

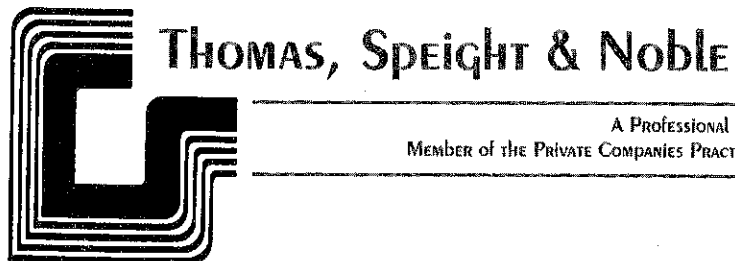
CITY OF MONETTE WATER AND SEWER FUND  
A COMPONENT UNIT OF THE CITY OF MONETTE, ARKANSAS  
Audited Financial Statements  
For the Year Ended December 31, 2023

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City of Monette Water and Sewer Fund  
A Component Unit of the City of Monette, Arkansas  
Audited Financial Statements  
For the Year Ended December 31, 2023

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THOMAS, SPEIGHT & NOBLE

A PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATION OF CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS  
MEMBER OF THE PRIVATE COMPANIES PRACTICE SECTION OF THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS

## INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT

To the Honorable Bob Blankenship, Mayor  
And the Members of the City Council  
City of Monette, Arkansas

### *Report on the Audit of the Financial Statements*

#### **Qualified Opinion**

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of the City of Monette Water and Sewer Fund, a component unit of the City of Monette, Arkansas, as of and for the year ended December 31, 2023, and the related notes to the financial statements as listed in the table of contents.

In our opinion, except for the effects of the matter discussed in the subsequent paragraph, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the respective financial position of the City of Monette Water and Sewer Fund, as of December 31, 2023, and the respective changes in financial position and cash flows thereof for the years then ended in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

#### **Basis for Qualified Opinion**

We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements section of our report. We are required to be independent of the City of Monette Water and Sewer Fund, and to meet our other ethical responsibilities, in accordance with the relevant ethical requirements relating to our audit. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our qualified audit opinion.

As more fully described in Note 5 to the financial statements, for the year ended December 31, 2023, the City of Monette Water and Sewer Fund has not determined the cost of its defined benefit pension plan in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America, which require the cost of employee pension to be recognized when the accumulated benefit obligation exceeds the fair value of plan assets. Quantification of the effects of that departure on the financial statements is not practicable.

#### **Responsibilities of Management for the Financial Statements**

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these financial statements in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America; this includes the design, implementation, and maintenance of internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, management is required to evaluate whether there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about the City of Monette Water and Sewer Fund's ability to continue as a going concern for twelve months beyond the financial statement date, including any currently known information that may raise substantial doubt shortly thereafter.

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## **Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements**

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not absolute assurance and therefore is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control. Misstatements are considered material if there is a substantial likelihood that, individually or in the aggregate, they would influence the judgment made by a reasonable user based on the financial statements.

In performing an audit in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards, we:

- Exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit.
- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, and design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks. Such procedures include examining, on a test basis, evidence regarding the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the City of Monette Water and Sewer Fund's internal control. Accordingly, no such opinion is expressed.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluate the overall presentation of the financial statements.
- Conclude whether, in our judgment, there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about the City of Monette Water and Sewer Fund's ability to continue as a going concern for a reasonable period of time.

We are required to communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit, significant audit findings, and certain internal control-related matters that we identified during the audit.

### **Emphasis of Matter**

As discussed in Note 1, the financial statements present only the City of Monette Water and Sewer Fund and are not intended to present fairly the financial position of the City of Monette, Arkansas, and the results of its operations and cash flows in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

### **Other Matters**

#### *Required Supplementary Information*

Management has omitted the management's discussion and analysis that accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America require to be presented to supplement the basic financial statements. Such missing 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 the financial reporting for placing the basic financial statements in an appropriate operational, economic, or historical context. Our opinion on the basic financial statements is not affected by this missing information.

