

**CITY OF PRINCETON**

**INVESTMENT POLICY**

**March 8, 2021**



# **CITY OF PRINCETON, TEXAS**

## **INVESTMENT POLICY**

### **PREFACE**

It is the policy of the City of Princeton (“City”) that after allowing for the anticipated cash flow requirements of the City and giving due consideration to the safety and risks of investments, all available funds shall be invested in conformance with these legal and administrative guidelines to obtain a market rate of return.

Effective cash management is recognized as essential to good fiscal management. An active cash management and investment policy will be pursued to take advantage of investment interest as a viable and material source of revenue for City funds. The City’s portfolio shall be designed and managed in a manner responsive to the public trust and consistent with state and local law. The City will invest public funds in a manner that will provide the maximum security and a market rate of return while meeting the daily cash flow demands of the City.

The City is required under the Public Investment Act (Chapter 2256 of the Texas Government Code) to adopt a formal written Investment Policy for the investment of public funds. These policies serve to satisfy the statutory requirement (specifically the Public Funds Investment Act, Chapter 2256 of the Texas Government Code (“Act”) to define, adopt, and review a formal investment strategy and policy.

# CITY OF PRINCETON INVESTMENT POLICY

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# CITY OF PRINCETON INVESTMENT POLICY

**1. PURPOSE** – The purpose of this investment policy (“Policy”) is to set forth specific investment policy and strategy guidelines for the City in order to achieve the goals of safety and liquidity, achieve a market rate of return, and maintain public trust in all investment activities. On an annual basis, the City Council shall review the investment strategy and policy and shall approve Policy revisions, if any, by formal resolution.

**2. INVESTMENT STRATEGY** – The City maintains a comprehensive and proactive cash management program that is designed to monitor and control all City funds to ensure maximum utilization and yield a market rate of return. (For the purpose of this Policy, a “market rate of return” refers to the approximate interest rate that could be earned by an investor in a specific maturity range at any given point in time. For example, an investor seeking to earn a market rate of return while maintaining an investment portfolio with an average maturity of 90 days, would hope to earn approximately the same as a three-month agency discount note. If the investor earns a rate much higher than this, it might signal an inappropriate level of risk.) The basic and underlying strategy of this program is that all of the City’s funds are earning interest. It is the responsibility and obligation of the City to maintain a flexible approach and be prepared to modify the investment strategy as market conditions dictate. The investment strategy described is predicated on conditions as now exist and are subject to change. The investment strategy emphasizes low credit risk, diversification, and the management of maturities. The strategy also considers the expertise and time constraints of the investment officers. The allowable investment instruments as defined in Section 6 of this Policy reflect the avoidance of credit risk. Diversification refers to dividing investments among a variety of securities offering independent returns. This strategy uses local government investment pools to achieve diversification. The management of maturities refers to structuring the maturity dates of the direct investments so that, while funds are initially invested for a longer period of time, some investments mature as cash needs require.

2.1 The primary investment strategy and objectives of the City as specified in this Policy (see Section 4) are listed below, in their order of importance:

- ) Safety and preservation of principal;
- ) Maintenance of sufficient liquidity to meet operating needs;
- ) Achieve a market rate of return on the investment portfolio; and
- ) Seek at all times to maintain public trust by adhering to the above stated objectives.

2.2 The list of investments authorized by this Policy intentionally excludes some investments allowed by state law. The restrictions limit possible credit risk and provide the maximum measure of safety. Within the investment objectives, the investment strategy is to utilize authorized investments for maximum advantage to the City. To increase the interest earnings for funds identified as being available for investment over longer periods of time based upon a cash requirements projection, the City will consider the following strategies:

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2.2.1 **Strategy No. 1** – Diversifying the City’s investment opportunities through the use of local government investment pools and money market mutual funds as authorized by the City Council. An investment pool is an entity created to invest public funds jointly on behalf of its participants and whose investment objectives in order of priority match those objectives of the City. Funds are usually available from investment pools on a same-day basis, meaning the pools have a high degree of liquidity. Because of the size and expertise of their staff, investment pools are able to prudently invest in a variety of the investment types allowed by state law. In this manner, investment pools achieve diversification. Funds that may be needed on a short-term basis but that are in excess of the amount maintained at the depository bank are available for deposit in investment pools.

2.2.2 **Strategy No. 2** – Building a ladder of Investment Policy authorized securities with staggered maturities for all or part of the longer-term investable funds. The benefits of this ladder approach include the following:

- It is straight-forward and easily understood;
- Represents a prudent diversification method;
- All investments remain within the approved maturity horizon;
- Will normally allow the City to capture a reasonable portion of the yield curve; and
- Provides predictable cash flow with scheduled maturities and reinvestment opportunities.

2.2.3 **Strategy No. 3** – At this time, the City does not use an investment management firm. Should the City determine a need, the following strategy will apply:

Pursuant to the Public Funds Investment Act (Texas Government Code 2256.003), the City may, at its discretion, contract with an investment management firm registered under the Investment Advisors Act of 1940 (15 U.S.C. Section 80b-1 et seq.) and with the State Securities Board to provide for investment and non-discretionary management of its public funds or other funds under its control.

