

## MEMORANDUM

To: Members of the City Commission

From: Lisa Agnor, City Manager

Date: April 8, 2016

Subject: Approval of the engagement letter with Knuckols, Duvall, Hallum & Co. for audit services related to the audit of the 2015 fiscal year

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A copy of the proposed agreement with Knuckols, Duvall, Hallum & Co. for audit services for the 2015 fiscal year is attached. The agreement provides for the same services this firm has undertaken in completing the audit of the City's annual revenues and expenditures and evaluating compliance with various requirements and standards in past years. The proposed cost for the audit for the City is \$39,750.00. Funds are provided for in the 2016 budget for this expense.

KNUCKOLS • DUVALL • HALLUM & CO. *A Professional Corporation*

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CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS

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March 25, 2016

Lisa Agnor, City Manager  
City of Marshall  
P.O. Box 698  
Marshall, Texas 75671

We are pleased to confirm our understanding of the services we are to provide for the City of Marshall (City) for the year ended December 31, 2015. We will audit the financial statements of the governmental activities, the business-type activities, each major fund and the aggregate remaining fund information, including the related notes to the financial statements, and supplemental schedules of the City of Marshall, and a separate report on the component units, Marshall Economic Development Corporation (MEDCO), Marshall Downtown Development Corporation (MDDC), and Marshall Convention and Visitors Bureau (MCVB) as of and for the year ended December 31, 2015.

Accounting standards generally accepted in the United States of America provide for certain required supplementary information (RSI), such as management's discussion and analysis (MD&A), to supplement the City's 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. As part of our engagement, we will apply certain limited procedures to the City's RSI in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America. These limited procedures will consist of inquiries of management regarding 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 will 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. The following RSI is required by generally accepted accounting principles and will be subjected to certain limited procedures, but will not be audited: Management's Discussion and Analysis

We have also been engaged to report on supplementary information other than RSI that accompanies the City's financial statements. We will subject the following supplementary information to the auditing procedures applied in our audit of the financial statements and certain additional procedures, including comparing and reconciling such information directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the financial statements or to the financial statements themselves, and other additional procedures in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America, and will provide an opinion on it in relation to the financial statements as a whole: Supplemental Schedules

### **Audit Objectives**

The objective of our audit is the expression of opinions as to whether your financial statements are fairly presented, in all material respects, in conformity with U.S. generally accepted accounting principles and to report on the fairness of the supplementary information referred to in the third paragraph when considered in relation to the financial statements taken as a whole. Our audit will be conducted in accordance with U.S. generally accepted auditing standards; the standards for financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards*, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States, and will include tests of accounting records of the City, and other procedures we consider necessary to enable us to express such opinions. We will issue a written report upon completion of our audit of the City's financial statements. Our report will be addressed to the City Commissioners of City of Marshall, Texas. We cannot provide assurance that unmodified opinions will be expressed. Circumstances may arise in which it is necessary for us to modify our opinions or add emphasis-of-matter or other-matter paragraphs. If our opinions on the financial statements are other than unmodified, we will discuss the reasons with you in advance. If, for any reason, we are unable to complete the audit or are unable to form or have not formed opinions, we may decline to express opinions or issue a report, or may withdraw from this engagement.

We will also provide a report (that does not include an opinion) on internal control related to the financial statements and compliance with the provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements, noncompliance with which could have a material effect on the financial statements as required by *Government Auditing Standards*. The report on internal control and on compliance and other matters will include a paragraph that states (1) that the purpose of the report is solely to describe the scope of testing of internal control and compliance, and the results of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on the effectiveness of the City's internal control on compliance (2) that the report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* in considering the City's internal control and compliance. The paragraph will also state that the report is not suitable for any other purpose. If during our audit we become aware that the City is subject to an audit requirement that is not encompassed in the terms of this engagement, we will communicate to management and those charged with governance that an audit in accordance with U.S. generally accepted auditing standards and the standards for financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards* may not satisfy the relevant legal, regulatory, or contractual requirements.

### **Audit Procedures – General**

An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements; therefore, our audit will involve judgment about the number of transactions to be examined and the areas to be tested. 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 will plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable rather than absolute assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement, whether from (1) errors, (2) fraudulent financial reporting, (3) misappropriation of assets, or (4) violations of laws or governmental regulations that are attributable to the City or to acts by management or employees acting on behalf of the City. Because the determination of abuse is subjective, *Government Auditing Standards* do not expect auditors to provide reasonable assurance of detecting abuse.