### **Other Reporting Required by *Government Auditing Standards***

In accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*, we have also issued a report dated August 1, 2024, on our consideration of the City of Monette Water and Sewer Fund's internal control over financial reporting and on our tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements and other matters. The purpose of that report is to describe the scope of our testing of internal control over financial reporting and compliance and the results of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on internal control over financial reporting or on compliance. That report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* in considering the City of Monette Water and Sewer Fund's internal control over financial reporting and compliance.

*Thomas, Speight & Noble, CPAs*

Osceola, Arkansas  
August 1, 2024

**City of Monette Water and Sewer Fund**  
**(A Component Unit of the City of Monette, Arkansas)**  
**Statement of Net Position**  
**December 31, 2023**

**ASSETS**

**CURRENT ASSETS**

Cash and cash equivalents - unrestricted	\$ 158,779
Accounts receivable and unbilled revenues	<u>63,921</u>
Total current assets	<u>222,700</u>

**NON-CURRENT ASSETS**

Cash and cash equivalents - restricted	199,055
Capital assets	
Capital assets, net of accumulated depreciation	<u>3,478,778</u>
Total non-current assets	<u>3,677,833</u>

**TOTAL ASSETS**

\$ 3,900,533

**LIABILITIES AND NET POSITION**

**CURRENT LIABILITIES**

Accounts payable	\$ 7,253
Payroll taxes payable	3,002
Due to other funds	13,710
Accrued interest	1,038
Current portion of long-term debt	<u>34,597</u>
Total current liabilities	59,600

**LONG-TERM DEBT, net of current portion**

1,430,261

**LIABILITIES PAYABLE FROM RESTRICTED ASSETS**

Customer deposits	<u>54,173</u>
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**TOTAL LIABILITIES**

1,544,034

**NET POSITION**

Net investment in capital assets	2,013,919
Restricted for debt service	144,882
Unrestricted	<u>197,698</u>
Total net position	2,356,499

**TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET POSITION**

\$ 3,900,533

*The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.*

**City of Monette Water and Sewer Fund**  
**(A Component Unit of the City of Monette, Arkansas)**  
**Statement of Revenues, Expenses and Changes in Net Position**  
**For the Year Ended December 31, 2023**

<b>OPERATING REVENUES</b>	
Water revenue	\$ 203,057
Sewer revenue	210,030
Penalty charges	5,319
Miscellaneous income	43,345
Total operating revenues	461,751
 <b>OPERATING EXPENSES</b>	
Salaries and wages	214,749
Employee benefits	51,223
Payroll taxes	18,196
Computer expense	1,120
Supplies	39,130
Fuel	15,074
Utilities	37,660
Insurance	22,165
Professional fees	27,980
System repairs	18,326
Office	6,233
Depreciation	171,348
Permits and licenses	2,235
Water sampling	3,700
Chemicals	10,069
Travel	703
Miscellaneous	10,489
Total operating expenses	650,400
<b>OPERATING INCOME (LOSS)</b>	<b>(188,649)</b>
 <b>NON-OPERATING REVENUES (EXPENSES)</b>	
Interest income	3,118
Interest expense	(34,504)
Total Non-operating revenues (expenses)	(31,386)
 <b>CAPITAL CONTRIBUTIONS/TRANSFERS</b>	
Transfers From/(To) - Other City Funds	168,623
Total Capital Contributions/Transfers	168,623
<b>CHANGE IN NET POSITION</b>	<b>(51,412)</b>
<b>NET POSITION AT BEGINNING OF YEAR</b>	<b>2,407,911</b>
<b>NET POSITION AT END OF YEAR</b>	<b>\$ 2,356,499</b>

*The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.*

**City of Monette Water and Sewer Fund**  
**(A Component Unit of the City of Monette, Arkansas)**  
**Statement of Cash Flows**  
**For the Year Ended December 31, 2023**

