



Office of the Washington State Auditor
Pat McCarthy

Accountability Audit Report

City of Newcastle

For the period January 1, 2017 through December 31, 2017

Published September 20, 2018

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**Office of the Washington State Auditor
Pat McCarthy**

September 20, 2018

Mayor and City Council
City of Newcastle
Newcastle, Washington

Report on Accountability

Thank you for the opportunity to work with you to promote accountability, integrity and openness in government. The State Auditor's Office takes seriously our role of providing state and local governments with assurance and accountability as the independent auditor of public accounts. In this way, we strive to help government work better, cost less, deliver higher value and earn greater public trust.

Independent audits provide essential accountability and transparency for City operations. This information is valuable to management, the governing body and public stakeholders when assessing the government's stewardship of public resources.

The attached comprises our independent audit report on the City's compliance with applicable requirements and safeguarding of public resources for the areas we examined. We appreciate the opportunity to work with your staff and we value your cooperation during the audit.

Sincerely,

Pat McCarthy
State Auditor
Olympia, WA

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AUDIT RESULTS

This report describes the overall results and conclusions for the areas we examined. In those selected areas, City operations complied with applicable state laws, regulations, and its own policies, and provided adequate controls over the safeguarding of public resources.

About the audit

This report contains the results of our independent accountability audit of the City of Newcastle from January 1, 2017 through December 31, 2017.

Management is responsible for ensuring compliance and adequate safeguarding of public resources from fraud, loss or abuse. This includes the design, implementation and maintenance of internal controls relevant to these objectives.

This audit was conducted under the authority of RCW 43.09.260, which requires the Office of the State Auditor to examine the financial affairs of all local governments. Our audit involved performing procedures to obtain evidence about the City's uses of public resources, compliance with state laws and regulations and its own policies and procedures, and internal controls over such matters.

In keeping with general auditing practices, we do not examine every transaction, activity or area. Instead, based on our risk assessment for the year ended December 31, 2017, the areas examined were those representing the highest risk of fraud, loss, abuse, or noncompliance. The following areas were examined during this audit period:

- Financial condition
- Procurement – compliance with public works projects awarded and prevailing wage requirements; review of change orders
- Procurement – compliance with equipment purchases
- Procurement – compliance and proper monitoring of police and fire services contracts
- Small and attractive assets – tracking and safeguarding of theft-sensitive assets
- Credit card transactions – compliance with City policy and state statutes
- State grants – compliance with grant requirements

RELATED REPORTS

Financial

Our opinion on the City's financial statements is provided in a separate report, which includes the City's financial statements. That report is available on our website, <http://portal.sao.wa.gov/ReportSearch>.

INFORMATION ABOUT THE CITY

The City of Newcastle, incorporated on September 30, 1994, currently has a population of about 11,000 citizens. It provides limited services consisting of planning and building services, public works, community development, parks and recreation, storm water management, and financial services. The City contracts with King County for police and library services. The City of Bellevue provides fire and emergency services. Coal Creek Utility District provides water and sewer services and storm water maintenance. The City operates a municipal court in conjunction with the City of Mercer Island, using the same judge and court administrator.

An elected, seven-member Council governs the City. Council Members elect one of its members to serve as Mayor. The Council appoints a City Manager to oversee the City's daily operations as well as its 26 employees. For fiscal year 2017, the City operated on an annual budget of approximately \$17.8 million.

Contact information related to this report

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Information current as of report publish date.

Audit history

You can find current and past audit reports for the City of Newcastle at <http://portal.sao.wa.gov/ReportSearch>.

ABOUT THE STATE AUDITOR'S OFFICE

The State Auditor's Office is established in the state's Constitution and is part of the executive branch of state government. The State Auditor is elected by the citizens of Washington and serves four-year terms.

We work with our audit clients and citizens to achieve our vision of government that works for citizens, by helping governments work better, cost less, deliver higher value, and earn greater public trust.

In fulfilling our mission to hold state and local governments accountable for the use of public resources, we also hold ourselves accountable by continually improving our audit quality and operational efficiency and developing highly engaged and committed employees.

As an elected agency, the State Auditor's Office has the independence necessary to objectively perform audits and investigations. Our audits are designed to comply with professional standards as well as to satisfy the requirements of federal, state, and local laws.

Our audits look at financial information and compliance with state, federal and local laws on the part of all local governments, including schools, and all state agencies, including institutions of higher education. In addition, we conduct performance audits of state agencies and local governments as well as [fraud](#), state [whistleblower](#) and [citizen hotline](#) investigations.

The results of our work are widely distributed through a variety of reports, which are available on our [website](#) and through our free, electronic [subscription](#) service.

We take our role as partners in accountability seriously, and provide training and technical assistance to governments, and have an extensive quality assurance program.

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