Because of the inherent limitations of an audit, combined with the inherent limitations of internal control, and because we will not perform a detailed examination of all transactions, there is a risk that material misstatements or noncompliance may exist and not be detected by us, even though the audit is properly planned and performed in accordance with U.S. generally accepted auditing standards and *Government Auditing Standards*. In addition, an audit is not designed to detect immaterial misstatements or violations of laws or governmental regulations that do not have a direct and material effect on the financial statements.

However, we will inform the appropriate level of management of any material errors, any fraudulent financial reporting, or misappropriation of assets that come to our attention. We will also inform the appropriate level of management of any violations of laws or governmental regulations that come to our attention, unless clearly inconsequential, and of any material abuse that comes to our attention. Our responsibility as auditors is limited to the period covered by our audit and does not extend to any later periods for which we are not engaged as auditors.

Our procedures will include tests of documentary evidence supporting the transactions recorded in the accounts, and direct confirmation of receivables and certain other assets and liabilities by correspondence with selected funding sources, creditors, and financial institutions. We will request written representations from your attorneys as part of the engagement, and they may bill you for responding to this inquiry. At the conclusion of our audit, we will require certain written representations from you about your responsibilities for the financial statements; compliance with laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements and other responsibilities required by generally accepted auditing standards.

#### **Audit Procedures – Internal Control**

Our audit will include obtaining an understanding of the entity and its environment, including internal control, sufficient to assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements and to design the nature, timing, and extent of further audit procedures. Tests of controls may be performed to test the effectiveness of certain controls that we consider relevant to preventing and detecting errors and fraud that are material to the financial statements and to preventing and detecting misstatements resulting from illegal acts and other noncompliance matters that have a direct and material effect on the financial statements. Our tests, if performed, will be less in scope that would be necessary to render an opinion on internal control and, accordingly, no opinion will be expressed in our report on internal control issued pursuant to *Government Auditing Standards*.

An audit is not designed to provide assurance on internal control or to identify significant deficiencies or material weaknesses. However, during the audit, we will communicate to management and those charged with governance internal control related matters that are required to be communicated under AICPA professional standards and *Government Auditing Standards*.

#### **Audit Procedures – Compliance**

As part of obtaining reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement, we will perform tests of City of Marshall's compliance with provisions of applicable laws, regulations, contracts, and agreements, including grant agreements. However, the objective will not be to provide an opinion on overall compliance and we will not express such an opinion in our report on compliance issued pursuant to *Government Auditing Standards*.

#### **Other Services**

We will also assist in preparing the financial statements and related notes of the City in conformity with U.S. generally accepted accounting principles based on information provided by you. These nonaudit services do not constitute an audit under *Government Auditing Standards* and such services will not be conducted in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*.

### Management Responsibilities

Management is responsible for establishing and maintaining effective internal controls, including evaluating and monitoring ongoing activities, to help ensure that appropriate goals and objectives are met; following laws and regulations; and ensuring that management and financial information is reliable and properly reported. Management is also responsible for implementing systems designed to achieve compliance with applicable laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements. You are also responsible for the selection and application of accounting principles; and for the fair presentation in the financial statements, changes in fund net position, and cash flows in conformity with U.S. generally accepted accounting principles; and for compliance with applicable laws and regulations and the provisions of contracts and grant agreements.

Management is also responsible for making all financial records and related information available to us and for accuracy and completeness of that information. You are also responsible for providing us with access to all information of which you are aware that is relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements, additional information that we may request for the purpose of the audit, and unrestricted access to persons within the organization from whom we determine it necessary to obtain audit evidence.

Your responsibilities also include identifying any significant vendor relationships in which the vendor has responsibility for program compliance and for the accuracy and completeness of that information. Your responsibilities include adjusting the financial statements to correct material misstatements and confirming to us in the written representation letter that the effects of any uncorrected misstatements aggregated by us during the current engagement and pertaining to the latest period presented are immaterial, both individually and in the aggregate, to the financial statements taken as a whole.

You are responsible for the design and implementation of programs and controls to prevent and detect fraud, and for informing us about all known or suspected fraud or illegal acts affecting the City involving (a) management, (b) employees who have significant roles in internal control, and (c) others where the fraud or illegal acts could have a material effect on the financial statements. Your responsibilities include informing us of your knowledge of any allegations of fraud or suspected fraud affecting the City received in communications from employees, former employees, grantors, regulators, or others. In addition, you are responsible for identifying and ensuring that the City complies with applicable laws, regulations, contracts, agreements, and grants and for taking timely and appropriate steps to remedy fraud and noncompliance with provisions of laws, regulations, contracts or grant agreements, or abuse that we report.

