



OHIO AUDITOR OF STATE  
**KEITH FABER**





**CITY OF NORTH COLLEGE HILL  
HAMILTON COUNTY  
DECEMBER 31, 2022 AND 2021**

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**CITY OF NORTH COLLEGE HILL  
HAMILTON COUNTY  
DECEMBER 31, 2022 AND 2021**

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# OHIO AUDITOR OF STATE KEITH FABER



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## INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

City of North College Hill  
Hamilton County  
1500 West Galbraith Road  
Cincinnati, Ohio 45231

To the City Council:

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

#### ***Opinions***

We have audited the cash-basis financial statements of the governmental activities, business-type activities, each major fund, and the aggregate remaining fund information of the City of North College Hill, Hamilton County, Ohio (the City), as of and for the years ended December 31, 2022 and 2021, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise the City's basic financial statements as listed in the table of contents.

In our opinion, the accompanying financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the respective cash-basis financial position of the governmental activities, business-type activities, each major fund, and the aggregate remaining fund information of the City, as of December 31, 2022 and 2021, and the respective changes in cash-basis financial position and the budgetary comparison for the General Fund, Fire Levy Fund (2022 only), and American Rescue Plan Act Fund for the years then ended in accordance with the cash-basis of accounting described in Note 2.

#### ***Basis for Opinions***

We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America (GAAS) and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards*, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States. 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, 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 audit opinions.

#### ***Emphasis of Matter – Accounting Basis***

Ohio Administrative Code § 117-2-03(B) requires the City to prepare its annual financial report in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. We draw attention to Note 2 of the financial statements, which describes the basis of accounting. The financial statements are prepared on the cash basis of accounting, which is a basis of accounting other than accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. Our opinion is not modified with respect to this matter.

#### ***Emphasis of Matter***

As discussed in Note 13 to the financial statements for 2022 and 2021, the financial impact of COVID-19 and the continuing emergency measures may impact subsequent periods of the City. We did not modify our opinion regarding this matter.

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

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in accordance with the cash basis of accounting described in Note 2, and for determining that the cash basis of accounting is an acceptable basis for preparation of the financial statements in the circumstances. Management is also responsible for 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'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.

***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 opinions. 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 GAAS and *Government 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 GAAS and *Government 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'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'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.

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

In accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*, we have also issued our report dated November 9, 2023, on our consideration of the City's internal control over financial reporting and our tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts and grant agreements and other matters. The purpose of that report is solely to describe the scope of our testing of internal control over financial reporting and compliance and the results of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on the effectiveness of the City's internal control over financial reporting or on compliance. That report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* in considering the City's internal control over financial reporting and compliance.



Keith Faber  
Auditor of State  
Columbus, Ohio  
November 9, 2023

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**City of North College Hill**  
**Hamilton County**  
*Statement of Net Position - Cash Basis*  
*As of December 31, 2022*

	Governmental Activities	Business-Type Activities	Total
<b>Assets</b>			
Equity in Pooled Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$5,101,977	\$6,942	\$5,108,919
Cash and Cash Equivalents in Segregated Accounts	9,354	0	9,354
<i>Total Assets</i>	5,111,331	6,942	5,118,273
<b>Net Position</b>			
Restricted for Capital Outlay	1,363,982	0	1,363,982
Restricted for Other Purposes	2,952,955	0	2,952,955
Unrestricted	794,394	6,942	801,336
<i>Total Net Position</i>	<u>\$5,111,331</u>	<u>\$6,942</u>	<u>\$5,118,273</u>

See accompanying notes to the basic financial statements.

**City of North College Hill**  
**Hamilton County**  
*Statement of Activities - Cash Basis*  
*For the Year Ended December 31, 2022*

	Program Cash Receipts			
	Cash Disbursements	Charges for Services and Sales	Operating Grants, Contributions and Interest	Capital Grants, Contributions and Interest
<b>Governmental Activities</b>				
Current:				
General Government	\$938,074	\$167,471	\$499,085	\$0
Security of Persons and Property	3,943,526	658,771	18,163	0
Leisure Time Services	194,095	19,317	9,277	0
Community Environment	164,343	30,491	0	0
Basic Utility Services	125,233	16,662	0	0
Transportation	478,815	0	639,807	0
Capital Outlay	1,870,911	0	0	627,914
Debt Service:				
Principal Retirement	147,714	0	0	0
Interest and Fiscal Charges	19,415	0	0	0
<i>Total Governmental Activities</i>	7,882,126	892,712	1,166,332	627,914
<b>Business-Type Activities</b>				
Waste Collection	664,781	746,605	0	0
<i>Total Business-Type Activities</i>	664,781	746,605	0	0
<i>Totals</i>	\$8,546,907	\$1,639,317	\$1,166,332	\$627,914

**General Receipts and Transfers**

Property Taxes Levied for:

    General Purposes

    Other Purposes

    Capital Outlay

Municipal Income Taxes

Grants and Entitlements not Restricted to Specific Programs

Proceeds of OPWC Loans

Proceeds of Sale of Assets

Interest

Miscellaneous

*Total General Receipts and Transfers*

*Change in Net Position*

*Net Position Beginning of Year*

*Net Position End of Year*

See accompanying notes to the basic financial statements.

Net (Disbursements) Receipts and Changes in Net Position

Governmental Activities	Business-Type Activities	Total
(\$271,518)	\$0	(\$271,518)
(3,266,592)	0	(3,266,592)
(165,501)	0	(165,501)
(133,852)	0	(133,852)
(108,571)	0	(108,571)
160,992	0	160,992
(1,242,997)	0	(1,242,997)
(147,714)	0	(147,714)
(19,415)	0	(19,415)
(5,195,168)	0	(5,195,168)
0	81,824	81,824
0	81,824	81,824
(5,195,168)	81,824	(5,113,344)
286,510	0	286,510
2,088,350	0	2,088,350
416,638	0	416,638
2,883,701	0	2,883,701
236,574	0	236,574
493,492	0	493,492
645	0	645
2,585	0	2,585
292,587	7,600	300,187
6,701,082	7,600	6,708,682
1,505,914	89,424	1,595,338
3,605,417	(82,482)	3,522,935
\$5,111,331	\$6,942	\$5,118,273

**City of North College Hill**  
**Hamilton County**  
*Statement of Assets and Fund Balances - Cash Basis*  
*Governmental Funds*  
*As of December 31, 2022*

	General	American Rescue Plan Act	Fire Levy	Street Levy	All Other Governmental Funds	Total Governmental Funds
<b>Assets</b>						
Equity in Pooled Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$934,213	\$975,676	\$749,084	\$1,363,482	\$1,079,522	\$5,101,977
Cash and Cash Equivalents in Segregated Accounts	9,354	0	0	0	0	9,354
<i>Total Assets</i>	<u>\$943,567</u>	<u>\$975,676</u>	<u>\$749,084</u>	<u>\$1,363,482</u>	<u>\$1,079,522</u>	<u>\$5,111,331</u>
<b>Fund Balances</b>						
Restricted	\$0	\$975,676	\$749,084	\$1,363,482	\$1,228,695	\$4,316,937
Assigned	244,384	0	0	0	0	244,384
Unassigned (Deficit)	699,183	0	0	0	(149,173)	550,010
<i>Total Fund Balances</i>	<u>\$943,567</u>	<u>\$975,676</u>	<u>\$749,084</u>	<u>\$1,363,482</u>	<u>\$1,079,522</u>	<u>\$5,111,331</u>

See accompanying notes to the basic financial statements.

**City of North College Hill**  
*Statement of Receipts, Disbursements and Changes in Fund Balances - Cash Basis*  
 Governmental Funds  
 For the Year Ended December 31, 2022

	General	American Rescue Plan Act	Fire Levy	Street Levy	All Other Governmental Funds	Total Governmental Funds
<b>Receipts</b>						
Property Taxes	\$286,510	\$0	\$1,504,030	\$416,638	\$584,320	\$2,791,498
Income Taxes	2,883,701	0	0	0	0	2,883,701
Special Assessments	215,211	0	0	0	0	215,211
Charges for Services	0	0	0	0	315,411	315,411
Licenses and Permits	158,434	0	0	0	8,625	167,059
Fines and Forfeitures	130,241	0	0	0	43,110	173,351
Intergovernmental	214,157	490,084	35,154	638,209	609,658	1,987,262
Interest	2,585	0	0	0	0	2,585
Rent	21,680	0	0	0	0	21,680
Contributions and Donations	0	0	0	35,395	8,163	43,558
Other	239,652	0	0	0	52,935	292,587
<i>Total Receipts</i>	4,152,171	490,084	1,539,184	1,090,242	1,622,222	8,893,903
<b>Disbursements</b>						
Current:						
General Government	935,990	610	0	0	1,474	938,074
Security of Persons and Property	2,579,425	0	827,433	0	536,668	3,943,526
Leisure Time Services	145,184	0	0	0	48,911	194,095
Community Environment	164,343	0	0	0	0	164,343
Basic Utility Services	125,233	0	0	0	0	125,233
Transportation	0	0	0	9,002	469,813	478,815
Capital Outlay	133,315	0	118,060	1,512,903	106,633	1,870,911
Debt Service:						
Principal Retirement	15,000	0	25,456	24,779	82,479	147,714
Interest and Fiscal Charges	8,550	0	4,888	0	5,977	19,415
<i>Total Disbursements</i>	4,107,040	610	975,837	1,546,684	1,251,955	7,882,126
<i>Excess of Receipts Over Disbursements</i>	45,131	489,474	563,347	(456,442)	370,267	1,011,777
<b>Other Financing Sources</b>						
Proceeds of OPWC Loans	0	0	0	493,492	0	493,492
Proceeds from Sale of Assets	645	0	0	0	0	645
<i>Total Other Financing Sources</i>	645	0	0	493,492	0	494,137
<i>Net Change in Fund Balances</i>	45,776	489,474	563,347	37,050	370,267	1,505,914
<i>Fund Balances at Beginning of Year</i>	897,791	486,202	185,737	1,326,432	709,255	3,605,417
<i>Fund Balances at End of Year</i>	\$943,567	\$975,676	\$749,084	\$1,363,482	\$1,079,522	\$5,111,331

See accompanying notes to the basic financial statements.

**City of North College Hill  
Hamilton County**

*Statement of Receipts, Disbursements and Changes in Fund Balance - Budget and Actual (Budget Basis)  
General Fund*

*For the Year Ended December 31, 2022*

	Budgeted Amounts		Actual	Variance with
	Original	Final		Final Budget Positive (Negative)
<b>Receipts</b>				
Property Taxes	\$0	\$0	\$286,510	\$286,510
Income Taxes	0	0	2,883,701	2,883,701
Special Assessments	0	0	215,211	215,211
Licenses and Permits	0	0	158,434	158,434
Fines and Forfeitures	0	0	131,953	131,953
Intergovernmental	0	0	214,157	214,157
Interest	0	0	2,585	2,585
Rent	0	0	21,680	21,680
Other	0	0	239,652	239,652
<i>Total Receipts</i>	0	0	4,153,883	4,153,883
<b>Disbursements</b>				
Current:				
General Government	1,071,001	1,071,001	937,646	133,355
Security of Persons and Property	2,274,885	2,549,421	2,581,794	(32,373)
Leisure Time Services	254,000	254,000	145,184	108,816
Community Environment	320,330	320,330	164,343	155,987
Basic Utility Services	167,630	167,630	125,233	42,397
Capital Outlay	145,000	145,000	133,315	11,685
Debt Service:				
Principal Retirement	59,630	59,630	15,000	44,630
Interest and Fiscal Charges	12,222	12,222	8,550	3,672
<i>Total Disbursements</i>	4,304,698	4,579,234	4,111,065	468,169
<i>Excess of Receipts Over (Under) Disbursements</i>	(4,304,698)	(4,579,234)	42,818	4,622,052
<b>Other Financing Sources</b>				
Proceeds from Sale of Assets	0	0	645	645
<i>Total Other Financing Sources</i>	0	0	645	645
<i>Net Change in Fund Balances</i>	(4,304,698)	(4,579,234)	43,463	4,622,697
<i>Fund Balances at Beginning of Year</i>	883,311	883,311	883,311	0
<i>Prior Year Encumbrances Appropriated</i>	3,414	3,414	3,414	0
<i>Fund Balances at End of Year</i>	(\$3,417,973)	(\$3,692,509)	\$930,188	\$4,622,697

See accompanying notes to the basic financial statements.

