

Report of Independent Auditor

To the Honorable Mayor and City Councilmembers
City of Clearwater, Florida:

Report on Financial Statements

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of the governmental activities, the business-type activities, each major fund, and the aggregate remaining fund information of the City of Clearwater, Florida (the "City") as of and for the year ended September 30, 2015, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise the City's basic financial statements as listed in the table of contents. We have also audited the financial statements of each of the City's nonmajor governmental funds, nonmajor enterprise funds, internal service and fiduciary funds presented as supplementary information in the accompanying combining and individual fund statements as of and for the year ended September 30, 2015, as listed in the table of contents.

Management's Responsibility for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these financial statements in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America; this includes 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 fraud or error.

Auditor's Responsibility

Our responsibility is to express opinions on these financial statements based on our audit. We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards*, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the 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 fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the entity'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 entity's internal control. Accordingly, we express no such opinion. 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.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinions.

Opinions

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the respective financial position of the governmental activities, the business-type activities, each major fund, and the aggregate remaining fund information of the City of Clearwater, Florida, as of September 30, 2015, and the respective changes in financial position and, where applicable, cash flows thereof, and the respective budgetary comparisons for the general fund and the special development fund, for the year then ended in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. In addition, in our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the respective financial position of each of the nonmajor governmental funds, nonmajor enterprise funds, internal service and fiduciary funds of the City as of September 30, 2015, and the respective changes in financial position and, where applicable, cash flows thereof for the year then ended, in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

Emphasis of Matters

Change in Accounting Principles

As discussed in Note IV.J. to the financial statements the City adopted the provisions of Governmental Accounting Standards Board ("GASB") Statement No. 68, *Accounting and Financial Reporting for Pensions – an Amendment of GASB Statement No 27*, and GASB Statement No. 71, *Pension Transition for Contributions Made Subsequent to the Measurement Date – an Amendment of GASB Statement No. 68*, during the year ended September 30, 2015. Our opinions are not modified with respect to these matters.

Prior Period Restatement - Correction of an Error

As discussed in Note IV.K. to the financial statements, the September 30, 2014 financial statements have been restated to correct an error. Our opinion is not modified with respect to this matter.

Prior Period Adjustment

As discussed in Note IV.L. to the financial statements, the September 30, 2014 financial statement have been restated. Our opinions are not modified with respect to this matter.

Fund Reclassification

As described in Note 1.B.2. to the financial statements, effective October 1, 2014, the Recycling Utility Fund was combined with the Solid Waste Utility Fund. Our opinions are not modified with respect to this matter.

Other Matters

Required Supplementary Information

Accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America require that the management's discussion and analysis and the required supplementary information schedules - Pension Trust Funds and other Postemployment, as listed in the table of contents, 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. We have applied certain limited procedures to the required supplementary information in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America, which consisted of inquiries of management about the methods of preparing the information and comparing the information for consistency with management's responses to our inquiries, the basic financial statements, and other knowledge we obtained during our audit of the basic financial statements. We do not express an opinion or provide any assurance on the information because the limited procedures do not provide us with sufficient evidence to express an opinion or provide any assurance.

Other Information

Our audit was conducted for the purpose of forming opinions on the financial statements that collectively comprise the City's basic financial statements. The introductory section, supplemental information, statistical section, and the schedule of receipts and expenditures related to the deepwater horizon oil spill are presented for purposes of additional analysis and are not a required part of the basic financial statements. The accompanying schedule of expenditures of federal awards and state financial assistance, as required by the Office of Management and Budget Circular A-133, *Audits of States, Local Government, and Non-Profit Organizations* and Chapter 10.550, *Rules of the Auditor General of the State of Florida*, is also presented for purposes of additional analysis and is not a required part of the basic financial statements.

The schedule of expenditures of federal awards and state financial assistance and the schedule of receipts and expenditures of funds related to the deepwater horizon oil spill are the responsibility of management and were derived from and relate directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the basic financial statements. Such information has been subjected to the auditing procedures applied in the audit of the basic financial statements and certain additional procedures, including comparing and reconciling such information directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the basic financial statements or to the basic financial statements themselves, and other additional procedures in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America. In our opinion, the schedule of expenditures of federal awards and state financial assistance, and the schedule of receipts and expenditures of funds related to the deepwater horizon oil spill are fairly stated, in all material respects, in relation to the basic financial statements as a whole.

The introductory, statistical sections, and supplemental information on pages 132-141 have not been subjected to the auditing procedures applied in the audit of the basic financial statements and, accordingly, we do not express an opinion or provide any assurance on them.

Other Reporting Required by *Government Auditing Standards*

In accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*, we have also issued our report dated March 28, 2016 on our consideration of the City's internal control over financial reporting and on our tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements and other matters. The purpose of that report is to describe the scope of our testing of internal control over financial reporting and compliance and the results of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on the internal control over financial reporting or on compliance. That report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* in considering the City's internal control over financial reporting and compliance.

Cherry Bekant LLP

Tampa, Florida

March 28, 2016