An appointed Investment Advisor shall act solely in an advisory and administrative capacity, within the guideline of this Policy. At no time shall the advisor take possession of securities or funds or otherwise be granted discretionary authority to transact business on behalf of the City. Any contract awarded by the City Council for investment advisory services may not exceed two years, with an option to extend by mutual consent of both parties.

Duties of the Investment Advisor shall include, but not be limited to, assistance in purchasing securities, securities clearance, producing required reports, pricing the portfolio, performing due diligence on broker/dealers, market monitoring and economic review.

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Any Investment Advisor contracted by the City shall abide by the *Prudent Expert Rule*, whereby investment advice shall, at all times, be given with the judgment and care, under circumstances then prevailing, which persons paid for their special prudence, discretion and intelligence in such matters exercise in the management of their client's affairs, not for speculation by the client or production of fee income by the advisor or broker, but for investment by the client with emphasis on the probable safety of the capital while considering the probably income to be derived.

**2.2.4 Strategy No. 4** – The City will maintain portfolio(s) that utilize four specific investment strategy considerations designed to address the unique characteristics of the fund group(s) represented in the portfolio(s):

2.2.4.1 Investment strategies for operating funds and pooled funds containing operating funds have as their primary objective to assure that anticipated cash flows are matched with adequate investment liquidity. The secondary objective is to create a portfolio that will experience minimal volatility during economic cycles through diversification by security type, maturity date and issuer. All security types, as authorized by this policy, are considered suitable investments for the operating and pooled funds.

2.2.4.2 Investment strategies for debt service funds shall have as the primary objective the assurance of investment liquidity adequate to cover the debt service obligation on the required payment date(s). These funds have predictable payment schedules. Therefore, investment maturities shall not exceed the anticipated cash flow requirements.

2.2.4.3 Investment strategies for debt service funds shall have as the primary objective the ability to generate a dependable revenue stream to the appropriate debt service fund. Managing the Debt Service Reserve Fund's portfolio maturities to not exceed the call provisions of the bond issue will reduce the investment's market risk if the City's bonds are called and the reserve fund liquidated. No investment maturity shall exceed the final maturity of the bond issue.

2.2.4.4 Investment strategies for special projects or capital projects funds will have as their primary objective to assure that anticipated cash flows are matched with adequate investment liquidity. Market conditions and arbitrage regulations will influence the investment of capital project funds. When market conditions allow, achieving a positive spread to applicable arbitrage yield is the desired objective, although at no time shall the anticipated expenditure schedule be exceeded in an attempt to increase yield.

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**2.2.5 Strategy No. 5 – Hold until Maturity.** The strategy of the City is to maintain sufficient liquidity in its portfolio so that it does not need to sell a security prior to maturity. Should it become necessary to sell a security prior to maturity, where the sale proceeds are less than the current book value, the prior written consent of the City Manager must be obtained. Securities may be sold prior to maturity by the Investment Officer at or above their book value at any time. The result of all sales of securities prior to maturity shall be reported to the City Manager within two business days of the sale. The report shall provide the amount of proceeds from the sale, including accrued interest to the date of sale, less the current book value and the dollar amount of gain on the sale.

**2.2.6 Strategy No. 6 – Pooling of Deposits and Investments.** All demand deposits of the City will be concentrated with one central depository. This procedure will maximize the City's ability to pool cash for investment purposes, and provide more manageable banking relationships. In addition, depositories not holding demand deposits of the City may be eligible to bid on City investments, subject to the approval of the City Manager.

**2.2.7 Strategy No. 7 – Depository Bank Relationships.** This Policy shall further seek to maintain good depository bank relationships while minimizing the cost of banking services. The City will seek to maintain a depository contract that will be managed to a level that minimizes the cost of the banking relationship to the City, while allowing the City to earn an appropriate return on idle demand deposits.

**2.2.8 Strategy No. 8 – Single Pooled Fund Group.** A single strategy is specified, in accordance with the single pooled fund group as defined in this Policy. However, earnings from investments will be allocated on a pro-rata cash basis to the individual funds and used in a manner that will best service the interests of the City.

**2.2.9 Strategy No. 9 – Maximizing Investable Cash Balances.** Procedures shall be established and implemented in order to maximize investable cash by decreasing the time between the actual collection and the deposit of receipts, and by the controlling of disbursements.

**3. SCOPE** – The Policy shall govern the investment of all financial assets considered to be part of the City entity and includes the following funds or fund types; the General Fund, Enterprise Funds, Special Revenue Funds, General Obligation Interest and Sinking Fund, Capital Projects Funds, and any other fund which have been contractually delegated to the City for management purposes. The City may add or delete funds as may be required by law, or for proper accounting procedures. This policy does not include funds governed by approved trust agreements, or assets administered for the benefit of the City by outside agencies under retirement or deferred compensation programs. Additionally, bond funds (including debt service and reserve funds) are governed by bond ordinances and are subject to the provisions of the Internal Revenue Code and applicable federal regulations governing the investment of bond proceeds.