**City of North College Hill  
Hamilton County**  
*Statement of Receipts, Disbursements and Changes in Fund Balance - Budget and Actual (Budget Basis)*  
*American Rescue Plan Act Fund*  
*For the Year Ended December 31, 2022*

	Budgeted Amounts		Actual	Variance with Final Budget Positive (Negative)
	Original	Final		
<b>Receipts</b>				
Intergovernmental	\$0	\$0	\$490,084	\$490,084
<i>Total Receipts</i>	0	0	490,084	490,084
<b>Disbursements</b>				
Current:				
General Government	0	0	610	(610)
<i>Total Disbursements</i>	0	0	610	(610)
<i>Net Change in Fund Balances</i>	0	0	489,474	489,474
<i>Fund Balances at Beginning of Year</i>	486,202	486,202	486,202	0
<i>Fund Balances at End of Year</i>	\$486,202	\$486,202	\$975,676	\$489,474

See accompanying notes to the basic financial statements.

**City of North College Hill  
Hamilton County**

*Statement of Receipts, Disbursements and Changes in Fund Balance - Budget and Actual (Budget Basis)*

*Fire Levy Fund*

*For the Year Ended December 31, 2022*

	Budgeted Amounts		Actual	Variance with Final Budget Positive (Negative)
	Original	Final		
<b>Receipts</b>				
Property Taxes	\$0	\$0	\$1,504,030	\$1,504,030
Intergovernmental	0	0	35,154	35,154
<i>Total Receipts</i>	0	0	1,539,184	1,539,184
<b>Disbursements</b>				
Current:				
Security of Persons and Property	1,164,300	1,200,300	827,433	372,867
Capital Outlay	110,000	110,000	118,060	(8,060)
Debt Service:				
Principal Retirement	25,456	25,456	25,456	0
Interest and Fiscal Charges	4,888	4,888	4,888	0
<i>Total Disbursements</i>	1,304,644	1,340,644	975,837	364,807
<i>Net Change in Fund Balances</i>	(1,304,644)	(1,340,644)	563,347	1,903,991
<i>Fund Balances at Beginning of Year</i>	185,737	185,737	185,737	0
<i>Fund Balances at End of Year</i>	(\$1,118,907)	(\$1,154,907)	\$749,084	\$1,903,991

See accompanying notes to the basic financial statements.



**City of North College Hill**  
**Hamilton County**  
*Statement of Fund Net Position - Cash Basis*  
*Proprietary Fund*  
*As of December 31, 2022*

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	<u>Waste Collection</u>
<b>Assets</b>	
Equity in Pooled Cash and Cash Equivalents	<u>\$6,942</u>
<i>Total Assets</i>	6,942
<b>Net Position</b>	
Unrestricted	<u>6,942</u>
<i>Total Net Position</i>	<u><u>\$6,942</u></u>

See accompanying notes to the basic financial statements.

**City of North College Hill**  
**Hamilton County**  
*Statement of Receipts, Disbursements and Changes in Fund Net Position - Cash Basis*  
*Proprietary Fund*  
*For the Year Ended December 31, 2022*

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	Waste Collection
<b>Operating Receipts:</b>	
Charges for Services	\$746,605
Other	7,600
<i>Total Operating Receipts</i>	754,205
<b>Operating Disbursements:</b>	
Contractual Services	664,781
<i>Total Operating Disbursements</i>	664,781
<i>Change in Net Position</i>	89,424
<i>Net Position Beginning of Year</i>	(82,482)
<i>Net Position End of Year</i>	\$6,942

See accompanying notes to the basic financial statements.

**City of North College Hill**  
**Hamilton County**  
*Statement of Fiduciary Net Position - Cash Basis*  
*Fiduciary Fund*  
*As of December 31, 2022*

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	Custodial
<b>Assets</b>	
Equity in Pooled Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$5
<i>Total Assets</i>	5
<b>Net Position</b>	
Restricted for Individuals, Organizations and Other Governments	5
<i>Total Net Position</i>	\$5

See accompanying notes to the basic financial statements.

**City of North College Hill**  
**Hamilton County**  
*Statement of Changes in Fiduciary Net Position - Cash Basis*  
*Fiduciary Fund*  
*For the Year Ended December 31, 2022*

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	Custodial
<b>Additions:</b>	
Fines and Forfeitures for Other Governments	\$26,538
<i>Total Additions</i>	26,538
<b>Deductions:</b>	
Fines and Forfeitures Distributions to Other Governments	26,538
<i>Total Deductions</i>	26,538
<i>Change in Net Position</i>	0
<i>Net Position Beginning of Year</i>	5
<i>Net Position End of Year</i>	\$5

See accompanying notes to the basic financial statements.

**City of North College Hill**  
**Hamilton County**  
*Notes to the Basic Financial Statements*  
*For the Year Ended December 31, 2022*

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**Note 1 – Description of the City and the Reporting Entity**

The City of North College Hill (the City) is a charter municipal corporation established under the laws of the State of Ohio. The City operates under its own Charter made effective January 1, 2008. The Charter, as amended, provides for a Council-Mayor form of government. The Mayor, President of Council and seven (7) Council Members are elected by separate ballot from the municipality-at-large for four (4) year terms. Council is the legislative body, responsible for setting appropriations. The Mayor is the Chief Executive Officer of the City, and appoints a City Administrator to serve as Chief Operating Officer. The City Administrator manages the day-to-day operations of the City.

The financial reporting entity consists of the primary government, component units, and other governmental organizations that are included to ensure the financial statements are not misleading.

**Primary Government**

The primary government consists of all funds, departments, boards, and agencies not legally separate from the City. The primary government of the City provides the following services to its citizens: police and fire protection, parks and recreation, building inspection, income tax collection, street maintenance and repairs.

**Component Units**

Component units are legally separate organizations for which the City is financially accountable. The City is financially accountable for an organization if the City appoints a voting majority of the organization's governing board; and (1) the City is able to significantly influence the programs or services performed or provided by the organization; or (2) the City is legally entitled to or can otherwise access the organization's resources; the City is legally obligated or has otherwise assumed the responsibility to finance the deficits of, or provide financial support to, the organization; or the City is obligated for the debt of the organization. Component units may also include organizations for which the City authorizes the issuance of debt or the levying of taxes or determines the budget if there is also the potential for the organization to provide specific financial benefits to, or impose specific financial burdens on the City. No separate governmental units meet the criteria for inclusion as a component unit.

The City's management believes these financial statements present all activities for which the City is financially accountable.

**Note 2 - Summary of Significant Accounting Policies**

As discussed further in the basis of accounting section of this note, these financial statements are presented on a cash basis of accounting. This cash basis of accounting differs from accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP) include all relevant Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) pronouncements, which have been applied to the extent they are applicable to the cash basis of accounting. Following are the City's more significant accounting policies.

**Basis of Presentation**

The City's basic financial statements consist of government-wide financial statements, including a statement of net position and a statement of activities, and fund financial statements providing a detailed level of financial information.

**City of North College Hill**  
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Government-Wide Financial Statements

The statement of net position and the statement of activities display information about the City as a whole. These statements include the financial activities of the primary government, except for fiduciary funds. The statements distinguish between those activities of the City that are governmental in nature and those that are considered business-type activities. Governmental activities generally are financed through taxes, intergovernmental receipts or other nonexchange transactions. Business-type activities are financed in whole or in part by fees charged to external parties for goods or services.

The statement of net position presents the cash balance of the governmental and business-type activities of the City at year end. The statement of activities compares disbursements and program receipts for each program or function of the City's governmental activities and business-type activities. Disbursements are reported by function. A function is a group of related activities designed to accomplish a major service or regulatory program for which the City is responsible. Program receipts include charges paid by the recipient of the goods or services offered by the program, grants and contributions that are restricted to meeting the operational or capital requirements of a particular program, and receipts of interest earned on grants that are required to be used to support a particular program. Receipts which are not classified as program receipts are presented as general receipts of the City, with certain limited exceptions. The comparison of direct disbursements with program receipts identifies the extent to which each governmental program or business activity is self-financing on a cash basis or draws from the general receipts of the City.

Fund Financial Statements

During the year, the City segregates transactions related to certain City functions or activities in separate funds in order to aid financial management and to demonstrate legal compliance. Fund financial statements are designed to present financial information of the City at this more detailed level. The focus of governmental fund financial statements is on major funds. Each major fund is presented in a separate column. Nonmajor funds are aggregated and presented in a single column. Fiduciary funds are reported by type.

Proprietary fund statements distinguish operating transactions from nonoperating transactions. Operating receipts generally result from exchange transactions such as charges for services directly relating to the fund's principal services. Operating disbursements include costs of sales and services and administrative costs. The fund statements report all other receipts and disbursements as nonoperating.

**Fund Accounting**

The City uses funds to maintain its financial records during the year. A fund is defined as a fiscal and accounting entity with a self-balancing set of accounts. The funds of the City are presented in three categories: governmental proprietary, and fiduciary.

Governmental Funds

Governmental funds are those through which most governmental functions of the City are financed. The following are the City's major governmental funds:

*General* – The general fund accounts for all financial resources, except those required to be accounted for in another fund. The general fund balance is available to the City for any purpose provided it is expended or transferred according to the general laws of Ohio.

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*American Rescue Plan Act Fund* – This fund accounts for resources received from the federal government under the American Rescue Plan Act restricted to expenditures to support the City during the Coronavirus public health emergency.

*Fire Levy Fund* – This special revenue fund accounts for property tax money for equipping and operating the fire department.

*Street Levy Fund* – This capital projects fund receives property tax money for constructing, maintaining and repairing City streets.

The other governmental funds of the City account for grants and other resources whose use is restricted for a particular purpose.

#### Proprietary Funds

The City classifies funds financed primarily from user charges for goods or services as proprietary. Proprietary funds are classified as either enterprise funds or internal service funds. The City has no internal service funds.

Enterprise funds may be used to account for any activity for which a fee is charged to external users for goods or services. The following is the City's major enterprise fund:

*Waste Collection Fund* – This fund accounts for the provision of waste collection services to the residents and commercial users located within the City.

#### Fiduciary Funds

Fiduciary fund reporting focuses on net position and changes in net position. The fiduciary fund category is split into four classifications: pension trust funds, investment trust funds, private purpose trust funds, and custodial funds. Trust funds are used to account for assets held by the City under a trust agreement, or equivalent arrangement that has certain characteristics, for individuals, private organizations, or other governments and are not available to support the City's own programs. The City does not have any trust funds. Custodial funds are used to report fiduciary activities that are not required to be reported in a trust fund. The City's custodial fund accounts for the City's Mayor's Court activity.

#### **Basis of Accounting**

The City's financial statements are prepared using the cash basis of accounting. Receipts are recorded in the City's financial records and reported in the financial statements when cash is received rather than when earned and disbursements are recorded when cash is paid rather than when a liability is incurred.

As a result of the use of this cash basis of accounting, certain assets and their related revenues (such as accounts receivable and revenue for billed or provided services not yet collected) and certain liabilities and their related expenses (such as accounts payable and expenses for goods or services received but not yet paid, and accrued expenses and liabilities) are not recorded in these financial statements.

#### **Budgetary Process**

All funds, except the custodial fund, are legally required to be budgeted and appropriated. The major documents prepared are the tax budget, the certificate of estimated resources, and the appropriation ordinance, all of which are prepared on the budgetary basis of accounting. The tax budget demonstrates a need for existing or increased tax rates. The certificate of estimated resources establishes a limit on the amount the City Council may appropriate.