<b>CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES:</b>	
Cash receipts from customers	\$ 461,048
Cash payments to suppliers for goods and services	(277,811)
Cash payments to employees	(214,749)
Net cash provided by (used in) operating activities	<u>(31,512)</u>
 <b>CASH FLOWS FROM CAPITAL AND RELATED FINANCING ACTIVITIES:</b>	
Principal payments on long-term debt	(34,646)
Interest payments on long-term debt	(34,643)
Purchase of capital assets	(61,267)
Payments received from (paid to) related parties	172,038
Net cash provided by (used in) financing activities	<u>41,482</u>
 <b>CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES:</b>	
Interest received	<u>3,118</u>
Net cash provided by (used in) investing activities	<u>3,118</u>
<b>NET INCREASE (DECREASE) IN CASH AND RESTRICTED CASH</b>	<b>13,088</b>
<b>CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS - BEGINNING OF YEAR</b>	<u>344,746</u>
<b>CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS - END OF YEAR</b>	<u><u>\$ 357,834</u></u>
 <b>RECONCILIATION OF OPERATING INCOME TO NET CASH PROVIDED BY OPERATING ACTIVITIES</b>	
Operating income (loss)	\$ (188,649)
Adjustments to reconcile operating income (loss) to net cash provided by operating activities:	
Depreciation	171,348
(Increase)/Decrease In:	
Customer accounts receivable	(6,612)
Increase/(Decrease) In:	
Accounts payable	(13,931)
Payroll taxes payable	424
Customer deposits	5,908
<b>NET CASH PROVIDED BY (USED IN) OPERATING ACTIVITIES</b>	<u><u>\$ (31,512)</u></u>

*The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.*

**City of Monette Water and Sewer Fund**  
**(A Component Unit of the City of Monette, Arkansas)**  
**Notes to Financial Statements**  
**December 31, 2023**

**NOTE 1: ORGANIZATION AND SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNT POLICIES**

**Organization**

The City of Monette Water and Sewer Fund (the Utility), a component unit of the City of Monette, Arkansas (the City) was established to provide water and sewer services to the residents of the City. The Utility is a component unit of the City and dependent on the City's governing body. Control by and dependence upon the City was determined on the basis of the budget adoption to fund any deficit that may occur. The accompanying financial statements represent only the activities of the Utility and are not intended to present that of the City or any of the City's activities.

**Basis of Presentation and Accounting**

The accounts of the Utility are organized on the basis of a proprietary fund type, specifically an enterprise fund. The activities of this fund are accounted for with a separate set of self-balancing accounts that comprise the Utility's assets, liabilities, net assets, revenues, and expenses. Enterprise funds account for the activities (i) that are financed with debt that is secured solely by a pledge of net revenues from fees and charges of the activity; (ii) that are required by laws or regulations that the activity's costs of providing services, including capital costs (such as depreciation or debt service), be recovered with fees and charges, rather than with taxes or similar revenues; or (iii) that the pricing policies of the activity establish fees and charges designed to recover its costs, including capital costs (such as depreciation or debt service).

The basis of accounting determines when transactions and economic events are reflected in financial statements, and measurement focus identifies which transactions and events should be recorded. Enterprise Funds use the accrual basis of accounting to record the flow of all economic resources (measurement focus). This basis of accounting and measurement focus emphasizes the measurement of net income similar to the approach used by commercial enterprises; revenues are recorded when earned and expenses are recorded when incurred. Net position is segregated into net investment in capital assets, restricted, and unrestricted components.

**Use of Estimates**

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect certain reported amounts and disclosures. Accordingly, actual results could differ from those estimates.

**Cash and Cash Equivalents**

For the purpose of the statements of cash flows, the Utility considers all cash and highly liquid investments with an original maturity of three months or less to be cash equivalents.

**Customer Accounts Receivable**

The Utility uses the direct write-off method for accounting for bad debt. Water charges receivable as shown in the statements of net position are stated at net realizable value. The use of this method is not materially different from the values reported under the allowance method.

**Cash and Cash Equivalents - Restricted**

Certain proceeds of the Utility's revenue, as well as certain resources set aside for the bond repayment and bond agreement requirements are classified as cash and cash equivalents - restricted on the statement of net position, because they are maintained in separate bank accounts and their use is limited by applicable bond covenants. Funds set aside to refund customer deposits are classified as cash and cash equivalents - restricted since their use is limited for that purpose.



