Office of the Washington State Auditor

Pat McCarthy

Accountability Audit Report

City of Newport

For the period January 1, 2016 through December 31, 2017

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Office of the Washington State Auditor
Pat McCarthy

December 13, 2018

Mayor and City Council
City of Newport
Newport, 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

Insurance Building, P.O. Box 40021 • Olympia, Washington 98504-0021 • (360) 902-0370 • Pat.McCarthy@sao.wa.gov

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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 Newport from January 1, 2016 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 years ended December 31, 2017 and 2016, the areas examined were those representing the highest risk of fraud, loss, abuse, or noncompliance. The following areas were examined during this audit period:

- Citizen hotline investigation – building inspections
- Self-insurance – unemployment compensation
- State grants – compliance with grant requirements
- Financial condition and fiscal sustainability

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 Newport serves approximately 2,200 Pend Oreille County residents.

An elected, five-member Council and a separately elected Mayor govern the City. The Mayor appoints a City Administrator to oversee the City's daily operations as well as its 15 employees. The City provides an array of services including water, sewer, fire prevention, building and planning, street improvement, code enforcement, general administration, and parks. As of January 1, 2018 the City has its own police department providing law enforcement services. The City contracts with Pend Oreille County for jail and court services. The City is funded by a variety of revenue sources, including property taxes, sales taxes, business taxes, utility charges for services and grants. For fiscal years 2016 and 2017, the City operated on an annual budgets of approximately $2.7 million and $3.6 million, respectively.

Contact information related to this report	
Address:	City of Newport 200 S. Washington Avenue Newport, WA 99156
Contact:	Nickole North, Clerk Treasurer
Telephone:	509-447-6429
Website:	www.newport-wa.org

Information current as of report publish date.

Audit history

You can find current and past audit reports for the City of Newport 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.

Contact information for the State Auditor's Office	
Public Records requests	PublicRecords@sao.wa.gov
Main telephone	(360) 902-0370
Toll-free Citizen Hotline	(866) 902-3900
Website	www.sao.wa.gov