



INVESTMENT POLICY

I. POLICY

It is the policy of the City of Brenham that all available funds shall be invested in conformance with these legal and administrative guidelines with consideration for anticipated cash flow requirements and consideration of the safety and risk of investments. The City shall seek to optimize interest earnings to the extent possible based on these risk parameters.

Effective cash management is recognized as essential to good fiscal management. Investment interest is a source of revenue to City of Brenham funds. The City of Brenham's investment portfolio shall be designed and managed in a manner designed to obtain the highest reasonable earnings from this revenue source, to be responsive to public trust, and to be in compliance with legal requirements and limitations.

Investments shall be made with the primary objectives of:

- **Safety** and preservation of principal
- Maintenance of sufficient **liquidity** to meet operating needs
- Diversification to avoid concentrated risk
- **Public trust** from prudent investment activities
- Optimization of **interest earnings** on the portfolio

The Investment Policy addresses the methods, procedures and practices that must be exercised to ensure effective and judicious fiscal management of the City of Brenham's funds. This Policy serves to satisfy the statutory requirements of the Public Funds Investment Act, the "Act", (Texas Government Code, Chapter 2256) in defining and adopting a formal investment policy and strategy. The policy and strategy shall be reviewed by the Audit / Investment Committee and adopted by resolution of the City Council no less than annually. Any modifications to the Policy will be noted in the written resolution.

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II. SCOPE

This Investment Policy shall govern the investment of all financial assets of the City of Brenham. These funds are accounted for in the City of Brenham's Annual Audited Financial Statements and include:

- General Fund
- Special Revenue Funds
- Capital Projects Funds
- Enterprise Funds
- Trust and Agency Funds, to the extent not required by law or existing contract to be kept segregated and managed separately
- Debt Service Funds, including reserves and sinking funds, to the extent not required by law or existing contract to be kept segregated and managed separately
- Brenham Community Development Corporation Funds
- Internal Service Funds
- Self-Insurance Funds
- Any new fund created by the City of Brenham, unless specifically exempted from this Policy by the City Council or by law.

The City of Brenham may consolidate cash balances from all funds for investment purposes and efficiencies. Investment income will be allocated to the various funds based on their respective participation and in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles. The consolidated portfolio will address the varying needs, goals, and objectives of each fund.

This Investment Policy shall apply to all transactions involving the financial assets and related activity for all the foregoing funds. However, this Policy does not apply to the assets administered for the benefit of the City of Brenham by outside agencies or under deferred compensation programs.

III. INVESTMENT OBJECTIVES

The City of Brenham shall manage and invest its cash with five primary objectives, listed in order of priority: **safety, liquidity, diversification, public trust, and yield**. The safety of the principal invested always remains the primary objective. All investments shall be designed and managed in a manner responsive to the public trust and consistent with state and local law.

The City of Brenham shall maintain a comprehensive cash management program, which includes timely collection of account receivables, vendor payments in accordance with invoice terms, and prudent investment of funds. Cash management is defined as the process of managing monies in order to ensure cash availability and reasonable market earnings on the City's assets.

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SAFETY

Safety of principal is the foremost objective of the investment program. Investments of the City of Brenham shall be undertaken in a manner that seeks to ensure the preservation of capital in the overall portfolio. Competitive bidding and perfected ownership of investments will be in place at all times. The objective will be to mitigate credit and interest rate risk. Each investment transaction shall be conducted in a manner to control the risk of capital loss by investing in high credit quality securities.

- Credit Risk – The Entity will minimize credit risk, the risk of loss due to the failure of the issuer or backer of the investment, by:
 - Limiting investments to the highest credit quality investments
 - Pre-qualifying the financial institutions and broker/dealers with which the City of Brenham transacts business
 - Perfecting City ownership by delivery versus payment settlement, and
 - Diversifying the investment portfolio so that potential credit or market risk is minimized.
- Market Risk – the City will minimize the risk from interest rate volatility by:
 - Structuring the investment portfolio to meet cash requirements for ongoing operations, thereby avoiding the need to liquidate investments prior to maturity.
 - Investing operating funds in laddered securities and maintaining a liquidity portion to cover unanticipated expenses.

LIQUIDITY

The City of Brenham investment portfolio shall be structured in a ladder of maturities to match expected liabilities along with a liquidity portion to meet unanticipated liabilities. Securities will have active secondary markets.

PUBLIC TRUST

All participants in the City of Brenham's investment process shall seek to act responsibly as custodians of the public trust. Investment officers shall avoid any transaction that might impair public confidence in the City of Brenham's ability to govern effectively.