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**4. INVESTMENT OBJECTIVES** – Funds of the City shall be invested in accordance with all applicable Texas statutes, this Policy and any other approved, written administrative procedures. The four objectives of the City’s investment activities shall be as follows (in the order of priority):

4.1 **Safety of Principal** – Safety of principal invested is the foremost objective in the investment decisions of the City. Each investment transaction shall seek to ensure the preservation of capital in the overall portfolio. The risk of loss shall be controlled by investing only in authorized securities, as defined in this Policy, by qualifying the financial institutions the City will transact business and through portfolio of diversification. Safety is defined as the undiminished return of the principal on the City’s investments.

4.2 **Liquidity** – The investment portfolio shall be managed to maintain liquidity to ensure that funds will be available to meet the City’s cash flow requirements and by investing in securities with active secondary markets. Investments shall be structured in such a manner as will provide the liquidity necessary to pay obligations as they become due. A security may be liquidated prior to its stated maturity to meet unanticipated cash requirements, or to otherwise favorably adjust the City’s portfolio, in accordance with Section 2.2.5 (page 4).

4.3 **Market Rate-of-Return (Yield)** – The City’s investment portfolio shall be designed to optimize a market rate-of-return on investments consistent with risk constraints and cash flow requirements of the portfolio. The investment portfolio shall be managed in a manner that seeks to attain a market rate of return throughout budgetary and economic cycles. The City will not attempt to consistently attain an unrealistic above market rate-of-return, as this objective will subject the overall portfolio to greater risk. Therefore, the City’s rate of return objective is secondary to those of safety and liquidity. Rate of return (yield) is defined as the rate of annual income return on an investment, expressed as a percentage.

4.4 **Public Trust** – All participants in the City’s investment program shall seek to act responsibly as custodians of the public trust. Investment officials shall avoid any transaction that might involve a conflict of interest or otherwise impair public confidence in the City’s ability to govern effectively. All officials of the City having either a direct or indirect role in the process of investing idle funds shall act responsibly as custodians of the public trust.

**5. INVESTMENT RESPONSIBILITY** – As provided in this policy, the daily operation and management of the City’s investments are the responsibility of the following person(s):

5.1 **Delegation of Authority** – The City Manager and the Director of Finance are authorized to deposit, withdraw, invest, transfer, or manage in any other manner the funds of the City. Management responsibility for the investment program is hereby delegated to the Director of Finance, who shall establish written procedures for the operation of the investment program, consistent with this Policy. Such procedures shall include explicit delegation of authority to persons responsible for investment transactions.

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All persons involved in investment activities will be referred to in this Policy as “Investment Officers”. No person(s) may engage in an investment transaction except as provided under the terms of this Policy and the procedures established by the Director of Finance. The Director of Finance shall be responsible for all transactions undertaken and shall establish a system of controls to regulate the activities of subordinate Investment Officers. The system of controls shall be designed to provide reasonable assurance that the assets of the City are protected from loss, theft, or misuse. The concept of reasonable assurance recognizes that:

- (1) the cost of a control should not exceed the benefits likely to be derived; and
- (2) the valuation of costs and benefits requires estimates and judgments by management.

Commitment of financial and staffing resources in order to maximize total return through active portfolio management shall be the responsibility of the City Council.

**5.2 Prudence** – The standard of prudence to be applied by the Investment Officer shall be the “prudent investor” rule that states “investments shall be made with judgment and care, under circumstances then prevailing, which persons of prudence, discretion, and intelligence exercise in the management of their own affairs, not for speculation, but for investment, considering the probable safety of their capital as well as the probably income to be derived.” In determining whether the Investment Officer has exercised prudence with respect to an investment decision, the determination shall be made taking into consideration the following:

5.2.1 the investment of all funds over which the Investment Officer had responsibility rather than a consideration as to the prudence of a single investment; and

5.2.2 whether the investment decision was consistent with the written Policy and procedures of the City.

**5.3 Due Diligence** –The Investment Officer acting in accordance with written policies and procedures and exercising due diligence, shall not be held personally responsible for a specific security’s credit risk or market price changes, provided that these deviations are reported in a timely manner and that appropriate action is taken to control adverse developments. All Investment Officers involved in investment transactions will be bonded.

**5.4 Ethical Standards and Conflicts of Interest** – All City Investment Officers having a direct or indirect role in the investment of City funds shall act as custodians of the public trust avoiding any transaction which might involve a conflict of interest, the appearance of a conflict of interest, or any activity which might otherwise discourage public confidence. Officers and employees involved in the investment process shall refrain from personal business activity that could conflict with proper execution of the investment program, or which could impair the ability to make impartial investment decisions. An Investment Officer who has a personal business relationship with the depository bank or with any entity seeking to sell an investment to the City shall file a statement disclosing that

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personal business interest. An Investment Officer who is related within the second degree of affinity or consanguinity to an individual seeking to sell an investment to the City shall file a statement disclosing that relationship. A statement required under this subsection must be filed with the Texas Ethics Commission and the City Council.

**5.5 Investment Training** – The Investment Officer shall attend at least one training session of at least ten (10) hours relating to the officer’s responsibility under the Public Funds Investment Act within twelve (12) months after assuming duties, and attend an investment training session not less than once every two years, receiving an additional ten (10) hours of training. Such training from an independent source shall be approved by the City Manager and endorsed by either the Government Finance Officers Association of Texas, the Government Treasurers Organization of Texas, the Texas Municipal League, the North Central Texas Council of Governments, or the University of North Texas for Public Management.