**City of Monette Water and Sewer Fund**  
**(A Component Unit of the City of Monette, Arkansas)**  
**Notes to Financial Statements**  
**December 31, 2023**

**NOTE 1: ORGANIZATION AND SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNT POLICIES (Continued)**

**Capital Assets**

The cost of additions and major replacements of retired units of property are capitalized. The Utility defines capital assets as assets with an initial, individual cost of more than \$1,000 and an estimated useful life in excess of two years. The cost and accumulated depreciation of property sold or retired is deducted from capital assets and any profit or loss resulting from the disposal is credited or charged in the non-operating section of the statements of revenues, expenses, and changes in net position. The cost of current repairs, maintenance, and minor replacements is charged to expense when incurred.

Depreciation of capital assets is charged as an expense against operations. Depreciation rates have been applied on a straight-line basis, with estimated useful lives as follows:

Distribution system	10-50 Years
Pumps, vehicles and small equipment	3-7 Years
Property improvements	10-20 Years

**Other Assets**

Other assets held are recorded and accounted for at cost.

**Customer Deposits**

Customer deposits are non-interest bearing and are held until the customer's service is terminated, at which time the deposit is applied to the final bill.

**Compensated Absences**

Employees are entitled to certain compensated absences based on their length of employment. With minor exceptions, compensated absences either vest or accumulate. Vacation days not used by the end of the year are not carried forward. Compensated absences have not been accrued and are not material to the financial statements.

**Net Position**

Net position comprises the various net earnings from operating income, non-operating revenues and expenses, and capital contributions. Net position is classified in the following three components:

*Net investment in capital assets* – This component of net position consists of capital assets, net of accumulated depreciation and reduced by the outstanding balances of any bonds, mortgages, notes or other borrowings that are attributable to the acquisition, construction or improvement of those assets. If there are significant unspent related debt proceeds at year-end, the portion of the debt attributable to the unspent proceeds is not included in the calculation of net investment in capital assets. Rather, that portion of the debt is included in the same net position component as the unspent proceeds.

*Restricted* – This component of net position consists of constraints imposed by creditors (such as through debt covenants), grantors, contributors, or laws or regulations of other governments or constraints imposed by law through constitutional provisions or enabling legislation. When an expense is incurred for purposes for which there are both restricted and unrestricted net positions available, it is the Utility's policy to apply those expenses to restricted net position to the extent such are available and then to unrestricted net position.

*Unrestricted net assets* – This component of net position consists of net position that does not meet the definition of "restricted" or "net investment in capital assets."

**City of Monette Water and Sewer Fund  
(A Component Unit of the City of Monette, Arkansas)  
Notes to Financial Statements  
December 31, 2023**

**NOTE 1: ORGANIZATION AND SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNT POLICIES (CONTINUED)**

**Operating Revenues and Expenses**

Operating revenues and expenses generally result from providing services and producing and delivering goods in connection with a proprietary fund's principal ongoing operations. The principal operating revenues of the enterprise funds are charges to customers for sales and services. Operating expenses for enterprise funds include the cost of sales and services, administrative expenses, and depreciation on capital assets. All revenues and expenses not meeting these definitions are reported as non-operating revenues and expenses.

**Budgets and Budgetary Accounting**

Prior to the beginning of the new fiscal year, the City adopts an annual budget for the Utility. The budget is adopted under a basis consistent with GAAP. All annual appropriations lapse at year-end.

**NOTE 2: DUE TO OTHER FUNDS**

Billing of sanitation fees is accomplished through the Utility's monthly billing process. At December 31, 2023, sanitation fees in the amount of \$13,710 were owed to the General Fund.

**NOTE 3: CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS – RESTRICTED**

Cash and cash equivalents - restricted consists of cash reserves restricted by long-term debt covenants and customer deposits. The long-term debt covenants require minimum reserves for bond payments and a repair fund (see Note 6).