You are also responsible for the preparation of the other supplementary information, which we have been engaged to report on, in conformity with U.S. generally accepted accounting principles. You agree to include our report on the supplementary information in any document that contains and indicates that we have reported on the supplementary information. You also agree to include the audited financial statements with any presentation of the supplementary information that includes our report thereon or make the audited financial statements readily available to users of the supplementary information no later than the date the supplementary information is issued with our report thereon. Your responsibilities include acknowledging to us in the written representation letter that (a) you are responsible for presentation of the supplementary information in accordance with GAAP; (b) that you believe the supplementary information, including its form and content, is fairly presented in accordance with GAAP; (c) that the methods of measurement or presentation have not changed from those used in the prior period (or, if they have changed, the reasons for such changes); and (d) you have disclosed to us any significant assumptions or interpretations underlying the measurement or presentation of the supplementary information.

Management is responsible for establishment and maintenance of a process for tracking the status of audit findings and recommendations. Management is also responsible for identifying for us, previous audits or other engagements or studies related to the objectives discussed in the Audit Objectives section of this letter. This responsibility includes relaying to us corrective actions taken to address significant findings and recommendations resulting from those audits or other engagements or studies. You are responsible for providing management's views on our current findings, conclusions, and recommendations, as well as your planned corrective actions for the report, and the timing and format for providing that information.

You agree to assume all management responsibilities relating to the financial statements and related notes and any other nonaudit services we provide. You will be required to acknowledge in the management representation letter our assistance with preparation of the financial statements and related notes and that you have reviewed and approved the financial statements and related notes prior to their issuance and have accepted responsibility for them. Further, you agree to oversee the nonaudit services by designating an individual, preferably from senior management, with suitable skill, knowledge, or experience; evaluate the adequacy and results of those services; and accept responsibility for them.

#### **Engagement Administration, Fees, and Other**

We understand that your employees will locate any documents selected by us for testing.

We will provide copies of our reports to the City; however, management is responsible for distribution of the reports and the financial statements. Unless restricted by law or regulation, or containing privileged and confidential information, copies of our reports are to be made available for public inspection.

The audit documentation for this engagement are the property of Knuckols, Duvall, Hallum & Co. and constitutes confidential information. However, pursuant to authority given by law or regulation, we may be requested to make certain audit documentation available to federal or state agencies, or the U.S. Government Accountability Office for purposes of a quality review of the audit, to resolve audit findings, or to carry out oversight responsibilities. We will notify you of any such request. If requested, access to such audit documentation will be provided under the supervision of Knuckols, Duvall, Hallum & Co. personnel. Furthermore, upon request, we may provide photocopies of selected audit documentation to the aforementioned parties. These parties may intend, or decide, to distribute the copies or information contained therein to others, including other governmental agencies.

The audit documentation for this engagement will be retained for a minimum of five years after the date the auditors' report is issued or for any additional period requested by the Cognizant Agency. If we are aware that a federal or state awarding agency, pass-through entity, or auditee is contesting an audit finding, we will contact the party(ies) contesting the audit finding for guidance prior to destroying the audit documentation.

Michael Hallum is the engagement partner and is responsible for supervising the engagement and signing the reports or authorizing another individual to sign them.

We agree to perform these audits at our standard hourly rates for partners and staff assigned to the engagement and, we agree that the total fee for all services will not exceed the sum of \$49,250 (City of Marshall - \$39,750; MEDCO - \$7,500; MDDC - \$1,000; MCVB - \$1,000). This fee includes reasonable time for furnishing ongoing advice on accounting and related matters and includes time to meet directly with the City Administrative Officials and City Commission to discuss the respective audits.

We have enclosed a copy of our most recent external Peer Review Report dated in April 2014.

We appreciate the opportunity to be of service to you and believe this letter accurately summarizes the significant terms of our engagement. If you have any questions, please let us know. If you agree with the terms of our engagement as described in this letter, please sign the original and return to us in the enclosed envelope.

Very truly yours,

KNUCKOLS, DUVALL, HALLUM & CO.

*Knuckols, Duvall, Hallum & Co.*  
Certified Public Accountants

RESPONSE:

This letter correctly sets forth the understanding of the City of Marshall.

By: \_\_\_\_\_

Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_