**6. AUTHORIZED INVESTMENTS** – As stated previously, safety of principal is the primary objective in investing public funds and can be accomplished by limiting two types of risk – credit risk and interest rate risk. Credit risk is the risk associated with the failure of a security issuer or backer to repay principal and interest in full. Interest rate risk is the risk that the value of a portfolio will decline due to an increase in the general level of interest rates. In order to provide for safety of principal as the City’s primary objective, only certain investments are authorized as acceptable investments for the City. The following list of authorized investments for the City intentionally excludes some investments authorized by law. These restrictions are placed in order to limit possible risk and provide the maximum measure of safety to City funds.

**6.1 Authorized and Acceptable Investments** – The authorized list of investments are as follows:

- (1) Obligations of the United States or its agencies and instrumentalities, excluding mortgage-backed securities.
- (2) Direct obligations of the State of Texas, or its agencies and instrumentalities.
- (3) Other obligations, the principal of and interest on which are unconditionally guaranteed or insured by, or backed by the full faith and credit of, the State of Texas or the United States or their respective agencies and instrumentalities, excluding mortgage-backed securities.
- (4) Collateralized Certificates of Deposit. A certificate of deposit issued by a depository institution that has its main office or a branch office in the state and is:
  - ✓ guaranteed or insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation or its successor or the National Credit Union Share Insurance Fund or its successor;
  - ✓ secured by obligations that are described by Section 2256.009(a) of the Public Funds Investment Act, including mortgage-backed securities directly issued by a federal agency or instrumentality but excluding those mortgage-backed securities of the nature described in Section 2256.009(b) of the Act; or

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- ✓ secured in any other manner and amount provided by law for deposits of the City.

In addition, separate CDs issued by depositories wherever located, bundled together into a single investment with the full amount of principal and interest of each CD federally insured, may be purchased through a selected depository institution with its main office or branch office in Texas.

This depository shall act as the custodian for the various certificates on behalf of the City.

(5) Eligible Local Government Investment Pools. Public funds investment pools which invest in instruments and follow practices allowed by the current law as defined in Section 2256.016 of the Texas Government Code, provided that:

- ✓ the investment pool has been authorized by the City Council;
- ✓ the pool shall have furnished the Investment Officer an offering circular containing the information required by Section 2256.016(b) of the Texas Government Code;
- ✓ the pool shall furnish the Investment Officer investment transaction confirmations with respect to all investments made with it;
- ✓ the pool shall furnish to the Investment Officer monthly reports containing the information required under Section 2256.016(c) of the Texas Government Code;
- ✓ the pool is continuously rated no lower than “AAA” or “AAA-m” or an equivalent rating by at least one nationally recognized rating service;
- ✓ the pool marks its portfolio to market daily;
- ✓ the pool’s investment objectives shall be to maintain a stable net asset value of one doll (\$1.00); and
- ✓ the pool’s investment philosophy and strategy are consistent with this Policy.

(6) Regulated No-Load Money Market Mutual Funds. These investments are authorized under the following conditions:

- ✓ the money market mutual fund is registered with and regulated by the Securities and Exchange Commission;
- ✓ the fund provides the City with a prospectus and other information required by the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 or the Investment Company Act of 1940;
- ✓ the fund has a dollar-weighted average portfolio maturity of ninety (90) days or less;
- ✓ the investment objectives include the maintenance of a stable net asset value of one dollar (\$1.00) per share; and
- ✓ the fund is continuously rated no lower than “AAA” or an equivalent rating by at least one nationally recognized rating service.

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The City may not invest funds under its control in an amount that exceeds 10% of the total assets of any individual money market mutual fund.

(7) Repurchase Agreements, Reverse Repurchase Agreements, Bankers' Acceptances; Commercial Paper. These investments are authorized for the City only to the extent that they are contained in the portfolios of approved public funds investment pools in which the City invests, or as otherwise provided below –

- ✓ The direct investment in reverse repurchase agreements, bankers' acceptances, and commercial paper by the City is not authorized.
- ✓ Fully flexible repurchase agreements are authorized in this Policy to the extent authorized under the Public Funds Investment Act (Texas Government Code 2256.001). The use of flex repos shall be limited to the investment of bond proceeds and the maturity date of any such agreement shall not exceed the expected proceeds draw schedule.

**6.2 Investment Instruments NOT Authorized** – The following instruments are eligible for investment by local government according to state law but they have been intentionally prohibited for the City by this Policy: mortgage-related obligations, guaranteed investment contracts, options, financial futures contracts and, day trading of long-term securities. In addition to these restricted investments, state law specifically prohibits investment in the following securities:

- (1) Obligations whose payment represents the coupon payments on the outstanding principal balance of the underlying mortgage-backed security collateral and pays no principal.
- (2) Obligations whose payment represents the principal stream of cash flow from the underlying mortgage-backed security collateral and bears no interest.
- (3) Collateralized mortgage obligations that have a stated final maturity date of greater than ten years.
- (4) Collateralized mortgage obligations, the interest rate of which is determined by an index that adjusts opposite to the changes in a market index.