DIVERSIFICATION

The portfolio will be diversified by market sector and maturity based on the cash flow and risk tolerances of the City.

YIELD

The City of Brenham investment portfolio shall be designed with the objective of attaining a reasonable market yield throughout budgetary and economic cycles, taking into account the City's investment risk constraints and the cash flow characteristics of the portfolio. Yield is secondary to the safety and liquidity objectives described above.

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Based upon the cash flow of the City the maximum dollar-weighted average maturity of the consolidated portfolio shall be one (1) year. The benchmark used to determine whether reasonable yields are being achieved shall be the one year U.S. Treasury Bill.

IV. INVESTMENT STRATEGY

The City of Brenham maintains a consolidated portfolio which is designed to address the unique characteristics of the fund groups represented in the portfolio.

Operating Funds: The primary objective for operating funds is to assure anticipated cash flows are matched with adequate investment liquidity. The secondary objective is to create a portfolio structure which will experience minimal volatility during economic cycles. This may be accomplished by purchasing high credit quality, short to medium term securities in a ladder structure. The maximum dollar weighted average maturity of one year reflects the expenditure cash flow of operating funds and will be calculated using the stated final maturity dates of each security.

Capital Project Funds: Funds for capital projects or special purposes should be invested based on anticipated cash flows and allow for flexibility and unanticipated project outlays. At no time will the stated final maturity dates of investments exceed the estimated project completion date on capital project funds.

Debt Service Funds: Debt service funds shall be invested with the primary objective of funding debt service obligations on the required payment date. Priority will be given to funding the next debt service due before any extensions are made in the funds.

Debt Service Reserve Funds: Debt Service Reserves should be invested to generate a dependable revenue stream from securities with a low degree of volatility. Securities should be short to medium term maturities and of high credit quality.

The City primarily utilizes a passive “buy and hold” portfolio strategy. Maturity dates are primarily matched with cash flow requirements and investments are purchased with the intent to be held until maturity. However, investments may be liquidated prior to maturity for the following reasons:

- An investment with declining credit may be liquidated early to minimize loss of principal
- Cash flow needs require that the investment be liquidated
- Market conditions present an opportunity to benefit from the trade

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V. RESPONSIBILITY AND CONTROL

CITY COUNCIL RESPONSIBILITIES

The City Council, in accordance with the Act, shall:

- Designate Investment Officers by resolution
- Receive and review quarterly investment reports
- Annually review and approve the City's broker list – *As noted in Section VIII, the governing body has designated this responsibility to the Audit & Investment Committee*
- Review and adopt the investment policy and strategy at least annually
- Provide for investment training for investment officers

INVESTMENT OFFICERS

The Chief Financial Officer and the Director of Finance are hereby designated as "Investment Officers" pursuant to the Act. Investment Officers are delegated authority to invest the funds on behalf of the City and such authorization shall remain in effect until rescinded by the City Council or until the Officer resigns or is terminated. The Investment Officers are authorized to execute investment transactions on behalf of the City. No person may engage in an investment transaction or the management of City of Brenham funds except as provided under the terms of this Investment Policy as approved by the City Council.

Investment Officers shall:

- Obtain training as defined by the Act and this Policy
- Prepare, sign, and submit quarterly investment reports to Council
- Maintain compliance files on all counter-parties (brokers) and provide the list for Council approval at least annually
- Provide for competitive bidding
- Disclose personal business relationships in accordance with policy
- Maintain full and complete records of the City's portfolio and transactions.

QUALITY AND CAPABILITY OF INVESTMENT MANAGEMENT

The Investment Officers shall obtain training in investments. The seminars should be offered by professional organizations, associations, and other independent sources approved by Council. The training is to ensure the quality and capability of investment management in compliance with the Act.

In accordance with the Act, the designated Investment Officers shall attend 10 hours of investment training session within 12 months of their designation and every successive two fiscal years shall attend eight hours of training. A newly appointed Investment Officer must attend a training session of at least 10 hours of instruction within twelve months of the date the officer took office or assumed the officer's duties. For purposes of this policy, an "independent source" from which investment training shall be obtained shall include a professional organization, an institution of higher education or any other sponsor other than a business organization with whom the City of Brenham may engage in an investment transaction.

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INTERNAL CONTROLS

The Chief Financial Officer is responsible for establishing and maintaining an internal control structure designed to ensure that the assets of the City are protected from loss, theft, or misuse. The internal control structure shall be designed to provide reasonable assurance that these objectives are met. 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.