	2023
Customer deposits	\$ 54,173
Debt service reserves	144,882
	\$ 199,055

**City of Monette Water and Sewer Fund**  
**(A Component Unit of the City of Monette, Arkansas)**  
**Notes to Financial Statements**  
**December 31, 2023**

**NOTE 4: CAPITAL ASSETS**

A summary of changes in capital assets for the year ended December 31, 2023 are as follows:

	<u>Balance</u> <u>1/1/2023</u>	<u>Additions</u>	<u>Deletions</u>	<u>Balance</u> <u>12/31/2023</u>
Capital assets being depreciated				
Pumps and small equipment	\$ 279,839	61,267	-	341,106
Office equipment	26,565		-	26,565
Distribution system	5,632,190		-	5,632,190
Total capital assets being depreciated	<u>5,938,594</u>	<u>61,267</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>5,999,861</u>
Less accumulated depreciation for:				
Pumps and small equipment	(116,375)	(39,165)	-	(155,540)
Office equipment	(13,291)	(2,006)	-	(15,297)
Distribution system	(2,220,069)	(130,177)	-	(2,350,246)
Total accumulated depreciation	<u>(2,349,735)</u>	<u>(171,348)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(2,521,083)</u>
Total capital assets, net	<u>\$ 3,588,859</u>	<u>\$ (110,081)</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ 3,478,778</u>

Depreciation expense was \$171,348 for the year ended December 31, 2023.

**NOTE 5: EMPLOYEE'S RETIREMENT SYSTEM**

All eligible employees participate in the Arkansas Employees Retirement System (APERS), a statewide cost-sharing multiple employer pension plan established by the authority of the Arkansas General Assembly. APERS provides retirement, disability, and survivor benefits for eligible employees and elected officials of state and local governmental entities in Arkansas. Contribution requirements are set forth by Arkansas Statute, and the Utility is required to contribute at an actuarially determined rate. For the year ended December 31, 2023, the Utility's contribution was \$26,542.

Because the plan is a multi-employer defined benefit pension plan, accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America require the cost of employee's pensions to be recognized over the employee's respective service periods and a liability to be recognized when the accumulated benefit obligation exceeds the fair value of assets. APERS has provided the necessary information for the entire City of Monette. We were unable to determine the specific amounts allocable to the Monette Water and Sewer Fund.

**City of Monette Water and Sewer Fund**  
**(A Component Unit of the City of Monette, Arkansas)**  
**Notes to Financial Statements**  
**December 31, 2023**

**NOTE 6: LONG-TERM DEBT**

Long-term debt at December 31, 2023 consists of the following:

	<b>2023</b>
2003 - Water and Sewer Revenue Bond - USDA - 4.5%, \$357,530; principal and interest of \$1,624 payable monthly beginning January 2004; matures December 2043.	255,763
2016 - Water and Sewer Revenue Bond - USDA - 1.875%, \$1,350,000; principal and interest of \$4,150 payable monthly beginning January 2017; matures December 2056.	1,209,143
	<b>\$ 1,464,906</b>

All bonds are secured by revenues and distribution system of the Utility. Analysis of changes to the Utility's long-term debt are as follows:

	<b>2023</b>
Total long-term debt at beginning of year	\$ 1,499,504
Additonal borrowings	
Debt retirements	(34,598)
Total long-term debt at the end of the year	1,464,906
Less current portion	(35,460)
Non-current portion	<b>\$ 1,429,446</b>

Maturities of long-term debt at December 31, 2023 are as follows:

	<b>Principal</b>	<b>Interest</b>	<b>Total</b>
2024	35,460	33,828	69,288
2025	36,351	32,937	69,288
2026	37,267	32,021	69,288
2027	38,370	30,918	69,288
2028	39,185	30,103	69,288
Thereafter	1,278,273	353,296	1,631,569
	<b>\$ 1,464,906</b>	<b>\$ 513,103</b>	<b>\$ 1,978,009</b>

Interest expense was \$34,504 for the year ended December 31, 2023.