**7. DIVERSIFICATION** – Diversification of investment instruments shall be utilized to avoid incurring unreasonable risks resulting from over-concentration of investments in a specific maturity, a specific issue, or a specific class of securities. With the exception of the U.S. Government securities, as authorized in this Policy, and authorized local government investment pools, no more than fifty percent (50%) of the total investment portfolio will be invested in any one security type or with a single financial institution. Diversification of the portfolio considers diversification by maturity dates and diversification by investment instrument.

**7.1 Diversification by Maturities** – The longer the maturity of investments the greater their price volatilities. Therefore, it is the City's policy to concentrate its investment portfolio in shorter-term securities in order to limit principal risks caused by change in interest rates. The City will attempt to match its investments with anticipated cash flow requirements. Unless matched to a specific cash flow, the City will not directly invest in securities maturing more than three (3) years from the date

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of purchase. However, the above described obligations, certificates, or agreements may be collateralized using longer date instruments. The City shall diversify the use of investment instruments to avoid incurring unreasonable risks inherent in over-investing in specific instruments, individual financial institutions or maturities. Maturity scheduling shall be managed by the Investment Office so that maturities of investments shall be timed to coincide with projected cash flow needs.

The entire City portfolio, including funds at the City’s depository bank, shall comprise one pooled fund group, and the maximum average dollar-weighted maturity allowed based on the stated maturity date for the portfolio is two hundred seventy (270) days. Investment maturities for debt service interest and sinking funds and/or other types of reserve funds, whose use is never anticipated, may not exceed three (3) years.

**7.2 Diversification by Investment Instrument** – Diversification by investment instrument shall not exceed the following guidelines for each type of instrument:

	<u>Percentage of Portfolio (Maximum)</u>
U.S. Treasury Obligation	100%
U.S. Government Agency Securities and Instrumentalities of Government-Sponsored Corporations	80%
Authorized Local Government Investment Pools	100%
Fully Collateralized Certificates of Deposit	50%
SEC-Regulated No-Load Money Market Mutual Funds	10%

**8. AUTHORIZED FINANCIAL DEALERS AND INSTITUTIONS** – At this time, the City does not use Brokers or Dealers. Should the City determine a need, the following procedures and requirements will apply:

Financial institutions (federally insured banks) with and through whom the City invests shall be state or national banks domiciled in the state of Texas. No public deposit shall be made except in a qualified public depository as established by state laws. Brokers/Dealers authorized to provide investment services to the City may include only those authorized by the City Manager. All banking services will be governed by a depository contract awarded by the City Council. In addition, the Director of Finance shall maintain a list of authorized security brokers/dealers and investment pools that are authorized by the City Manager and/or City Council.

8.1 All financial institutions with whom the City does business must supply the following as appropriate: (1) audited financial statements; (2) proof of National Association of Securities Dealers (NASD) certification; (3) proof of state registration; completed broker/dealer questionnaire;

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(4) certification of having, acknowledging that the organization has implemented reasonable procedures and controls in an effort to preclude imprudent investment activities arising out of investment transactions conducted between the City and the organization.

8.2 An annual review of the financial condition and registration of qualified bidders will be conducted by the Director of Finance. The review may include, but is not limited to, review of rating agency reports, review of call reports, and analysis of management, profitability, capitalization, and asset quality. Financial institutions and brokers/dealers desiring to conduct business with the City shall be required to provide any financial data requested by the City Manager or the Investment Officer. Upon completion of the annual review by the Director of Finance, the financial institutions and brokers/dealers desiring to conduct business with the City shall be approved by the City Manager.

8.3 Selection criteria for federally insured financial institutions shall include the following: (1) the financial institution must be insured by the FDIC; (2) the financial institution must be incorporated under the laws of the State of Texas or of the United States of America; and (3) the financial institution must be located within the corporate boundaries of the City.

8.4 The Investment Officer of the City is responsible for monitoring the investments made by a financial institution and/or broker/dealer to determine that they are in compliance with the provisions of the Policy.

**9. DELIVERY VERSUS PAYMENT** – It is the policy of the City that all security transactions entered into with the City shall be conducted on a “Delivery Versus Payment” (“DVP”) basis through the Federal Reserve System. By doing this, City funds are not released until the City has received, through the Federal Reserve wire, the securities purchased. The City shall authorize the release of funds only after receiving notification from the safekeeping bank that a purchased security has been received in the safekeeping account of the City. The notification may be oral but shall be confirmed in writing.

### **10. SAFEKEEPING AND COLLATERALIZATION**

10.1 **Safekeeping** – All securities owned by the City shall be held by its safekeeping agent, except the collateral for bank deposits. The collateral for bank deposits will be held in the City’s name in the bank’s trust department, or alternatively, in a Federal Reserve Bank account in the City’s name, or a third-party bank, at the City’s discretion. Original safekeeping receipts shall be obtained and held by the City. The City shall contract with a bank or banks for the safekeeping of securities either owned by the City as part of its investment portfolio or held as collateral to secure time deposits.