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The appropriations ordinance is the City Council's authorization to spend resources and sets annual limits on disbursements plus encumbrances at the level of control selected by the City Council. The legal level of control has been established by the City Council at the fund, department, and object level for all funds.

The certificate of estimated resources may be amended during the year if projected increases or decreases in receipts are identified by the City Finance Director. The amounts reported as the original budgeted amounts on the budgetary statements reflect the amounts on the certificate of estimated resources when the original appropriations were adopted. The amounts reported as the final budgeted amounts on the budgetary statements reflect the amounts on the amended certificate of estimated resources in effect at the time final appropriations were passed by the City Council.

The appropriations ordinance is subject to amendment throughout the year with the restriction that appropriations cannot exceed estimated resources. The amounts reported as the original budgeted amounts reflect the first appropriation ordinance for that fund that covered the entire year, including amounts automatically carried forward from prior years. The amounts reported as the final budgeted amounts represent the final appropriation amounts passed by the City Council during the year.

**Cash and Investments**

To improve cash management, cash received by the City is pooled and invested. Individual fund integrity is maintained through City records. Interest in the pool is presented as "equity in pooled cash and cash equivalents".

The City has segregated a bank account for monies held separate from the City's treasury accounts. This depository account is presented on the statements of net position and balance sheet as "cash and cash equivalents in segregated accounts" since it is not required to be deposited into the City's treasury. The cash of the Mayor's Court is included in this line item.

**Inventory and Prepaid Items**

The City reports disbursements for inventory and prepaid items when paid. These items are not reflected as assets in the accompanying financial statements.

**Capital Assets**

Acquisitions of property, plant and equipment are recorded as disbursements when paid. These items are not reflected as assets in the accompanying financial statements.

**Accumulated Leave**

In certain circumstances, such as upon leaving employment or retirement, employees are entitled to cash payments for unused leave. Unpaid leave is not reflected as a liability under the City's cash basis of accounting.

**Employer Contributions to Cost-Sharing Pension Plans**

The City recognizes the disbursement for employer contributions to cost-sharing pension plans when they are paid. As described in notes 7 and 8, the employer contributions include portions for pension benefits and for postretirement health care benefits.

**Pensions/OPEB**

For purposes of measuring the net pension/OPEB liability (asset), information about the fiduciary net position of the pension plans and additions to/deductions from their fiduciary net position have been determined on the same basis



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as they are reported by the pension systems. For this purpose, benefit payments (including refunds of employee contributions) are recognized when due and payable in accordance with the benefit terms. The pension systems report investments at fair value.

**Long-Term Obligations**

The City's cash basis financial statements do not report liabilities for bonds and other long-term obligations. Proceeds of debt are reported when cash is received and principal and interest payments are reported when paid. Since recording a capital asset when entering into a financed purchase is not the result of a cash transaction, neither an other financing source nor a capital outlay expenditure are reported at inception. Financed purchase payments are reported when paid.

**Net Position**

Net position is reported as restricted when there are limitations imposed on their use either through enabling legislation or through external restrictions imposed by creditors, grantors, or laws or regulations of other governments. Net position restricted for other purposes represents balances of state and federal grants and other restricted purposes in special revenue funds.

The City's policy is to first apply restricted resources when an expense is incurred for purposes for which both restricted and unrestricted resources are available. None of the City's restricted net position is restricted by enabling legislation.

**Fund Balance**

Fund balance is divided into five classifications based primarily on the extent to which the City is bound to observe constraints imposed upon the use of the resources in the governmental funds. The classifications are as follows:

*Nonspendable* – The nonspendable fund balance category includes amounts that cannot be spent because they are not in spendable form, or are legally or contractually required to be maintained intact. The “not in spendable form” criterion includes items that are not expected to be converted to cash. It also includes the long-term amount of interfund loans.

*Restricted* – Fund balance is reported as restricted when constraints placed on the use of resources are either externally imposed by creditors (such as through debt covenants), grantors, contributors, or laws or regulations of other governments; or is imposed by law through constitutional provisions or enabling legislation (City ordinances).

Enabling legislation authorizes the City to assess, levy, charge, or otherwise mandate payment of resources (from external resource providers) and includes a legally enforceable requirement that those resources be used only for the specific purposes stipulated in the legislation. Legal enforceability means that the City can be compelled by an external party—such as citizens, public interest groups, or the judiciary to use resources created by enabling legislation only for the purposes specified by the legislation.

*Committed* – The committed fund balance classification includes amounts that can be used only for the specific purposes imposed by formal action (ordinance or resolution) of City Council. Those committed amounts cannot be used for any other purpose unless City Council removes or changes the specified use by taking the same type of action (ordinance or resolution) it employed to previously commit those amounts. In contrast to fund balance that is restricted by enabling legislation, the committed fund balance classification may be redeployed for other purposes with appropriate due process. Constraints imposed on the use of committed amounts are imposed by City Council, separate from the authorization to raise the underlying revenue; therefore, compliance with these constraints is not considered to be legally enforceable. Committed fund balance also incorporates contractual obligations to the extent

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that existing resources in the fund have been specifically committed for use in satisfying those contractual requirements.

*Assigned* – Amounts in the assigned fund balance classification are intended to be used by the City for specific purposes but do not meet the criteria to be classified as restricted or committed. In governmental funds other than the general fund, assigned fund balance represents the remaining amount that is not restricted or committed. In the general fund, assigned amounts represent intended uses established by City Council or a City official delegated that authority by City Charter or ordinance, or by State Statute.

*Unassigned* – Unassigned fund balance is the residual classification for the general fund and includes amounts not contained in the other classifications. In other governmental funds, the unassigned classification is used only to report a deficit balance.

The City applies restricted resources first when expenditures are incurred for purposes for which either restricted or unrestricted (committed, assigned, and unassigned) amounts are available. Similarly, within unrestricted fund balance, committed amounts are reduced first followed by assigned, and then unassigned amounts when expenditures are incurred for purposes for which amounts in any of the unrestricted fund balance classifications could be used.

**Internal Activity**

Transfers between governmental and business-type activities on the government-wide financial statements are reported in the same manner as general receipts.

Internal allocations of overhead expenses from one function to another or within the same function are eliminated on the statement of activities. Payments for interfund services provided and used are not eliminated.

Exchange transactions between funds are reported as receipts in the seller funds and as disbursements in the purchaser funds. Subsidies from one fund to another without a requirement for repayment are reported as interfund transfers. Interfund transfers are reported as other financing sources/uses in governmental funds and after nonoperating receipts/disbursements in proprietary funds. Repayments from funds responsible for particular disbursements to the funds that initially paid for them are not presented in the financial statements.

**Note 3 – Budgetary Basis Fund Balances**

The budgetary basis as provided by law is based upon accounting for certain transactions on the basis of cash receipts, disbursements, and encumbrances. The statements of receipts, disbursements and changes in fund balance – budget and actual (budget basis) presented for the general fund and fire levy special revenue fund are prepared on the budgetary basis to provide a meaningful comparison of actual results with the budget. The differences between the budgetary basis and the cash basis are as follows:

1. Outstanding year end encumbrances are treated as cash disbursements (budget basis) rather than as restricted, committed or assigned fund balance (cash basis).
2. Custodial fund distributions to appropriate City funds.

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Adjustments necessary to convert the fund balances at the end of the year on the budget basis to the cash basis are as follows:

	General	American Rescue Plan Act	Fire Levy
Budgetary Basis Fund Balances	\$1,645,146	\$975,676	\$713,930
Encumbrances	4,025	0	0
Custodial Fund Distributions	9,354	0	0
Fund Cash Balances	\$1,658,525	\$975,676	\$713,930

**Note 4 – Deposits and Investments**

Monies held by the City are classified by State statute into three categories.

Active monies are public monies determined to be necessary to meet current demands upon the City treasury. Active monies must be maintained either as cash in the City treasury, in commercial accounts payable or withdrawable on demand, including negotiable order of withdrawal (NOW) accounts, or in money market deposit accounts.

Inactive deposits are public deposits that Council has identified as not required for use within the current five year period of designation of depositories. Inactive deposits must either be evidenced by certificates of deposit maturing not later than the end of the current period of designation of depositories, or by savings or deposit accounts including, but not limited to, passbook accounts.

Interim deposits are deposits of interim monies. Interim monies are those monies which are not needed for immediate use but which will be needed before the end of the current period of designation of depositories. Interim deposits must be evidenced by time certificates of deposit maturing not more than one year from the date of deposit or by savings or deposit accounts, including passbook accounts.

Protection of the City's deposits is provided by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC), by eligible securities pledged by the financial institution as security for repayment, or by the financial institutions participation in the Ohio Pooled Collateral System (OPCS), a collateral pool of eligible securities deposited with a qualified trustee and pledged to the Treasurer of State to secure the repayment of all public monies deposited in the financial institution.

Interim monies held by the City can be deposited or invested in the following securities:

1. United States Treasury bills, bonds, notes, or any other obligation or security issued by the United States Treasury, or any other obligation guaranteed as to principal and interest by the United States;
2. Bonds, notes, debentures, or any other obligation or security issued by any federal government agency or instrumentality including, but not limited to, the Federal National Mortgage Association, Federal Home Loan Bank, Federal Farm Credit Bank, Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corporation, Government National Mortgage Association, and Student Loan Marketing Association. All federal agency securities shall be direct issuances of federal government agencies or instrumentalities;
3. Written repurchase agreements in the securities listed above provided the market value of the securities subject to the repurchase agreement must exceed the principal value of the agreement by at least 2 percent and be marked to market daily, and the term of the agreement must not exceed thirty days;
4. Bonds and other obligations of the State of Ohio, and, with certain limitations including a requirement for maturity within ten years from the date of settlement, bonds and other obligations of political subdivisions of the State of Ohio, if training requirements have been met;
5. Time certificates of deposit or savings or deposit accounts including, but not limited to, passbook accounts;

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6. No-load money market mutual funds consisting exclusively of obligations described in division (1) or (2) and repurchase agreements secured by such obligations, provided that investments in securities described in this division are made only through eligible institutions;
7. The State Treasurer's investment pool (STAR Ohio); and
8. Certain bankers' acceptances (for a period not to exceed one hundred eighty days) and commercial paper notes (for a period not to exceed two hundred seventy days) in an amount not to exceed 40 percent of the interim monies available for investment at any one time if training requirements have been met.

Investments in stripped principal or interest obligations, reverse repurchase agreements, and derivatives are prohibited. The issuance of taxable notes for the purpose of arbitrage, the use of leverage, and short selling are also prohibited. Except as noted above, an investment must mature within five years from the date of settlement, unless matched to a specific obligation or debt of the City, and must be purchased with the expectation that it will be held to maturity.

Investments may only be made through specified dealers and institutions. Payment for investments may be made only upon delivery of the securities representing the investments to the Treasurer or, if the securities are not represented by a certificate, upon receipt of confirmation of transfer from the custodian.

#### **Deposits**

Custodial credit risk is the risk that in the event of bank failure, the City will not be able to recover deposits or collateral securities that are in the possession of an outside party. At year end, the City's bank balance of \$5,345,090 was insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation or collateralized in the manner discussed below.

The City has no deposit policy for custodial risk beyond the requirements of State statute. Ohio law requires that deposits either be insured or be protected by:

- Eligible securities pledged to the City and deposited with a qualified trustee by the financial institution as security for repayment whose market value at all times shall be at least 105 percent of the deposits being secured; or
- Participation in the Ohio Pooled Collateral System (OPCS), a collateral pool of eligible securities deposited with a qualified trustee and pledged to the Treasurer of State to secure the repayment of all public monies deposited in the financial institution. OPCS requires the total market value of the securities pledged to be 102 percent of the deposits being secured or a rate set by the Treasurer of State.

#### **Note 5 – Taxes**

##### **Property Taxes**

Property taxes include amounts levied against all real and public utility property located in the City. Property tax revenue received during 2022 for real and public utility property taxes represents collections of 2021 taxes.