The Chief Financial Officer shall establish a process for a compliance audit on policies and procedures. The internal controls shall address the following points at a minimum.

- Control of collusion
- Separation of transactions authority from accounting and record keeping
- Custodial safekeeping
- Clear delegation of authority to subordinate staff members
- Written confirmation for all transactions for investments and wire transfers
- Review of wire transfer agreements with the depository bank or third party custodian
- Review of compliance with the Act and this Policy

The Chief Financial Officer shall monitor, on no less than a monthly basis, the credit rating on all authorized investments in the portfolio based upon independent information from a nationally recognized rating agency. If any security falls below the minimum rating required by Policy, the Investment Officer shall notify the City Manager of the loss of rating, conditions affecting the rating and possible loss of principal with liquidation options available, within three days after notification of the loss of the required rating.

PRUDENCE

The standard of prudence to be applied to all transactions shall be the "prudent person rule". This rule states that "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 probable income to be derived."

In determining whether an Investment Officer has exercised prudence with respect to an investment decision, the determination shall be made taking into consideration:

- The investment of all funds, or funds under the City's control, over which the Officer had responsibility rather than a consideration as to the prudence of a single investment.
- Whether the investment decision was consistent with the written approved Investment Policy of the City.

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INDEMNIFICATION

The Investment Officer, acting in accordance with written procedures and exercising due diligence, shall not be held personally liable for a specific investment's credit risk or market price changes, provided that these deviations are reported immediately and the appropriate action is taken to control adverse developments.

ETHICS AND CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

All participants in the investment process shall seek to act responsibly as custodians of the public trust. Investment officers shall avoid any transaction that might impair public confidence in the City's ability to govern effectively. Officers and employees involved in the investment process shall refrain from personal business activity that would conflict with the proper execution and management of the investment program, or that would impair their ability to make impartial decisions.

Council members, employees and Investment Officers shall disclose to the Texas Ethics Commission and the City Manager, and the City Manager discloses to the City Council if:

- a) The officer has a personal business relationship with a business organization offering to engage in an investment transaction with the City; or
- b) The officer is related within the second degree by affinity of consanguinity, as determined under Chapter 573 of the Texas Government Code, to an individual seeking to transact investment business with the City; or
- c) The officer has any material interests in financial institutions with which they conduct business; or
- d) The officer has any personal financial/investment positions that could be related to the performance of the investment portfolio.

Employees and officers shall refrain from undertaking personal investment transactions with the same individual with which business is conducted on behalf of the City of Brenham.

VI. SUITABLE AND AUTHORIZED INVESTMENTS

City funds may be invested only in the instruments described below, all of which are authorized and further defined by the Act. The City will not be required to liquidate an investment that becomes unauthorized subsequent to its purchase.

I. AUTHORIZED INVESTMENTS

- 1. Obligations of the United States of America, its agencies and instrumentalities with stated maturities not to exceed three (3) years excluding mortgage backed securities.
- 2. Obligations of this State or any State or agency thereof including political subdivisions having been rated as investment quality by two nationally recognized investment rating firm and having received a rating of not less than "A" or its equivalent with maturities not to exceed three (3) years.

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3. Fully insured or collateralized depository Certificates of Deposit issued by a bank doing business in Texas insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation or its successor and secured by pledged obligations in a manner provided for by this Policy and state law with maturities not to exceed 12 months.
4. Local government investment pools, which 1) are created under and conform to the requirements of the Act, 2) are rated no lower than AAA or an equivalent rating by at least one nationally recognized rating service, 3) seek to maintain a \$1.00 net asset value, and 4) are authorized by resolution or ordinance by the City Council.
5. Fully insured or collateralized interest bearing or money market accounts in any FDIC insured bank in Texas collateralized in accordance with this Policy, to include spread products.
6. AAA rated money market funds which strive to maintain a \$1 net asset value and comply with SEC Rule 2a-7.
7. Commercial paper rated A1/P1 or the equivalent by two national rating agencies no longer than 270 days to maturity. No more than 20% of the portfolio may be held in commercial paper.

II. UN-AUTHORIZED INVESTMENTS

The Act and this Policy prohibits investment in the following investment instruments:

- Obligations whose payment represents the coupon payments of the outstanding principal balance of the underlying mortgage-backed security collateral and pay no principal (Interest Only mortgage backed securities);
- Obligations whose payment represents the principal stream of cash flow from underlying mortgage-backed security collateral and bear no interest (Principal only mortgage backed securities);
- Collateralized mortgage obligations that have a stated final maturity date of greater than 10 years;
- Collateralized mortgage obligations the interest rate of which is determined by an index that adjusts opposite to the changes in a market index; and

The practice of “leveraging” whereby funds are borrowed for the sole purpose of investing is prohibited.