**City of Monette Water and Sewer Fund**  
**(A Component Unit of the City of Monette, Arkansas)**  
**Notes to Financial Statements**  
**December 31, 2023**

**NOTE 7: BOND REQUIREMENTS**

The City of Monette Water and Sewer Fund must maintain certain requirements after receiving bonds from the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA). The bonds require that funds be established as described below.

The Utility is required to establish a "2003 Water and Sewer Revenue Bond Fund". There shall be paid into the Bond Fund on the first business day of each month, for ten years, a sum of \$163, until a debt service reserve shall have been accumulated in an amount equal to \$19,488. The Utility is also required to establish a "2016 Water and Sewer Revenue Bond Fund". Commencing on the first business day of the first month after delivery of the bond, there shall be paid into the Bond Fund on the first business day of each month an amount equal to \$415 until the reserve has accumulated an amount equal to \$49,800.

As of December 31, 2023, the debt service requirements for the City of Monette Water and Sewer Fund have been met. The amounts maintained in the Debt Reserve Fund have been included in restricted cash (see Note 3).

In addition to the debt service reserve, the Utility is required to maintain a Short-Lived Asset Reserve. The reserve can be used as needed for the replacement of items related to the treatment plant as specified in the preliminary engineering report. The reserve is to be maintained with monthly or annual deposits, along with records documenting the use of any funds expended from the reserve. As of December 31, 2023, the Utility had a short-lived asset reserve account with a balance of \$90,650.

**NOTE 8: RISK MANAGEMENT AND LITIGATION**

The Utility is exposed to various risks of loss to torts; thefts of, damage to, and destruction of assets; errors and omissions; injuries to employees; and natural disasters. Expenditures and claims are recognized when it is probable that a loss has occurred and the amount of the loss can be reasonably estimated. In determining claims, events that might create claims, but for which none have been reported, are considered. Management estimates that the amount of any actual or potential claims as of December 31, 2023 will not materially affect the financial condition of the Utility.

**NOTE 9: CUSTODIAL CREDIT RISK OF BANK DEPOSITS**

State law generally requires public funds be deposited in State of Arkansas banks insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC). These deposits may be in the form of checking, savings, and/or time deposit accounts. Public funds may also be invested in direct obligations of the United States of America and obligations on which the principal and interest are fully guaranteed by the United States of America.

Custodial credit risk is the risk that in the event of a bank failure, the government's deposits may not be returned to it. The Utility's policy for custodial risk is compliant with state law. Due to the dollar amounts of cash deposits and investments, and the limits of the FDIC, the Utility was required to secure additional deposits of \$88,142 by pledging securities held by the pledging financial institution's trust department at year ended December 31, 2023. As of December 31, 2023, all deposits were insured or collateralized.

**NOTE 10: MONTHLY WATER RATES**

The City of Monette Water and Sewer Fund are determined each month by meter measurements. The rates for customers are as follows: \$20.40/2,000 gallons of water and for the excess of 2,000 gallons the rate is \$2.72/1,000 gallons used.

**City of Monette Water and Sewer Fund**  
**(A Component Unit of the City of Monette, Arkansas)**  
**Notes to Financial Statements**  
**December 31, 2023**

**NOTE 11: ALLOCATION OF 1% SALES TAX**

Ordinance #2013-4 was passed on February 18, 2013; it authorized a 1% city sales and use tax. Collection began in October of 2013; and the tax is perpetual. The amounts allocated and transferred to the water and sewer department are reported within the statement of revenues, expenses, and changes in net position as transfers from other city funds.

**NOTE 12: SUBSEQUENT EVENTS**

Management has evaluated events and transactions for potential recognition or disclosure through August 1, 2024, the date financial statements were available to be issued.

INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT ON INTERNAL CONTROL OVER FINANCIAL  
REPORTING AND ON COMPLIANCE AND OTHER MATTERS BASED ON AN AUDIT OF  
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS PERFORMED IN ACCORDANCE WITH *GOVERNMENT*  
*AUDITING STANDARDS*

To the Honorable Robert Blankenship, Mayor  
And the Members of the City Council of  
City of Monette, Arkansas

We have audited, in accordance with the auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards* issued by the Comptroller General of the United States, the financial statements of the City of Monette Water and Sewer Fund, as of and for the year ended December 31, 2023, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise the City of Monette Water and Sewer Fund's basic financial statements and have issued our report thereon dated August 1, 2024.