2022 real property taxes are levied after October 1, 2022, on the assessed value as of January 1, 2022, the lien date. Assessed values are established by State law at 35 percent of appraised market value. 2022 real property taxes are collected in and intended to finance 2023.

Real property taxes are payable annually or semi-annually. If paid annually, payment is due December 31; if paid semi-annually, the first payment is due December 31, with the remainder payable by June 20. Under certain circumstances, State statute permits later payment dates to be established.

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Public utility tangible personal property currently is assessed at varying percentages of true value; public utility real property is assessed at 35 percent of true value. 2022 public utility property taxes which became a lien December 31, 2021, are levied after October 1, 2022, and are collected in 2023 with real property taxes.

The full tax rate for all City operations for the year ended December 31, 2022 was \$24.88 per \$1,000 of assessed value. The assessed values of real and tangible personal property upon which 2022 property tax receipts were based are as follows:

<i>Real Property</i>	
Residential/Agricultural	\$89,613,780
Commercial/Industrial	28,616,920
<i>Public Utility</i>	
Personal	8,254,590
Total Assessed Value	<u>\$126,485,290</u>

The County Treasurer collects property taxes on behalf of all taxing districts in the County, including the City of North College Hill. The County Auditor periodically remits to the City its portion of the taxes collected.

**Income Taxes**

The City levies a 1.5 percent income tax on substantially all income earned in the City. The City does not give credit to residents for income taxes paid to other municipalities. Additional increases in the income tax rate require voter approval. Employers within the City withhold income tax on employee compensation and remit at least quarterly and file an annual declaration of estimated tax.

The income tax receipts are to be used to pay the cost of administering the tax, general fund operations, capital improvements, debt service and other governmental functions when needed, as determined by Council. All tax receipts are allocated to the general fund. The Regional Income Tax Agency administers the City's income tax.

**Note 6 - Risk Management**

**Risk Pool Membership**

The City is a member of the Public Entities Pool of Ohio (the Pool). The Pool assumes the risk of loss up to the limits of the City's policy. The Pool covers the following risks:

- General liability and casualty
- Public official's liability
- Cyber
- Law enforcement liability
- Automobile liability
- Vehicles
- Property
- Equipment breakdown

The Pool reported the following summary of assets and actuarially-measured liabilities available to pay those liabilities as of December 31, 2021 (the latest information available):

Cash and Investments	\$41,996,850
Actuarial Liabilities	14,974,099

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There has been no significant reduction in insurance coverage from the prior year. Settled claims resulting from these risks have not exceeded commercial insurance coverages in any of the past three fiscal years.

**Worker's Compensation**

Workers' Compensation coverage is provided by the State of Ohio. The City pays the State Workers' Compensation System a premium based on a rate per \$100 of salaries. This rate is calculated based on accident history and administrative costs.

**Note 7 - Defined Benefit Pension Plans**

The Statewide retirement systems provide both pension benefits and other postemployment benefits (OPEB).

**Net Pension/OPEB Liability (Asset)**

Pensions and OPEB are a component of exchange transactions – between an employer and its employees – of salaries and benefits for employee services. Pensions are provided to an employee – on a deferred-payment basis – as part of the total compensation package offered by an employer for employee services each financial period.

The net pension liability (asset) and the net OPEB liability represent the City's proportionate share of each pension/OPEB plan's collective actuarial present value of projected benefit payments attributable to past periods of service, net of each pension/OPEB plan's fiduciary net position. The net pension/OPEB liability (asset) calculation is dependent on critical long-term variables, including estimated average life expectancies, earnings on investments, cost-of-living adjustments and others. While these estimates use the best information available, unknowable future events require adjusting this estimate annually.

Ohio Revised Code limits the City's obligation for this liability to annually required payments. The City cannot control benefit terms or the manner in which pensions/OPEB are financed; however, the City does receive the benefit of employees' services in exchange for compensation including pension and OPEB.

GASB 68/75 assumes the liability is solely the obligation of the employer, because (1) they benefit from employee services; and (2) State statute requires funding to come from these employers. All pension contributions to date have come solely from these employers (which also includes pension costs paid in the form of withholdings from employees). The retirement systems may allocate a portion of the employer contributions to provide for these OPEB benefits. In addition, health care plan enrollees pay a portion of the health care costs in the form of a monthly premium. State statute requires the retirement systems to amortize unfunded pension liabilities within 30 years. If the pension amortization period exceeds 30 years, each retirement system's board must propose corrective action to the State legislature. Any resulting legislative change to benefits or funding could significantly affect the net pension/OPEB liability (asset). Resulting adjustments to the net pension/OPEB liability would be effective when the changes are legally enforceable. The Ohio Revised Code permits, but does not require, the retirement systems to provide health care to eligible benefit recipients.

The net pension/net OPEB liability (asset) are not reported on the face of the financial statements, but rather are disclosed in the notes because of the use of the cash basis framework.

The remainder of this note includes the pension disclosures. See note 8 for the OPEB disclosures.

**Ohio Public Employees Retirement System (OPERS)**

*Plan Description* – City employees, other than full-time police and firefighters, participate in the Ohio Public Employees Retirement System (OPERS). OPERS is a cost-sharing, multiple employer public employee retirement

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system which administers three separate pension plans. The traditional pension plan is a cost-sharing, multiple-employer defined benefit pension plan. The member-directed plan is a defined contribution plan, and the combined plan is a combination cost-sharing, multiple-employer defined benefit/defined contribution pension plan. Participating employers are divided into state, local, law enforcement and public safety divisions. While members in the state and local divisions may participate in all three plans, law enforcement and public safety divisions exist only within the traditional plan.

OPERS provides retirement, disability, survivor and death benefits, and annual cost-of-living adjustments to members of the traditional and combined plans. Authority to establish and amend benefits is provided by Chapter 145 of the Ohio Revised Code. OPERS issues a stand-alone financial report that includes financial statements, required supplementary information and detailed information about OPERS' fiduciary net position that may be obtained by visiting <https://www.opers.org/financial/reports.shtml>, by writing to the Ohio Public Employees Retirement System, 277 East Town Street, Columbus, Ohio 43215-4642, or by calling 800-222-7377.

Senate Bill (SB) 343 was enacted into law with an effective date of January 7, 2013. In the legislation, members in the traditional and combined plans were categorized into three groups with varying provisions of the law applicable to each group. The following table provides age and service requirements for retirement and the retirement formula applied to final average salary (FAS) for the three member groups under the traditional and combined plans as per the reduced benefits adopted by SB 343 (see OPERS annual comprehensive financial report referenced above for additional information, including requirements for reduced and unreduced benefits):

<b>Group A</b> Eligible to retire prior to January 7, 2013, or five years after January 7, 2013	<b>Group B</b> 20 years of service credit prior to January 7, 2013, or eligible to retire ten years after January 7, 2013	<b>Group C</b> Members not in other Groups and members hired on or after January 7, 2013
<b>State and Local</b>	<b>State and Local</b>	<b>State and Local</b>
<b>Age and Service Requirements:</b> Age 60 with 60 months of service credit or Age 55 with 25 years of service credit	<b>Age and Service Requirements:</b> Age 60 with 60 months of service credit or Age 55 with 25 years of service credit	<b>Age and Service Requirements:</b> Age 57 with 25 years of service credit or Age 62 with 5 years of service credit
<b>Traditional Plan Formula:</b> 2.2% of FAS multiplied by years of service for the first 30 years and 2.5% for service years in excess of 30	<b>Traditional Plan Formula:</b> 2.2% of FAS multiplied by years of service for the first 30 years and 2.5% for service years in excess of 30	<b>Traditional Plan Formula:</b> 2.2% of FAS multiplied by years of service for the first 35 years and 2.5% for service years in excess of 35
<b>Combined Plan Formula:</b> 1% of FAS multiplied by years of service for the first 30 years and 1.25% for service years in excess of 30	<b>Combined Plan Formula:</b> 1% of FAS multiplied by years of service for the first 30 years and 1.25% for service years in excess of 30	<b>Combined Plan Formula:</b> 1% of FAS multiplied by years of service for the first 35 years and 1.25% for service years in excess of 35

Final average salary (FAS) represents the average of the three highest years of earnings over a member's career for Groups A and B. Group C is based on the average of the five highest years of earnings over a member's career.

Members who retire before meeting the age and years of service credit requirement for unreduced benefits receive a percentage reduction in the benefit amount. The amount of a member's pension benefit vests upon receipt of the initial benefit payment. The options for Public Safety and Law Enforcement permit early retirement under qualifying circumstances as early as age 48 with a reduced benefit.

When a traditional plan benefit recipient has received benefits for 12 months, current law provides for an annual cost of living adjustment (COLA). This COLA is calculated on the base retirement benefit at the date of retirement and is not compounded. Members retiring under the combined plan receive a cost-of-living adjustment on the defined benefit portion of their pension benefit. For those who retired prior to January 7, 2013, the cost of living adjustment

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is 3 percent. For those retiring on or after January 7, 2013, beginning in calendar year 2019, the adjustment is based on the average percentage increase in the Consumer Price Index, capped at 3 percent.

Defined contribution plan benefits are established in the plan documents, which may be amended by the Board. Member-directed plan and combined plan members who have met the retirement eligibility requirements may apply for retirement benefits. The amount available for defined contribution benefits in the combined plan consists of the member's contributions plus or minus the investment gains or losses resulting from the member's investment selections. Combined plan members wishing to receive benefits must meet the requirements for both the defined benefit and defined contribution plans. Member-directed participants must have attained the age of 55, have money on deposit in the defined contribution plan and have terminated public service to apply for retirement benefits. The amount available for defined contribution benefits in the member-directed plan consists of the members' contributions, vested employer contributions and investment gains or losses resulting from the members' investment selections. Employer contributions and associated investment earnings vest over a five-year period, at a rate of 20 percent each year. At retirement, members may select one of several distribution options for payment of the vested balance in their individual OPERS accounts. Options include the annuitization of the benefit (which includes joint and survivor options and will continue to be administered by OPERS), partial lump-sum payments (subject to limitations), a rollover of the vested account balance to another financial institution, receipt of entire account balance, net of taxes withheld, or a combination of these options. When members choose to annuitize their defined contribution benefit, the annuitized portion of the benefit is reclassified to a defined benefit.

Effective January 1, 2022, the Combined Plan is no longer available for member selection.

*Funding Policy* – The Ohio Revised Code (ORC) provides statutory authority for member and employer contributions as follows:

	State and Local
<b>Statutory Maximum Contribution Rates</b>	
Employer	14.0 %
Employee *	10.0 %
 <b>Actual Contribution Rates</b>	
Employer:	
Pension **	14.0 %
Post-employment Health Care Benefits **	0.0
Total Employer	14.0 %
Employee	10.0 %

\*Member contributions within the combined plan are not used to fund the defined benefit retirement allowance.

\*\*These pension and employer health care rates are for the traditional and combined plans. The employer contributions rate for the member-directed plan is allocated 4 percent for health care with the remainder going to pension.

Employer contribution rates are actuarially determined and are expressed as a percentage of covered payroll.

For 2022, the City's contractually required contribution was \$159,810.



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**Ohio Police & Fire Pension Fund (OP&F)**

*Plan Description* – City full-time police and firefighters participate in Ohio Police and Fire Pension Fund (OP&F), a cost-sharing, multiple-employer defined benefit pension plan administered by OP&F. OP&F provides retirement and disability pension benefits, annual cost-of-living adjustments, and death benefits to plan members and beneficiaries. Benefit provisions are established by the Ohio State Legislature and are codified in Chapter 742 of the Ohio Revised Code. OP&F issues a publicly available financial report that includes financial information and required supplementary information and detailed information about OP&F fiduciary net position. The report that may be obtained by visiting the OP&F website at [www.op-f.org](http://www.op-f.org) or by writing to the Ohio Police and Fire Pension Fund, 140 East Town Street, Columbus, Ohio 43215-5164.