10.2 **Collateralization** – Consistent with the requirements of the Public Funds Collateral Act, it is the policy of the City to require full collateralization of all City funds on deposit with a depository bank. The market value of the investments securing the deposit of funds shall be at least equal to the amount of the deposits of funds reduced to the extent that the deposits are insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (“FDIC”). Securities pledged as collateral shall be held in the City’s

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name, in a segregated account at the Federal Reserve Bank or by an independent third party with whom the bank the City has a current custodial agreement. The agreement is to specify the acceptable investment securities as collateral, including provisions relating to possession of the collateral, the substitution or release of investment securities, ownership of securities, and the method of valuation of securities. The safekeeping agreement must clearly state that the safekeeping bank is instructed to release purchased and collateral securities to the City in the event the City has determined that the depository bank has failed to pay on any matured investments in certificates of deposit, or has determined that the funds of the City are in jeopardy for whatever reason, including involuntary closure or change of ownership. A clearly marked evidence of ownership, e.g., safekeeping receipt, must be supplied to the City and retained by the City. Any collateral with a maturity over five (5) years must be approved by the Investment Officer before the transaction is initiated. Release of collateral or substitution of securities must be approved in writing by the Investment Officer. Financial institutions serving as City depositories will be required to sign a “Depository Agreement” with the city and the City safekeeping agent. The collateralized deposit portion of the agreement shall define the City’s rights to collateral in the event of default, bankruptcy, or closing and shall establish a perfected security interest in compliance with Federal and State regulations, including:

- ) the Agreement must be in writing;
- ) the Agreement has to be executed by the Depository and the City contemporaneously with the acquisition of the asset;
- ) the Agreement must be approved by the Board of Directors of the Loan Committee of the Depository and a copy of the meeting must be delivered to the City; and
- ) the Agreement must be part of the Depository’s “official record” continuously since its execution.

10.2.1 The City may accept the following securities as collateral for bank deposits (V.T.C.A., Government Code, Section 2256.001, et. seq, formerly Article 842a-2, Section 2, V.T.C.S, as amended);

- FDIC coverage;
- U.S. Government securities;
- State of Texas bonds; or
- Bonds issued by other Texas governmental entities (City, County, school district, or special districts) with a remaining maturity of twenty (20) years or less. Bonds must be (and must remain) investment quality: that is, with a rating of at least “A” or its equivalent.

10.2.2 For certificates of deposit and other evidences of deposit, collateral shall be at 102% of market or par, whichever is lower. The market value of collateral will always equal or exceed the principal plus accrued interest of deposits at financial institutions.

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10.2.3 Financial institutions, with which the City invests or maintains other deposits, shall provide monthly, and as requested by the Investment Office, a listing of the collateral pledged to the City, marked to current market prices. The listing shall include total pledged securities itemized by name, type, description, par value, current market value, maturity date, and Moody's or Standard & Poor's rating, if applicable. The City and the financial institution shall jointly assume the responsibility for ensuring that the collateral is sufficient.

**11. INTERNAL CONTROL** – The Director of Finance shall establish a system of written internal controls, which shall be reviewed annually by independent auditors. The controls shall be designed to prevent loss of public funds due to fraud, error, misrepresentation, unanticipated market changes, or imprudent actions. The internal controls are to be reviewed annually in conjunction with an external independent audit. This review will provide assurance of compliance with policies and procedures as specified by this Policy. The City, in conjunction with its annual financial audit, shall perform a compliance audit of management controls and adherence to the City's established Investment Policy.

**12. PERFORMANCE** – The City's investment portfolio shall be designed to obtain a market rate of return on investments consistent with risk constraints and expected cash flow of the City. The benchmark for performance that is appropriate for the City's cash flow cycle will be TexPool (a local government investment pool).

**13. REPORTING** – The Director of Finance shall submit a signed quarterly investment report that summarizes current market conditions, economic developments and anticipated investment conditions. The report shall summarize investment strategies employed in the most recent quarter, and describe the portfolio in terms of investment securities, maturities, risk characteristics, and shall explain the total investment return for the quarter.

13.1 **Annual Report** – Within 60 days of the end of the fiscal year, the Director of Finance shall present an annual report on the investment program and investment activity. This report may be presented as a component of the fourth quarter report to the City Manager and City Council. The reports prepared by the Director of Finance shall be formally reviewed at least annually by an independent auditor, and the result of the review shall be reported to the City council by that auditor.

13.2 **Methods** – The quarterly investment report shall include a succinct management summary that provides a clear picture of the status of the current investment portfolio and transactions made over the past quarter. This management summary will be prepared in a manner that will allow the City to ascertain whether investment activities during the reporting period have conformed to the investment policy. The report will be prepared in compliance with generally accepted accounting principles. The report will be provided to the City Manager and City Council. The report will include the following:

13.2.1 A listing of individual securities held at the end of the reporting period. This list will include the name of the fund or pooled group fund for which each individual investment was acquired;

## **CITY OF PRINCETON INVESTMENT POLICY**

13.2.2 Unrealized gains or losses resulting from appreciation or depreciation by listing the beginning and ending book and market value of securities for the period. Market values shall be obtained from financial institutions or portfolio reporting services independent from the broker/dealer from which the security was purchased;

13.3.3 Additions and changes to the market value during the period;

13.3.4 Fully accrued interest for the reporting period;

13.3.5 Average weighted yield to maturity of portfolio on entity investments as compared to applicable benchmarks;

13.3.6 Listing of investments by maturity date;

13.3.7 The percentage of the total portfolio which each type of investment represents;  
and

13.3.8 Statement of compliance of the City's investment portfolio with State Law and the investment strategy and policy approved by the City Council.