**Report on Internal Control over Financial Reporting**

In planning and performing our audit of the financial statements, we considered the City of Monette Water and Sewer Fund's internal control over financial reporting (internal control) to determine the audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances for the purpose of expressing our opinions on the financial statements, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the City of Monette Water and Sewer Fund's internal control. Accordingly, we do not express an opinion on the effectiveness of the City of Monette Water and Sewer Fund's internal control.

*A deficiency in internal control* exists when the design or operation of a control does not allow management or employees, in the normal course of performing their assigned functions, to prevent, or detect and correct, misstatements on a timely basis. A *material weakness* is a deficiency, or a combination of deficiencies, in internal control such that there is a reasonable possibility that a material misstatement of the entity's financial statements will not be prevented, or detected and corrected on a timely basis. A *significant deficiency* is a deficiency, or a combination of deficiencies, in internal control that is less severe than a material weakness, yet important enough to merit attention by those charged with governance.

Our consideration of internal control was for the limited purpose described in the first paragraph of this section and was not designed to identify all deficiencies in internal control that might be material weaknesses or significant deficiencies and therefore, material weaknesses or significant deficiencies may exist that were not identified. However, as discussed below, we identified a certain deficiency in internal control that we consider to be a material weakness.

## **Report on Compliance and Other Matters**

As part of obtaining reasonable assurance about whether the City of Monette Water and Sewer Fund's financial statements are free from material misstatement, we performed tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements, noncompliance with which could have a direct and material effect on the determination of financial statement amounts. However, providing an opinion on compliance with those provisions was not an objective of our audit, and accordingly, we do not express such an opinion. The results of our tests disclosed no instances of noncompliance or other matters that are required to be reported under *Government Auditing Standards*.

### **The City of Monette Water and Sewer Fund's Response to Findings**

*Government Auditing Standards* requires the auditor to perform limited procedures on the City of Monette Water and Sewer Fund's response to the findings identified in our audit and described in the accompanying schedule of findings and questioned costs. The City's response was not subjected to the other auditing procedures applied in the audit of the financial statements and, accordingly, we express no opinion on the response.

### **Purpose of this Report**

The purpose of this report is solely to describe the scope of our testing of internal control and compliance and the results of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control or on compliance. This report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* in considering the entity's internal control and compliance. Accordingly, this communication is not suitable for any other purpose.

*Thomas, Speight & Noble, CPAs*

Thomas, Speight & Noble, CPAs

Osceola, Arkansas

August 1, 2024



City of Monette Water and Sewer Fund  
Schedule of Findings and Questioned Costs  
For the Year Ended December 31, 2023

**Section I - Summary of Auditors' Results**

***Financial Statements***

Type of auditor's report issued:

Unmodified

Internal control over financial reporting:

Any material weakness(es) identified?

Yes  No

Any significant deficiency(ies) identified?

Yes  No

Any noncompliance material to financial statements noted?

Yes  No

**Section II - Financial Statement Findings**

**Finding: 2023-001**

**Material Weakness - Internal Control over Financial Reporting**

**Segregation of duties**

Condition: City of Monette Water and Sewer Fund does not have enough employees for the appropriate segregation of duties necessary for effective internal controls.

Criteria: Segregation of duties provides for independent review and approval of all transactions at various stages of the financial reporting process. Adequate segregation of duties is an essential part of an effective internal control structure.

Effect: Inadequate segregation of duties reduces the City's internal control over financial reporting, processing of transactions and safeguarding of assets.

Recommendation: The City's management should review all transactions, accounting records, and reconciliations in order to compensate for the limited number of employees. Such a review should be performed at least monthly and documented.

Views of responsible officials and planned corrective actions: Additional employees for the purpose of improving internal controls would not be cost-beneficial. Currently, all employees are supervised by management, and financial records and reports are reviewed monthly.