Upon attaining a qualifying age with sufficient years of service, a member of OP&F may retire and receive a lifetime monthly pension. OP&F offers four types of service retirement: normal, service commuted, age/service commuted and actuarially reduced. Each type has different eligibility guidelines and is calculated using the member's average annual salary. The following discussion of the pension formula relates to normal service retirement.

For members hired after July 1, 2013, the minimum retirement age is 52 for normal service retirement with at least 25 years of service credit. For members hired on or before after July 1, 2013, the minimum retirement age is 48 for normal service retirement with at least 25 years of service credit.

The annual pension benefit for normal service retirement is equal to a percentage of the allowable average annual salary. The percentage equals 2.5 percent for each of the first 20 years of service credit, 2.0 percent for each of the next five years of service credit and 1.5 percent for each year of service credit in excess of 25 years. The maximum pension of 72 percent of the allowable average annual salary is paid after 33 years of service credit (see OP&F annual comprehensive financial report referenced above for additional information, including requirements for Deferred Retirement Option Plan provisions and reduced and unreduced benefits):

Under normal service retirement, retired members who are at least 55 years old and have been receiving OP&F benefits for at least one year may be eligible for a cost-of-living allowance adjustment. The age 55 provision for receiving a COLA does not apply to those who are receiving a permanent and total disability benefit, surviving beneficiaries under optional plans, and statutory survivors. Members participating in the DROP program have separate eligibility requirements related to COLA.

The COLA amount for members who have 15 or more years of service credit as of July 1, 2013, and members who are receiving a pension benefit that became effective before July 1, 2013, will be equal to 3.0 percent of the member's base pension benefit.

The COLA amount for members who have less than 15 years of service credit as of July 1, 2013, and members whose pension benefit became effective on or after July 1, 2013, will be equal to a percentage of the member's base pension benefit where the percentage is the lesser of 3.0% or the percentage increase in the consumer price index, if any, over the twelve-month period that ends on the thirtieth day of September of the immediately preceding year, rounded to the nearest one-tenth of one percent.

Members who retired prior to July 24, 1986, or their surviving beneficiaries under optional plans are entitled to cost-of-living allowance increases. The annual increase is paid on July 1st of each year. The annual COLA increase is \$360 under a Single Life Annuity Plan with proportional reductions for optional payment plans.

*Funding Policy* – The Ohio Revised Code (ORC) provides statutory authority for member and employer contributions as follows:

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	<u>Police</u>	<u>Firefighters</u>
<b>Statutory Maximum Contribution Rates</b>		
Employer	19.50 %	24.00 %
Employee	12.25 %	12.25 %
<b>Actual Contribution Rates</b>		
Employer:		
Pension	19.00 %	23.50 %
Post-employment Health Care Benefits	<u>0.50</u>	<u>0.50</u>
Total Employer	<u>19.50 %</u>	<u>24.00 %</u>
Employee	12.25 %	12.25 %

Employer contribution rates are expressed as a percentage of covered payroll. The City's contractually required contribution to OP&F was \$669,635 for 2022.

**Net Pension Liability (Asset)**

The net pension liability (asset) for OPERS was measured as of December 31, 2021, and the total pension liability used to calculate the net pension liability (asset) was determined by an actuarial valuation as of that date. OP&F's total pension liability was measured as of December 31, 2021, and was determined by rolling forward the total pension liability as of January 1, 2021, to December 31, 2021. The City's proportion of the net pension liability (asset) was based on the City's share of contributions to the pension plan relative to the contributions of all participating entities. Following is information related to the proportionate share of the City's defined benefit pension plans:

	<u>OPERS Traditional Plan</u>	<u>OPERS Combined Plan</u>	<u>OP&amp;F</u>	<u>Total</u>
Proportion of the Net Pension Liability/Asset:				
Current Measurement Date	0.00411600%	0.00680700%	0.05335680%	
Prior Measurement Date	<u>0.00407500%</u>	<u>0.00704200%</u>	<u>0.05223250%</u>	
Change in Proportionate Share	<u>0.00004100%</u>	<u>-0.00023500%</u>	<u>0.00112430%</u>	
Proportionate Share of the:				
Net Pension Liability	\$358,109	\$0	\$3,333,424	\$3,691,533
Net Pension Asset	0	(26,820)	0	(26,820)

**Actuarial Assumptions – OPERS**

Actuarial valuations of an ongoing plan involve estimates of the value of reported amounts and assumptions about the probability of occurrence of events far into the future. Examples include assumptions about future employment, mortality, and cost trends. Actuarially determined amounts are subject to continual review or modification as actual results are compared with past expectations and new estimates are made about the future.

Projections of benefits for financial reporting purposes are based on the substantive plan (the plan as understood by the employers and plan members) and include the types of benefits provided at the time of each valuation. The total

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pension liability was determined by an actuarial valuation as of December 31, 2021, using the following key actuarial assumptions and methods applied to all periods included in the measurement in accordance with the requirements of GASB 67. In 2021, the Board's actuarial consultants conducted an experience study for the period 2016 through 2020, comparing assumptions to actual results. The experience study incorporates both a historical review and forward-looking projections to determine the appropriate set of assumptions to keep the plan on a path toward full funding. Information from this study led to changes in both demographic and economic assumptions, with the most notable being a reduction in the actuarially assumed rate of return from 7.2 percent down to 6.9 percent, for the defined benefit investments. Key actuarial assumptions and methods used in the latest actuarial valuation, prepared as of December 31, 2021, reflecting experience study results, are presented below:

	<u>OPERS Traditional Plan</u>	<u>OPERS Combined Plan</u>
Wage Inflation	2.75 percent	2.75 percent
Future Salary Increases, including inflation	2.75 to 10.75 percent including wage inflation	2.75 to 8.25 percent including wage inflation
COLA or Ad Hoc COLA:		
Pre-January 7, 2013 Retirees	3.0 percent, simple	3.0 percent, simple
Post-January 7, 2013 Retirees	3.0 percent, simple through 2022, then 2.05 percent, simple	3.0 percent, simple through 2022, then 2.05 percent, simple
Investment Rate of Return	6.9 percent	6.9 percent
Actuarial Cost Method	Individual Entry Age	Individual Entry Age

Key actuarial assumptions and methods used in the prior actuarial valuation, prepared as of December 31, 2020, are presented below:

	<u>OPERS Traditional Plan</u>	<u>OPERS Combined Plan</u>
Wage Inflation	3.25 percent	3.25 percent
Future Salary Increases, including inflation	3.25 to 10.75 percent including wage inflation	3.25 to 8.25 percent including wage inflation
COLA or Ad Hoc COLA:		
Pre-January 7, 2013 Retirees	3.0 percent, simple	3.0 percent, simple
Post-January 7, 2013 Retirees	0.5 percent, simple through 2021, then 2.15 percent, simple	0.5 percent, simple through 2021, then 2.15 percent, simple
Investment Rate of Return	7.2 percent	7.2 percent
Actuarial Cost Method	Individual Entry Age	Individual Entry Age

For 2021, pre-retirement mortality rates are based on 130 percent of the Pub-2010 General Employee Mortality tables (males and females) for State and Local Government divisions and 170 percent of the Pub-2010 Safety Employee Mortality tables (males and females) for the Public Safety and Law Enforcement divisions. Post-retirement mortality rates are based on 115 percent of the PubG-2010 Retiree Mortality Tables (males and females) for all divisions. Post-retirement mortality rates for disabled retirees are based on the PubNS-2010 Disabled Retiree Mortality Tables (males and females) for all divisions. For all of the previously described tables, the base year is 2010 and mortality rates for a particular calendar year are determined by applying the MP-2020 mortality improvement scales (males and females) to all of these tables.

For 2020, pre-retirement mortality rates are based on the RP-2014 Employees mortality table for males and females, adjusted for mortality improvement back to the observation period base year of 2006. The base year for males and females was then established to be 2015 and 2010, respectively. Post-retirement mortality rates are based on the RP-2014 Healthy Annuitant mortality table for males and females, adjusted for mortality improvement back to the observation period base year of 2006. The base year for males and females was then established to be 2015 and

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2010, respectively. Post-retirement mortality rates for disabled retirees are based on the RP-2014 Disabled mortality table for males and females, adjusted for mortality improvement back to the observation period base year of 2006. The base year for males and females was then established to be 2015 and 2010, respectively. Mortality rates for a particular calendar year are determined by applying the MP-2015 mortality improvement scale to all of the above described tables.

The most recent experience study was completed for the five-year period ended December 31, 2020.

During 2021, OPERS managed investments in three investment portfolios: the Defined Benefit portfolio, the Health Care portfolio, and the Defined Contribution portfolio. The Defined Benefit portfolio contains the investment assets for the Traditional Pension Plan, the defined benefit component of the Combined Plan and the annuitized accounts of the Member-Directed Plan. Within the Defined Benefit portfolio contributions into the plans are all recorded at the same time, and benefit payments all occur on the first of the month. Accordingly, the money-weighted rate of return is considered to be the same for all plans within the portfolio. The annual money-weighted rate of return expressing investment performance, net of investment expenses and adjusted for the changing amounts actually invested, for the Defined Benefit portfolio was 15.3 percent for 2021.

The allocation of investment assets with the Defined Benefit portfolio is approved by the Board of Trustees as outlined in the annual investment plan. Plan assets are managed on a total return basis with a long-term objective of achieving and maintaining a fully funded status for the benefits provided through the defined benefit pension plans. The long-term expected rate of return on defined benefit investment assets was determined using a building-block method in which best-estimate ranges of expected future real rates of return are developed for each major asset class. These ranges are combined to produce the long-term expected real rate of return by weighting the expected future real rates of return by the target asset allocation percentage, adjusted for inflation. Best estimates of geometric rates of return were provided by the Board’s investment consultant. For each major class that is included in the Defined Benefit portfolio’s target asset allocation as of December 31, 2021, these best estimates are summarized below:

<u>Asset Class</u>	<u>Target Allocation</u>	<u>Weighted Average Long-Term Expected Real Rate of Return (Geometric)</u>
Fixed Income	24.00%	1.03%
Domestic Equities	21.00	3.78
Real Estate	11.00	3.66
Private Equity	12.00	7.43
International Equities	23.00	4.88
Risk Parity	5.00	2.92
Other investments	4.00	2.85
Total	<u>100.00%</u>	<u>4.21%</u>

*Discount Rate* The discount rate used to measure the total pension liability for the current year was 6.9 percent for the traditional plan and the combined plan. The discount rate for the prior year was 7.2 percent. The projection of cash flows used to determine the discount rate assumed that contributions from plan members and those of the contributing employers are made at the contractually required rates, as actuarially determined. Based on those assumptions, the pension plan’s fiduciary net position was projected to be available to make all projected future benefits payments of current plan members. Therefore, the long-term expected rate of return on pension plan investments for the traditional pension plan, combined plan and member-directed plan was applied to all periods of projected benefit payments to determine the total pension liability.

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*Sensitivity of the City's Proportionate Share of the Net Pension Liability (Asset) to Changes in the Discount Rate*  
The following table presents the City's proportionate share of the net pension liability (asset) calculated using the current period discount rate assumption of 6.9 percent, as well as what the City's proportionate share of the net pension liability (asset) would be if it were calculated using a discount rate that is one-percentage-point lower (5.9 percent) or one-percentage-point higher (7.9 percent) than the current rate:

	1% Decrease (5.90%)	Discount Rate (6.90%)	1% Increase (7.90%)
<b>City's proportionate share of the net pension liability (asset)</b>			
OPERS Traditional Plan	\$944,169	\$358,109	(\$129,572)
OPERS Combined Plan	(20,013)	(26,820)	(32,129)

**Actuarial Assumptions – OP&F**

OP&F's total pension liability as of December 31, 2021, is based on the results of an actuarial valuation date of January 1, 2021, and rolled-forward using generally accepted actuarial procedures. The total pension liability is determined by OP&F's actuaries in accordance with GASB Statement No. 67, as part of their annual valuation. Actuarial valuations of an ongoing plan involve estimates of reported amounts and assumptions about probability of occurrence of events far into the future. Examples include assumptions about future employment mortality, salary increases, disabilities, retirements and employment terminations. Actuarially determined amounts are subject to continual review and potential modifications, as actual results are compared with past expectations and new estimates are made about the future. Assumptions considered were: withdrawal rates, disability retirement, service retirement, DROP elections, mortality, percent married and forms of the payment, DROP interest rate, CPI-based COLA, investment returns, salary increases and payroll growth.

