annual budgets are adopted on a basis consistent with generally accepted accounting principles. The City follows the following procedures in establishing the budgetary data reflected in the financial statements:

1. The City holds budget hearings in March or April of each year with all department heads submitting requests. The operating budget includes proposed expenditures and the means of financing them. Also, a six-year capital budget is presented in conjunction with the operating budget.
2. At a later date, the City Manager makes a formal presentation to the Council for the finalized budget.
3. Prior to July 1, the budget and property tax rate are due for passage by Ordinance.
4. The City Clerk is authorized to transfer budgeted amounts between departments within any fund; however, any revisions that alter the total expenditures of any fund must be approved by the City Council. Expenditures may not exceed appropriations at the fund level.
5. Formal legally adopted budgets are employed as a management control device during the year for all funds except for Cleveland Utilities – Electric and Water Divisions. Budgeted amounts reflected in the accompanying final budget and actual comparison are as originally adopted and amended by the City Council.
6. All appropriations which are not expended lapse at year end.