VII. INVESTMENT PARAMETERS

MAXIMUM MATURITIES

The longer the maturity of investments, the greater their price volatility; therefore, it is the City’s policy to concentrate its investment portfolio in shorter-term securities (one to two years) in order to limit principal risk caused by changes in interest rates.

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The City shall attempt to match its investments with anticipated cash flow requirements. The City will not directly invest in securities maturing more than three (3) years from the date of purchase; however, the above described obligations, certificates, or agreements may be collateralized using longer dated investments.

The consolidated portfolio will have a maximum dollar-weighted average maturity of one year. This dollar-weighted average will be calculated using the stated final maturity dates of each security.

DIVERSIFICATION

The City of Brenham recognizes that investment risks can result from issuer defaults, market price changes or various technical complications leading to temporary illiquidity. Risk is controlled through portfolio diversification that shall be achieved by the following general guidelines:

- Limiting investments to avoid over concentration in investments from a specific issuer or business,
- Limiting investment in investments that have higher credit risks
- Investing in investments with varying maturities, and
- Continuously investing a portion of the portfolio in readily available funds such as local government investment pools (LGIPs), or money market funds to ensure that appropriate liquidity is maintained in order to meet ongoing obligations.

Securities which lose their policy or State required credit rating must be liquidated in a reasonable period of time.

Securities which become *unauthorized* under State law or by a change in City Policy, do not require liquidation but after maturity funds must be re-invested in authorized securities.

VIII. SELECTION OF BANKS AND DEALERS

DEPOSITORY

As required by the City of Brenham Charter and state law, every five (5) years a primary banking services depository shall be selected through a competitive process, which shall include a formal request for proposal (RFP) and be consistent with state law. The selection of a depository will be determined by competitive bid and evaluation of bids will be based on the following selection criteria:

- The ability to qualify as a depository for public funds in accordance with state law.
- The ability to provide required services.
- The ability to meet all requirements in the banking RFP.
- The lowest net banking service cost, consistent with the ability to provide an appropriate level of service.
- The earning potential for funds in the depository.
- The credit worthiness and financial stability of the bank.

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All banks will execute a written depository agreement in accordance with FIRREA¹ designating authorized collateral.

AUTHORIZED BROKERS/DEALERS

The City Audit/Investment Committee shall, at least annually, review, revise, and adopt a list of qualified broker/dealers authorized to engage in securities transactions with the City. Those firms that request to become qualified bidders for securities transactions will be required to provide information for the City's questionnaire that provides information regarding creditworthiness, contact information, and experience. They must be registered with the Texas State Securities Board. All local government pools in which the City participates shall provide the City with certification stating the pools have received, read and understood the City of Brenham's Investment Policy and have in place controls to prohibit selling the City any security not authorized by that Policy.

The City shall have a minimum of three broker/dealers to assure competitive bidding. Authorized firms may include primary dealers or regional dealers and qualified depositories. All local government investment pools, must sign the City's certification. Every provider will be furnished the City's Investment Policy.

COMPETITIVE BIDS

All transactions will be made on a competitive basis. The Director of Finance shall develop and maintain procedures for ensuring a competition in the investment of the City funds.

DELIVERY VS. PAYMENT

Securities shall be purchased only using the **delivery vs. payment** method with the exception of investment pools and money market mutual funds. Funds will be released after notification that the purchased security has been received by the custodian.

IX. SAFEKEEPING OF SECURITIES AND COLLATERAL

SAFEKEEPING AND CUSTODIAN AGREEMENTS

Securities owned by the City. The City of Brenham shall contract with a depository for the safekeeping/custody of securities owned by the City of Brenham as part of its investment portfolio. Securities owned by the City of Brenham shall be held in the City's name as evidenced by safekeeping receipts of the institution holding the securities.

Collateral pledged to the City. Collateral for time and demand deposits will be held by an independent third party custodian designated by the depository and approved by the City outside of the pledging bank

¹The Financial Institutions Resource and Recover Enforcement Act governs the actions of the FDIC in cases of bank default.

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and evidenced by original safekeeping receipts of the pledging institution with which the collateral is deposited. Original safekeeping receipts and monthly collateral reports shall be delivered to the City.