Key methods and assumptions used in the latest actuarial valuation, reflecting experience study results, prepared as of January 1, 2021 are presented below.

Valuation Date	January 1, 2021, with actuarial liabilities rolled forward to December 31, 2021
Actuarial Cost Method	Entry Age Normal
Investment Rate of Return	7.5 percent
Projected Salary Increases	3.75 percent to 10.5 percent
Payroll Growth	3.25 percent per annum, compounded annually, consisting of Inflation rate of 2.75 percent plus productivity increase rate of 0.5 percent
Cost of Living Adjustments	2.2 percent simple per year

In February 2022, the OP&F Board adopted a change in the investment rate of return, changing it from 8 percent for the 2020 measurement period to 7.5 percent for the 2021 measurement period.

Mortality for non-disabled participants is based on the RP-2014 Total Employee and Healthy Annuitant Mortality Tables rolled back to 2006, adjusted according to the rates in the following table, and projected with the Buck Modified 2016 Improvement Scale. Rates for surviving beneficiaries are adjusted by 120 percent.

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Age	Police	Fire
67 or less	77 %	68 %
68-77	105	87
78 and up	115	120

Mortality for disabled retirees is based on the RP-2014 Disabled Mortality Tables rolled back to 2006, adjusted according to the rates in the following table, and projected with the Buck Modified 2016 Improvement Scale.

Age	Police	Fire
59 or less	35 %	35 %
60-69	60	45
70-79	75	70
80 and up	100	90

The most recent experience study was completed for the five year period ended December 31, 2016.

The long-term expected rate of return on pension plan investments was determined using a building-block approach and assumes a time horizon, as defined in the Statement of Investment Policy. A forecasted rate of inflation serves as the baseline for the return expected. Various real return premiums over the baseline inflation rate have been established for each asset class. The long-term expected nominal rate of return has been determined by calculating a weighted average of the expected real return premiums for each asset class, adding the projected inflation rate and adding the expected return from rebalancing uncorrelated asset classes. Best estimates of the long-term expected geometric real rates of return for each major asset class included in OP&F's target asset allocation as of December 31, 2021, are summarized below:

Asset Class	Target Allocation	Long-Term Expected Real Rate of Return
Cash and Cash Equivalents	0.00 %	0.00 %
Domestic Equity	21.00	3.60
Non-US Equity	14.00	4.40
Private Markets	8.00	6.80
Core Fixed Income *	23.00	1.10
High Yield Fixed Income	7.00	3.00
Private Credit	5.00	4.50
U.S. Inflation Linked Bonds*	17.00	0.80
Midstream Energy Infrastructure	5.00	5.00
Real Assets	8.00	5.90
Gold	5.00	2.40
Private Real Estate	12.00	4.80
Total	125.00 %	

Note: Assumptions are geometric.

\* levered 2x

OP&F's Board of Trustees has incorporated the risk parity concept into OP&F's asset liability valuation with the goal of reducing equity risk exposure, which reduces overall Total Portfolio risk without sacrificing return, and creating a more risk-balanced portfolio based on their relationship between asset classes and economic

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environments. From the notional portfolio perspective above, the Total Portfolio may be levered up to 1.25 times due to the application of leverage in certain fixed income asset classes.

*Discount Rate* For 2021, the total pension liability was calculated using the discount rate of 7.50 percent. The projection of cash flows used to determine the discount rate assumed the contributions from employers and from the members would be computed based on contribution requirements as stipulated by State statute. Projected inflows from investment earning were calculated using the longer-term assumed investment rate of return of 7.50 percent. Based on those assumptions, the plan’s fiduciary net position was projected to be available to make all future benefit payments of current plan members. Therefore, a long-term expected rate of return on pension plan investments was applied to all periods of projected benefits to determine the total pension liability.

*Sensitivity of the City's Proportionate Share of the Net Pension Liability to Changes in the Discount Rate* Net pension liability is sensitive to changes in the discount rate, and to illustrate the potential impact, the following table presents the net pension liability calculated using the discount rate of 7.50 percent, as well as what the net pension liability would be if it were calculated using a discount rate that is one percentage point lower (6.50 percent), or one percentage point higher (8.50 percent) than the current rate.

	1% Decrease (6.50%)	Current Discount Rate (7.50%)	1% Increase (8.50%)
City's proportionate share of the net pension liability	\$4,943,422	\$3,333,424	\$1,992,694

**Note 8 - Postemployment Benefits**

**Net OPEB Liability (Asset)**

See note 7 for a description of the net OPEB liability (asset).

**Ohio Public Employees Retirement System (OPERS)**

*Plan Description* – The Ohio Public Employees Retirement System (OPERS) administers three separate pension plans: the traditional pension plan, a cost-sharing, multiple-employer defined benefit pension plan; the member-directed plan, a defined contribution plan; and the combined plan, a cost-sharing, multiple-employer defined benefit pension plan that has elements of both a defined benefit and defined contribution plan.

OPERS maintains a cost-sharing, multiple-employer defined benefit post-employment health care trust, which funds multiple health care plans including medical coverage, prescription drug coverage and deposits to a Health Reimbursement Arrangement (HRA) to qualifying benefit recipients of both the traditional pension and the combined plans. Currently, Medicare-eligible retirees are able to select medical and prescription drug plans from a range of options and may elect optional vision and dental plans. Retirees and eligible dependents enrolled in Medicare Parts A and B have the option to enroll in a Medicare supplemental plan with the assistance of the OPERS Medicare Connector. The OPERS Medicare Connector is a relationship with a vendor selected by OPERS to assist retirees, spouses and dependents with selecting a medical and pharmacy plan. Monthly allowances, based on years of service and the age at which the retiree first enrolled in OPERS coverage, are deposited into an HRA. For non-Medicare retirees and eligible dependents, OPERS sponsors medical and prescription coverage through a professionally managed self-insured plan. An allowance to offset a portion of the monthly premium is offered to retirees and eligible dependents. The allowance is based on the retiree’s years of service and age when they first enrolled in OPERS coverage.

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OPERS provides a monthly allowance for health care coverage for eligible retirees and their eligible dependents. The base allowance is determined by OPERS. For those retiring on or after January 1, 2015, the allowance has been determined by applying a percentage to the base allowance. The percentage applied is based on years of qualifying service credit and age when the retiree first enrolled in OPERS health care. Monthly allowances range between 51 percent and 90 percent of the base allowance. Those who retired prior to January 1, 2015, will have an allowance of at least 75 percent of the base allowance.

The health care trust is also used to fund health care for member-directed plan participants, in the form of a Retiree Medical Account (RMA). At retirement or separation, member directed plan participants may be eligible for reimbursement of qualified medical expenses from their vested RMA balance.

Effective January 1, 2022, OPERS discontinued the group plans currently offered to non-Medicare retirees and re-employed retirees. Instead, eligible non-Medicare retirees will select an individual medical plan. OPERS will provide a subsidy or allowance via an HRA allowance to those retirees who meet health care eligibility requirements. Retirees will be able to seek reimbursement for plan premiums and other qualified medical expenses.

In order to qualify for postemployment health care coverage, age and service retirees under the traditional pension and combined plans must have twenty or more years of qualifying Ohio service credit with a minimum age of 60. Members in Group A are eligible for coverage at any age with 30 or more years of qualifying service. Members in Group B are eligible at any age with 32 years of qualifying service, or at age 52 with 31 years of qualifying service. Members in Group C are eligible for coverage with 32 years of qualifying service and a minimum age of 55. Current retirees eligible (or who became eligible prior to January 1, 2022) to participate in the OPERS health care program will continue to be eligible after January 1, 2022. Eligibility requirements change for those retiring after January 1, 2022, with differing eligibility requirements for Medicare retirees and non-Medicare retirees. The health care coverage provided by OPERS meets the definition of an Other Post Employment Benefit (OPEB) as described in GASB Statement 75. See OPERS' Annual Comprehensive Financial Report referenced below for additional information.

The Ohio Revised Code permits, but does not require OPERS to provide health care to its eligible benefit recipients. Authority to establish and amend health care coverage is provided to the Board in Chapter 145 of the Ohio Revised Code.

Disclosures for the health care plan are presented separately in the OPERS financial report. Interested parties may obtain a copy by visiting <https://www.opers.org/financial/reports.shtml>, by writing to OPERS, 277 East Town Street, Columbus, Ohio 43215-4642, or by calling (614) 222-5601 or 800-222-7377.

*Funding Policy* – The Ohio Revised Code provides the statutory authority requiring public employers to fund postemployment health care through their contributions to OPERS. When funding is approved by OPERS' Board of Trustees, a portion of each employer's contribution to OPERS is set aside to fund OPERS health care plans. Beginning in 2018, OPERS no longer allocated a portion of its employer contributions to fund health care for the traditional plan and the combined plan.

Employer contribution rates are expressed as a percentage of the earnable salary of active members. In 2022, state and local employers contributed at a rate of 14.0 percent of earnable salary. These are the maximum employer contribution rates permitted by the Ohio Revised Code. Active member contributions do not fund health care.

Each year, the OPERS Board determines the portion of the employer contribution rate that will be set aside to fund health care plans. For 2022, OPERS did not allocate any employer contributions to health care for members of the traditional plan and combined plan. The OPERS Board is also authorized to establish rules for the retiree or their surviving beneficiaries to pay a portion of the health care provided. Payment amounts vary depending on the number



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of covered dependents and the coverage selected. The employer contribution as a percentage of covered payroll deposited into the RMA for participants in the Member-Directed Plan for 2022 was 4.0 percent.

Employer contribution rates are actuarially determined and are expressed as a percentage of covered payroll.

The City's contractually required contribution was \$0 for 2022.

**Ohio Police & Fire Pension Fund (OP&F)**

*Plan Description* – The City contributes to the Ohio Police and Fire Pension Fund (OP&F) sponsored healthcare program, a cost-sharing, multiple-employer defined post-employment health care plan administered by a third-party provider. This program is not guaranteed and is subject to change at any time upon action of the Board of Trustees. On January 1, 2019, OP&F implemented a new model for health care. Under this new model, OP&F provides eligible retirees with a fixed stipend earmarked to pay for health care and Medicare Part B reimbursements.

OP&F contracted with a vendor who assists eligible retirees in choosing health care plans that are available where they live (both Medicare-eligible and pre-65 populations). A stipend funded by OP&F is available to these members through a Health Reimbursement Arrangement and can be used to reimburse retirees for qualified health care expenses.

Regardless of a benefit recipient's participation in the health care program, OP&F is required by law to pay eligible recipients of a service pension, disability benefit and spousal survivor benefit for their Medicare Part B insurance premium, up to the statutory maximum provided the benefit recipient is not eligible to receive reimbursement from any other source. Once OP&F receives the necessary documentation, a monthly reimbursement is included as part of the recipient's next benefit payment. The stipend provided by OP&F meets the definition of an Other Post Employment Benefit (OPEB) as described in Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) Statement No. 75.

OP&F maintains funds for health care in two separate accounts: one account for health care benefits and one account for Medicare Part B reimbursements. A separate health care trust accrual account is maintained for health care benefits under IRS Code Section 115 trust. IRS Code Section 401(h) account is maintained for Medicare Part B reimbursements.

The Ohio Revised Code allows, but does not mandate, OP&F to provide OPEB benefits. Authority for the OP&F Board of Trustees to provide health care coverage to eligible participants and to establish and amend benefits is codified in Chapter 742 of the Ohio Revised Code.