**14. INVESTMENT POLICY ADOPTION AND AMENDMENT** – The City's Investment Policy shall be adopted and amended by resolution of the City Council only. The City's written policies and procedures for investments are subject to review not less than annually to stay current with changing laws, regulations, and needs of the City. Any changes or modifications to this Investment Policy, if any, shall be approved, and adopted by a formal resolution of the City Council.

# CITY OF PRINCETON INVESTMENT POLICY

## GLOSSARY OF TERMS

The Investment Policy contains specialized and technical terminology that is unique to cash management and investment activities. The following glossary of terms is provided to assist in understanding these terms.

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**Affinity.** Related through marriage.

**Agencies.** See U.S. Agency securities.

**Bankers' Acceptance.** A draft or bill of exchange accepted by a bank or trust company. The accepting institution guarantees payment of the bill, as well as the issuer. When discounted and sold in the secondary market, bankers' acceptances become a short-term investment alternative.

**Book Value.** The cost of a security as recorded in the City's accounting records. For purposes of evaluating a sale of a security, it is a function of the original cost, the amortization of premium or discount, and the accrued interest. Specifically, it is the face value of the security plus the accrued interest plus any unamortized premium or minus any unamortized discount. Book value is often compared to market value, which is defined below.

**Broker.** A person or company that, for a fee or commission, brings buyers and sellers of securities together.

**Certificate of Deposit.** A time deposit with a specific maturity evidenced by a certificate.

**Collateral.** In general, assets which one party pledges as a guarantee of performance. Specifically, securities pledged by a bank to secure deposits of public monies. In the event of bank failure, the securities become the property of the public entity.

**Collateralized Mortgage Obligations (CMO's).** Securities based on a pool of home mortgages.

**Commercial Paper.** An unsecured promissory note issued primarily by corporations for a specific amount and maturing on a specific day. The

maximum maturity for commercial paper is 270 days but most frequently maturities do not exceed 30 days. Almost all commercial paper is rated by a rating service.

**Consanguinity.** Related by blood.

**Coupon.** The annual rate of interest that a bond's issuer promises to pay the bondholder on the bond's face value. Also, a certificate attached to a bond indicating interest due on a payment date.

**Credit Risk.** The uncertainty that the principal amount of an investment will be returned without loss of value to the default of the borrower.

**CUSIP.** A unique security identification number assigned to securities maintained and transferred on the Federal Reserve book-entry system.

**Dealer.** A person or company that endeavors to profit from buying and selling investments for its own account.

**Delivery Versus Payment (DVP).** A method of delivering securities that requires the simultaneous exchange of the security and the payment. It provides a safeguard against paying for securities before they are received.

**Demand Deposits.** Deposits at a financial institution that are available to the depositor upon the depositor's demand.

**Depository Bank.** The primary bank of the City. The relationship between the depository bank and the City is governed by state law and by a depository contract that is approved by the City Council.

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**Discount.** The difference between the cost price of a security and its value at maturity when quoted a lower than face value. A security selling below original offering price shortly after sale is also considered to be a discount.

**Discount Securities.** Non-interest bearing money market instruments that are issued at a discount and redeemed at maturity for full face value, e.g., U.S. Treasury Bills.

**Diversification.** The strategy of dividing investments among a variety of securities offering independent risks and yields. Diversification lessens the likelihood of losing the entire portfolio of investments and averages yields among the investment alternatives.

**Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC).** A federal agency that insures bank deposits.

**Federal Funds Rate.** The rate of interest at which Federal funds are traded. This rate is currently set by the Federal Reserve Through open-market operations.

**Federal Home Loan Banks (FHLB).** Created in 1932, this system consists of 12 regional banks that are owned by private member institutions and regulated by the Federal Housing Finance Board. Functioning as a credit reserve system, it facilitates extension of credit through its owner members. Federal Home Loan Bank issues are joint and several obligations of the 12 Federal Home Loan Banks.

**Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corporation (FHLMC or Freddie Mac).** A stockholder-owned corporation that provides a continuous flow of funds to mortgage lenders, primarily through developing and maintaining an active nationwide market in conventional mortgages.

**Federal National Mortgage Association (FNMA or Fannie Mae).** FNMA, a federal corporation, is the largest single provider of residential mortgage funds in the United States. It is a private stockholder-owned corporation. The corporation's

purchases include a variety of adjustable mortgages and second loans in addition to fixed-rate mortgages. FNMA's securities are also highly liquid and are widely accepted.