COLLATERAL POLICY

Consistent with the requirements of the Public Funds Collateral Act, it is the policy of the City to require collateralization of City funds in time and demand deposit with any depository bank for time and demand deposits above the FDIC insurance level. In order to anticipate market changes and provide a level of security for all funds, the collateralization level will be 102% market value of the total principal and accrued interest on the deposits or investments less an amount insured by the FDIC. At its discretion, the City of Brenham may require a higher level of collateralization for certain investment securities.

Securities pledged as collateral shall be held by an independent third party outside the holding company of the pledging bank with whom the City has a current depository agreement. The depository agreement must be written and is to specify the acceptable investment security types of 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 bank must provide evidence that the collateral has been approved by action of the Bank Board or bank's Loan Committee under the terms of FIRREA. Clearly marked evidences of ownership (safekeeping receipts) must be supplied to and retained by the City. Collateral shall be priced weekly at a minimum to assure that the market value of the pledged securities is adequate.

The Director of Finance is responsible for all substitutions and the substitution process. The substituted security's market value will be equal to or greater than the required security value. Written notification of the substitution must be provided by the bank or custodian .

COLLATERAL DEFINED

The Entity shall accept only the following types of collateral:

- Obligations of the United States or its agencies and instrumentalities including mortgage backed securities and collateralized mortgage obligations (CMO) which pass the Federal Reserve bank test
- Direct obligations of the state of Texas or its agencies and instrumentalities rated as to investment quality by a nationally recognized rating firm not less than A or its equivalent
- Obligations of states, agencies, counties, cities, and other political subdivisions of any state rated as to investment quality by a nationally recognized rating firm not less than A or its equivalent
- FHLB Irrevocable letters of credit

Preference will be given to pledged securities.

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SUBJECT TO AUDIT

All collateral shall be subject to inspection and audit by the Director of Finance or the City of Brenham's independent auditors.

At least annually, the Investment Officers shall conduct a compliance audit to ensure that investment practices are made in compliance with this policy and state law.

X. PERFORMANCE

PERFORMANCE STANDARDS

The City of Brenham's investment portfolio will be managed in accordance with the parameters specified within this Policy. The portfolio shall be designed with the objective of obtaining a reasonable yield throughout budgetary and economic cycles, commensurate with the investment risk constraints and the cash flow requirements of the City.

PERFORMANCE/RISK BENCHMARK

It is the policy of the City of Brenham to purchase investments with maturity dates coinciding with cash flow needs. Through this strategy, the City shall seek to optimize earnings utilizing allowable investments available on the market at that time. Market value will be calculated on a monthly basis on all securities owned and compared to current book value. The City of Brenham's portfolio shall be designed with the objective of regularly meeting or exceeding the period average yield on the one year U.S. Treasury Bill which is comparable to the City's maximum weighted average maturity in days based on its cash flow analysis.

XI. REPORTING

METHODS

The Investment Officer(s) shall prepare an internal investment report on a monthly basis and on a quarterly basis for Council that summarizes investment strategies employed in the most recent monthly/quarter and describes the portfolio in terms of investment securities, maturities including the yield for the quarter.

The quarterly investment report shall be in compliance with the Act and include a summary statement of investment activity prepared in compliance with generally accepted accounting principles. This summary will be prepared in a manner that will allow the City Audit/Investment Committee to ascertain whether investment activities during the reporting period have conformed to the Investment Policy. The report will be provided to the City Council for review. The report will include the following:

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- A listing of individual securities held at the end of the reporting period including book and market values.
- Unrealized gains or losses as calculated on the beginning and ending book and market value of securities for the period.
- Additions and changes to the market value during the period.
- Average weighted yield of portfolio as compared to the City's benchmark.
- Listing of investments by maturity date.
- Fully accrued interest and earnings for the reporting period
- The percentage of the total portfolio that each type of investment represents.
- Any additional reporting information as required by the Act.
- Statement of compliance of the City of Brenham's Investment Policy and the Act.

Market value of all securities in the portfolio will be determined on a monthly basis. These values will be obtained from a reputable and independent source reported in the quarterly report.

An independent auditor will perform an annual formal review of the quarterly reports with the results reported to the governing body.

XII. INVESTMENT POLICY ADOPTION

The City of Brenham's Investment Policy shall be adopted no less than annually by resolution of the City Council. The City of Brenham's Investment Policy shall be subject to revisions consistent with changing laws, regulations, and needs of the City but any such changes must be adopted by the Council before use. The resolution adopting the policy and strategies must include any changes or modifications to the Policy.

PRIOR AUTHORITY/DATE ISSUED:

City Council Resolution #R-24-012

September 19, 2024