OP&F issues a publicly available financial report that includes financial information and required supplementary information for the plan. The report may be obtained by visiting the OP&F website at [www.op-f.org](http://www.op-f.org) or by writing to the Ohio Police and Fire Pension Fund, 140 East Town Street, Columbus, Ohio 43215-5164.

*Funding Policy* – The Ohio Revised Code provides for contribution requirements of the participating employers and of plan members to the OP&F defined benefit pension plan. Participating employers are required to contribute to the pension plan at rates expressed as percentages of the payroll of active pension plan members, currently 19.5 percent and 24 percent of covered payroll for police and fire employer units, respectively. The Ohio Revised Code states that the employer contribution may not exceed 19.5 percent of covered payroll for police employer units and 24 percent of covered payroll for fire employer units. Active members do not make contributions to the OPEB Plan.

The Board of Trustees is authorized to allocate a portion of the total employer contributions for retiree health care benefits. For 2022, the portion of employer contributions allocated to health care was 0.5 percent of covered

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payroll. The amount of employer contributions allocated to the health care plan each year is subject to the Trustees' primary responsibility to ensure that pension benefits are adequately funded.

The OP&F Board of Trustees is also authorized to establish requirements for contributions to the health care plan by retirees and their eligible dependents or their surviving beneficiaries. Payment amounts vary depending on the number of covered dependents and the coverage selected.

The City's contractually required contribution to OP&F was \$16,056 for 2022.

**Net OPEB Liability (Asset)**

The net OPEB liability (asset) and total OPEB liability for OPERS were determined by an actuarial valuation as of December 31, 2020, rolled forward to the measurement date of December 31, 2021, by incorporating the expected value of health care cost accruals, the actual health care payment, and interest accruals during the year. OP&F's total OPEB liability was measured as of December 31, 2021, and was determined by rolling forward the total OPEB liability as of January 1, 2021, to December 31, 2021. The City's proportion of the net OPEB liability (asset) was based on the City's share of contributions to the retirement plan relative to the contributions of all participating entities. Following is information related to the proportionate share:

	OPERS	OP&F	Total
Proportion of the Net OPEB Liability (Asset):			
Current Measurement Date	0.004029%	0.0533568%	
Prior Measurement Date	0.004000%	0.0522325%	
Change in Proportionate Share	0.0000290%	0.0011243%	
Proportionate Share of the Net			
OPEB Liability	\$0	\$584,837	\$584,837
OPEB Asset	(126,194)	0	(126,194)

**Actuarial Assumptions – OPERS**

Actuarial valuations of an ongoing plan involve estimates of the values of reported amounts and assumptions about the probability of occurrence of events far into the future. Examples include assumptions about future employment, mortality, and cost trends. Actuarially determined amounts are subject to continual review or modification as actual results are compared with past expectations and new estimates are made about the future.

Projections of health care costs for financial reporting purposes are based on the substantive plan (the plan as understood by the employers and plan members) and include the types of coverage provided at the time of each valuation and the historical pattern of sharing of costs between OPERS and plan members. In 2021, the Board's actuarial consultants conducted an experience study for the period 2016 through 2020, comparing historical assumptions to actual results. The experience study incorporates both a historical review and forward-looking projections to determine the appropriate set of assumptions to keep the plan on a path toward full funding. Information from this study led to changes in both demographic and economic assumptions. The actuarial valuation used for 2021 compared to those used for 2020 are as follows:

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	December 31, 2021	December 31, 2020
Wage Inflation	2.75 percent	3.25 percent
Projected Salary Increases,	2.75 to 10.75 percent	3.25 to 10.75 percent
	including wage inflation	including wage inflation
Single Discount Rate	6.00 percent	6.00 percent
Investment Rate of Return	6.00 percent	6.00 percent
Municipal Bond Rate	1.84 percent	2.00 percent
Health Care Cost Trend Rate	5.5 percent, initial	8.5 percent, initial
	3.50 percent, ultimate in 2034	3.50 percent, ultimate in 2035
Actuarial Cost Method	Individual Entry Age	Individual Entry Age

For 2021, pre-retirement mortality rates are based on 130 percent of the Pub-2010 General Employee Mortality tables (males and females) for State and Local Government divisions and 170 percent of the Pub-2010 Safety Employee Mortality tables (males and females) for the Public Safety and Law Enforcement divisions. Post-retirement mortality rates are based on 115 percent of the PubG-2010 Retiree Mortality Tables (males and females) for all divisions. Post-retirement mortality rates for disabled retirees are based on the PubNS-2010 Disabled Retiree Mortality Tables (males and females) for all divisions. For all of the previously described tables, the base year is 2010 and mortality rates for a particular calendar year are determined by applying the MP-2020 mortality improvement scales (males and females) to all of these tables.

For 2020, pre-retirement mortality rates are based on the RP-2014 Employees mortality table for males and females, adjusted for mortality improvement back to the observation period base year of 2006. The base year for males and females was then established to be 2015 and 2010, respectively. Post-retirement mortality rates are based on the RP-2014 Healthy Annuitant mortality table for males and females, adjusted for mortality improvement back to the observation period base year of 2006. The base year for males and females was then established to be 2015 and 2010, respectively. Post-retirement mortality rates for disabled retirees are based on the RP-2014 Disabled mortality table for males and females, adjusted for mortality improvement back to the observation period base year of 2006. The base year for males and females was then established to be 2015 and 2010, respectively. Mortality rates for a particular calendar year are determined by applying the MP-2015 mortality improvement scale to all of the above-described tables.

The most recent experience study was completed for the five-year period ended December 31, 2020.

During 2021, OPERS managed investments in three investment portfolios: the Defined Benefit portfolio, the Health Care portfolio and the Defined Contribution portfolio. The Health Care portfolio includes the assets for health care expenses for the Traditional Pension Plan, Combined Plan and Member-Directed Plan eligible members. Within the Health Care portfolio, if any contributions are made into the plans, the contributions are assumed to be received continuously throughout the year based on the actual payroll payable at the time contributions are made. Health care-related payments are assumed to occur mid-year. Accordingly, the money-weighted rate of return is considered to be the same for all plans within the portfolio. The annual money-weighted rate of return expressing investment performance, net of investment expenses and adjusted for the changing amounts actually invested, for the Health Care portfolio was 14.3 percent for 2021.

The allocation of investment assets within the Health Care portfolio is approved by the Board of Trustees as outlined in the annual investment plan. Assets are managed on a total return basis with a long-term objective of continuing to offer a sustainable health care program for current and future retirees. OPERS' primary goal is to achieve and maintain a fully funded status for the benefits provided through the defined pension plans. Health care is a discretionary benefit. The long-term expected rate of return on health care investment assets was determined using a building-block method in which best-estimate ranges of expected future rates of return are developed for

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each major asset class. These ranges are combined to produce the long-term expected rate of return by weighting the expected future rates of return by the target asset allocation percentage, adjusted for inflation. Best estimates of geometric rates of return were provided by the Board’s investment consultant. For each major asset class that is included in the Health Care’s portfolio’s target asset allocation as of December 31, 2021, these best estimates are summarized in the following table:

<u>Asset Class</u>	<u>Target Allocation</u>	<u>Weighted Average Long-Term Expected Real Rate of Return (Geometric)</u>
Fixed Income	34.00%	0.91%
Domestic Equities	25.00	3.78
Real Estate Investment Trust	7.00	3.71
International Equities	25.00	4.88
Risk Parity	2.00	2.92
Other investments	7.00	1.93
Total	<u>100.00%</u>	<u>3.45%</u>

*Discount Rate* A single discount rate of 6.0 percent was used to measure the OPEB liability on the measurement date of December 31, 2021. Projected benefit payments are required to be discounted to their actuarial present value using a single discount rate that reflects (1) a long-term expected rate of return on OPEB plan investments (to the extent that the health care fiduciary net position is projected to be sufficient to pay benefits), and (2) tax-exempt municipal bond rate based on an index of 20-year general obligation bonds with an average AA credit rating as of the measurement date (to the extent that the contributions for use with the long-term expected rate are not met). This single discount rate was based on an expected rate of return on the health care investment portfolio of 6.00 percent and a municipal bond rate of 1.84 percent (Fidelity Index’s “20-Year Municipal GO AA Index”). The projection of cash flows used to determine this single discount rate assumed that employer contributions will be made at rates equal to the actuarially determined contribution rate. Based on these assumptions, the health care fiduciary net position and future contributions were sufficient to finance health care costs through 2121. As a result, the actuarial assumed long-term expected rate of return on health care investments was applied to projected costs through the year 2121, the duration of the projection period through which projected health care payments are fully funded.

*Sensitivity of the City’s Proportionate Share of the Net OPEB Asset to Changes in the Discount Rate* The following table presents the City’s proportionate share of the net OPEB asset calculated using the single discount rate of 6.00 percent, as well as what the City’s proportionate share of the net OPEB liability would be if it were calculated using a discount rate that is one-percentage-point lower (5.00 percent) or one-percentage-point higher (7.00 percent) than the current rate:

	<u>1% Decrease (5.00%)</u>	<u>Current Discount Rate (6.00%)</u>	<u>1% Increase (7.00%)</u>
City's proportionate share of the net OPEB asset	(\$74,214)	(\$126,194)	(\$169,339)

*Sensitivity of the City’s Proportionate Share of the Net OPEB Asset to Changes in the Health Care Cost Trend Rate* Changes in the health care cost trend rate may also have a significant impact on the net OPEB liability. The following table presents the net OPEB asset calculated using the assumed trend rates, and the expected net OPEB asset if it were calculated using a health care cost trend rate that is 1.0 percent lower or 1.0 percent higher than the current rate.

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Retiree health care valuations use a health care cost-trend assumption that changes over several years built into the assumption. The near-term rates reflect increases in the current cost of health care; the trend starting in 2022 is 5.50 percent. If this trend continues for future years, the projection indicates that years from now virtually all expenditures will be for health care. A more reasonable alternative is the health plan cost trend will decrease to a level at, or near, wage inflation. On this basis, the actuaries project premium rate increases will continue to exceed wage inflation for approximately the next decade, but by less each year, until leveling off at an ultimate rate, assumed to be 3.50 percent in the most recent valuation.

	Current Health Care Cost Trend Rate		
	1% Decrease	Assumption	1% Increase
City's proportionate share of the net OPEB asset	(\$127,558)	(\$126,194)	(\$124,577)

**Actuarial Assumptions – OP&F**

OP&F's total OPEB liability as of December 31, 2021, is based on the results of an actuarial valuation date of January 1, 2021, and rolled-forward using generally accepted actuarial procedures. The total OPEB liability is determined by OP&F's actuaries in accordance with GASB Statement No. 74, as part of their annual valuation. Actuarial valuations of an ongoing plan involve estimates of the value of reported amounts and assumptions about probability of occurrence of events far into the future. Examples include assumptions about future employment, mortality, salary increases, disabilities, retirements and employment terminations. Actuarially determined amounts are subject to continual review and potential modifications, as actual results are compared with past expectations and new estimates are made about the future.

Projections of benefits for financial reporting purposes are based on the substantive plan (the plan as understood by the employers and plan members) and include the types of benefits provided at the time of each valuation and the historical pattern of sharing benefit costs between the employers and plan members to that point. The projection of benefits for financial reporting purposes does not explicitly incorporate the potential effects of legal or contractual funding limitations.

Actuarial calculations reflect a long-term perspective. For a newly hired employee, actuarial calculations will take into account the employee's entire career with the employer and also take into consideration the benefits, if any, paid to the employee after termination of employment until the death of the employee and any applicable contingent annuitant. In many cases, actuarial calculations reflect several decades of service with the employer and the payment of benefits after termination.

Key methods and assumptions used in the latest actuarial valuation, reflecting experience study results, are presented below.