**Fully Flexible Repurchase Agreement ("flex repo").** A specialized contract designed for the short-term investment of proceeds available from the sale of municipal bonds, notes and certificates. Flex repos allow for incremental repurchases, with the buyer/issuer (the City) retaining the right to force the seller to repurchase all, or a portion of, the sold securities held under repurchase agreement, at any time before the maturity date of the agreement, at a fixed rate for the life of the agreement.

**Hold Until Maturity.** This investment strategy is intended to avoid interest rate risk by maintaining ownership of an investment until it matures. At maturity, the face value of the security is received, but in some cases where a security is sold before maturity, less than the face value and the book value is received. See interest rate risk defined below.

**Interest Rate Risk.** The uncertainty of the return of principal on fixed rate securities that are sold prior to maturity. When interest rates rise, the market value of fixed rate securities decreases.

**Internal Control.** Policies and procedures that are established to provide reasonable assurance that specific government objectives are achieved and that assets are safeguarded.

**Investment.** The purchase of securities which, upon analysis, promise safety of principal and a satisfactory return. These factors distinguish investment from speculation.

**Investment Objective.** The aim, goal, or desired end of action of the investment activity.

**Investment Pool.** An entity created to invest public funds jointly on behalf of the entities that participate in the pool and whose investment objectives in order of priority are safety, liquidity

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and yield. (Sometimes call Local Government Investment Pool.)

**Investment Strategy.** The overall plan or method proscribed to achieve the investment objectives of the City.

**Laddered Maturity.** An investment strategy whereby investments are purchased to mature at regular intervals.

**Liquidity.** The measure of an investment's ability to be converted quickly and easily into cash without a substantial loss of value.

**Local Government Investment Pool.** See Investment Pool on previous page.

**Market Rate of Return.** A general term referring to the approximate interest rate that could be earned by an investor in a specific maturity range at any given point in time. For example, an investor seeking to earn a "market rate of return" while maintaining an investment portfolio with an average maturity of 90 days, would hope to earn approximately the same as a three-month agency discount note. If the investor earns a rate much higher than this, it might signal an inappropriate level of risk.

**Market Risk.** The uncertainty of the value of the City's portfolio arising from changes in the market conditions of investment securities.

**Market Value.** The price, including accrued interest, at which a security is trading for which it can be readily sold or purchased.

**Maturity.** The date upon which the principal or stated value of an investment becomes due and payable.

**Money Market Mutual Fund.** A mutual fund that purchases short-term debt instruments, such as Treasury Bills, commercial papers, and bankers' acceptances, and which strives to maintain a stable net asset value of \$1.00.

**Mutual Fund.** Investment companies that sell shares to investors, offering investors diversification and professional portfolio management. Prices generally fluctuate with the performance of the fund.

**Net Asset Value.** The ratio of the market value of the portfolio divided by the book value of the portfolio.

**Par.** The value of a security as expressed on its face (face value) without consideration of a discount or premium.

**Pledge.** The grant of a collateral interest in investment securities by the depository bank as assurance of the safety of City deposits.

**Pooled Fund Group.** The combination of various accounts and funds of the City in a single, internally-created investing entity.

**Portfolio.** The collection of securities held by an investor.

**Principal.** The capital sum of an investment, as distinguished from interest.

**Premium.** The difference between the cost price and the face value at maturity in cases where the cost price is higher than the face value.

**Rate-of-Return.** See Yield (following page).

**Repurchase Agreement (REPO).** An investment arrangement in which the holder of a security sells that security to an investor (the City) with an agreement to repurchase the security at a fixed price and on a fixed date.

**Reverse Repurchase Agreement.** An investment arrangement by which the City sells a security to a third party, such as a bank or broker/dealer, in return for cash and agrees to repurchase the instrument from the third party at a fixed price and on a fixed date. The City would then use the cash to purchase additional investments. This type of investment is prohibited in the City's portfolio,

## **CITY OF PRINCETON INVESTMENT POLICY**

except to the extent used by local government investment pools with which the City invests.

**Safekeeping.** An arrangement whereby a bank holds securities and other valuables for protection in exchange for a fee.

**Safety.** The assurance of the undiminished return of the principal of the City's investments and deposits.

**Secondary Market.** A market for the purchase and sales of outstanding securities following their initial distribution.

**SEC Rule 15C3-1 (Uniform Net Capital Rule).** Security and Exchange Commission (SEC) requirement that member firms and nonmember broker/dealers in securities maintain a maximum ratio of indebtedness to liquid capital of 15 to 1.

**Security.** A financial instrument that signifies an ownership interest, the right to an ownership interest, or creditor status.

**Security Risks.** The uncertainty of the value of a security dependent on its particular qualities.

**Time Deposits.** Deposits at the depository bank that are not due and payable until a specific date.

**United States Agency Securities.** Debt instruments issued by an executive department, or a corporation or other entity established by Congress which is owned in whole or in part by the United States of America.

**United States Treasury Securities.** Debt instruments issued by the Treasury of the United States. Treasury Bills are issued for short-term borrowings (less than one year); Treasury Notes are issued for mid-term borrowings (two – ten years); Treasury Bonds are issued for long-term borrowings (over ten years).

**Yield.** The rate of annual income return on an investment, expressed as a percentage.