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Valuation Date	January 1, 2021, with actuarial liabilities rolled forward to December 31, 2021
Actuarial Cost Method	Entry Age Normal
Investment Rate of Return	7.5 percent
Projected Salary Increases	3.75 percent to 10.5 percent
Payroll Growth	3.25 percent
Blended discount rate:	
Current measurement date	2.84 percent
Prior measurement date	2.96 percent
Cost of Living Adjustments	2.2 percent simple per year

In February 2022, the OP&F Board adopted a change in the investment rate of return, changing it from 8 percent for the 2020 measurement period to 7.5 percent for the 2021 measurement period.

Mortality for non-disabled participants is based on the RP-2014 Total Employee and Healthy Annuitant Mortality Tables rolled back to 2006, adjusted according to the rates in the following table, and projected with the Buck Modified 2016 Improvement Scale. Rates for surviving beneficiaries are adjusted by 120 percent.

<u>Age</u>	<u>Police</u>	<u>Fire</u>
67 or less	77 %	68 %
68-77	105	87
78 and up	115	120

Mortality for disabled retirees is based on the RP-2014 Disabled Mortality Tables rolled back to 2006, adjusted according to the rates in the following table, and projected with the Buck Modified 2016 Improvement Scale.

<u>Age</u>	<u>Police</u>	<u>Fire</u>
59 or less	35 %	35 %
60-69	60	45
70-79	75	70
80 and up	100	90

The most recent experience study was completed for the five year period ended December 31, 2016.

The long-term expected rate of return on OPEB plan investments was determined using a building-block approach and assumes a time horizon, as defined in the Statement of Investment Policy. A forecasted rate of inflation serves as the baseline for the return expected. Various real return premiums over the baseline inflation rate have been established for each asset class. The long-term expected nominal rate of return has been determined by calculating a weighted average of the expected real return premiums for each asset class, adding the projected inflation rate and adding the expected return from rebalancing uncorrelated asset classes. Best estimates of the long-term expected geometric real rates of return for each major asset class included in OP&F's target asset allocation as of December 31, 2021, are summarized below:

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<u>Asset Class</u>	<u>Target Allocation</u>	<u>Long-Term Expected Real Rate of Return</u>
Cash and Cash Equivalents	- %	0.00 %
Domestic Equity	21.00	3.60
Non-US Equity	14.00	4.40
Private Markets	8.00	6.80
Core Fixed Income *	23.00	1.10
High Yield Fixed Income	7.00	3.00
Private Credit	5.00	4.50
U.S. Inflation Linked Bonds*	17.00	0.80
Midstream Energy Infrastructure	5.00	5.00
Real Assets	8.00	5.90
Gold	5.00	2.40
Private Real Estate	12.00	4.80
<b>Total</b>	<b>125.00 %</b>	

Note: Assumptions are geometric.

\* levered 2x

OP&F's Board of Trustees has incorporated the risk parity concept into OP&F's asset liability valuation with the goal of reducing equity risk exposure, which reduces overall Total Portfolio risk without sacrificing return, and creating a more risk-balanced portfolio based on their relationship between asset classes and economic environments. From the notional portfolio perspective above, the Total Portfolio may be levered up to 1.2 times due to the application of leverage in certain fixed income asset classes.

*Discount Rate* For 2021, the total OPEB liability was calculated using the discount rate of 2.84 percent. For 2020, the total OPEB liability was calculated using the discount rate of 2.96 percent. The projection of cash flows used to determine the discount rate assumed the contribution from employers and from members would be computed based on contribution requirements as stipulated by State statute. Projected inflows from investment earnings were calculated using the longer-term assumed investment rate of return of 7.5 percent. Based on those assumptions, OP&F's fiduciary net position was projected to not be able to make all future benefit payments of current plan members. Therefore, a municipal bond rate of 2.05 percent at December 31, 2021, and 2.12 percent at December 31, 2020, was blended with the long-term rate of 7.5 percent for 2021 and 8 percent for 2020, which resulted in a blended discount rate of 2.84 percent for 2021 and 2.96 percent for 2020. The municipal bond rate was determined using the Bond Buyers General Obligation 20-year Municipal Bond Index Rate. The OPEB plan's fiduciary net position was projected to be available to make all projected OPEB payments until 2037. The long-term expected rate of return on health care investments was applied to projected costs through 2037, and the municipal bond rate was applied to all health care costs after that date.

*Sensitivity of the City's Proportionate Share of the Net OPEB Liability to Changes in the Discount Rate* Net OPEB liability is sensitive to changes in the discount rate, and to illustrate the potential impact the following table presents the net OPEB liability calculated using the discount rate of 2.84 percent, as well as what the net OPEB liability would be if it were calculated using a discount rate that is one percentage point lower (1.84 percent), or one percentage point higher (3.84 percent) than the current rate.

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	1% Decrease (1.84%)	Current Discount Rate (2.84%)	1% Increase (3.84%)
City's proportionate share of the net OPEB liability	\$735,152	\$584,837	\$461,276

**Note 9 – Debt**

The changes in the City's long-term debt during fiscal year 2022 were as follows:

	Balance 1/1/22	Additions	Reductions	Balance 12/31/22	Due Within One Year
<i>Governmental Activities</i>					
<i>General Obligation Bonds/Loans</i>					
2012 Various Purpose Bonds – 3-4.5%	\$190,000	\$0	(\$15,000)	\$175,000	\$15,000
2017 Building Improvement Bonds – 3.14%	125,687	0	(82,479)	43,208	0
<i>Total General Obligation Bonds/Loans</i>	315,687	0	(97,479)	218,208	15,000
<i>Ohio Public Works Loans</i>					
2016 Multi Street Projects - 0%	176,328	0	(9,796)	166,532	9,796
2019 Center Ridge Avenue – 0%	292,167	0	(14,983)	277,184	14,983
2020 Sundale Avenue Recon – 0%	120,000	469,892	0	589,892	0
2020 Galbraith & Goodman Imp – 0%	178,071	0	0	178,071	0
2022 Larann & Dordine Reconstruction – 0%	0	23,600	0	23,600	0
<i>Total Ohio Public Works Loans</i>	766,566	493,492	(24,779)	1,235,279	24,779
2020 Ambulance Financed Purchase – 2.99%	164,648	0	(25,456)	139,192	26,217
<i>Total Governmental Activities</i>					
<i>Long-Term Debt</i>	\$1,246,901	\$493,492	(\$147,714)	\$1,592,679	\$65,996

All general obligation bonds and loans are supported by the full faith and credit of the City and are payable from unvoted property tax receipts to the extent that other resources are not available to meet annual principal and interest payments.

The City funds street improvement projects through the use of grants and 0% interest loans made available through the Ohio Public Works Commission (OPWC). OPWC loan debt is paid with the proceeds from the City's Street Improvements Levy, and loans are typically paid in full by the first loan installment due date. The 2016 Multi Street Projects loan has been drawn in full, and the first payment was made in 2020. The Center Ridge Avenue loan has been approved for up to \$299,658 and has been drawn in full. The first payment on this loan was made in 2021. The 2020 Sundale Avenue Reconstruction loan has been approved for up to \$589,892 and has been drawn in full. The 2020 Galbraith and Goodman Improvements loan has been approved for up to \$281,500. \$178,071 has been drawn as of December 31, 2022. The 2022 Larann & Dordine Reconstruction loan has been approved for up to \$23,600 and has been drawn in full. Amortization schedules have not yet been provided for the two 2020 OPWC loans or the 2022 OPWC loan.

The 2011 energy upgrade loan and OPWC loans are also subject to default stipulations. According to the 2011 energy upgrade loan agreement, in the event of default, the lender, at its option, may exercise any one or more of the following remedies a) declare an amount equal to all amounts then due under the agreement, and all loan payments which shall come due over the remaining portion of the entire term, to be immediately due and payable, b) request borrower to promptly return improvements to lender or enter upon premises where improvements are located and



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take immediate possession of and remove such improvements, c) sell or lease the improvements or sublease them for the account of the borrower, holding borrower liable for i) all loan payments due to the effective date of such selling, leasing, or subleasing, and ii) for difference between the purchase price, rental, or other amounts paid by the purchaser, borrower, or sub-borrower pursuant to such sale, lease, or sublease, and remaining amounts payable to borrower, and/or d) exercise any other right, remedy, or privilege that may be available to it under applicable law, including the right to i) proceed by appropriate court action to specifically and/or otherwise enforce the terms of the agreement, ii) recover damages for breach of agreement, and iii) rescind the agreement as to any or all of the improvements. According to the OPWC loan agreements, if the City fails to make any payment due and is not corrected within thirty days, the amount in default shall bear interest thereafter at the default rate of 8 percent per annum from the date of default until the date of payment. In addition, the entire principal remaining unpaid, together with accrued interest and other charges shall, at OPWC's option, become immediately due and payment.

Principal and interest requirements to retire general obligation bonds outstanding at December 31, 2021 are as follows:

Year Ending December 31,	2017 Building Improvement Bonds			2012 Various Purpose Bonds		
	Principal	Interest	Total	Principal	Interest	Total
2023	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$15,000	\$7,875	\$22,875
2024	43,208	1,020	44,228	15,000	7,200	22,200
2025	0	0	0	20,000	6,525	26,525
2026	0	0	0	20,000	5,625	25,625
2027	0	0	0	20,000	4,725	24,725
2028-2031	0	0	0	85,000	9,900	94,900
Total	\$43,208	\$1,020	\$44,228	\$175,000	\$41,850	\$216,850

Year Ending December 31,	OPWC Loans		
	Principal	Interest	Total
2023	\$24,779	\$0	\$24,779
2024	24,779	0	24,779
2025	24,779	0	24,779
2026	24,779	0	24,779
2027	24,779	0	24,779
2028-2032	123,895	0	123,895
2033-2037	123,895	0	123,895
2038-2041	72,031	0	72,031
Total	\$443,716	\$0	\$443,716

The OPWC amortization above does not agree to the table on the previous page as the 2020 Sundale Avenue Reconstruction, 2020 Galbraith & Goodman Improvements, and 2022 Larann & Dordine Reconstruction loans have not been drawn in full.

**Financed Purchase**

The City has entered into a financed purchase agreement for an ambulance, where ownership of the underlying asset transfers to the City by the end of the contract. The financed purchase agreement will be secured by the ambulance purchased from the proceeds of the agreement. The City disbursed \$30,379 to pay these principal and interest costs for the year ended December 31, 2022.

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Future financed purchase payments are as follows:

Year Ending December 31,	2020 Ambulance Lease-Purchase		
	Principal	Interest	Total
2023	\$26,217	\$4,162	\$30,379
2024	27,001	3,378	30,379
2025	27,808	2,571	30,379
2026	28,640	1,739	30,379
2027	29,526	853	30,379
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$139,192</b>	<b>\$12,703</b>	<b>\$151,895</b>

The Ohio Revised Code provides that net general obligation debt of the City, exclusive of certain exempt debt, issued without a vote of the electors shall never exceed 5.5 percent of the tax valuation of the City. The Revised Code further provides that total voted and unvoted net debt of the City, less the same exempt debt, shall never exceed an amount equal to 10.5 percent of its tax valuation. The effects of the debt limitations at December 31, 2022 were an overall debt margin of \$13,020,865 and an unvoted debt margin of \$6,696,601.

**Note 10 – Fund Balances**

Fund balance is classified as nonspendable, restricted, committed, assigned and/or unassigned based primarily on the extent to which the City is bound to observe constraints imposed upon the use of the resources in the governmental funds. The constraints placed on fund balance for the major governmental funds and all other governmental funds are presented below:

Fund Balances	General	American Rescue Plan Act	Fire Levy	Street Levy	All Other Governmental Funds	Total Governmental Funds
<i>Restricted for:</i>						
<i>Government</i>						
Operations	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$55,244	\$55,244
Police Operations	0	0	0	0	317,949	317,949
Fire Operations	0	0	749,084	0	437,840	1,186,924
Leisure Time Services	0	0	0	0	16,587	16,587
Transportation	0	0	0	0	384,416	384,416
Comm. and Econ. Dev.	0	0	0	0	8,625	8,625
COVID Support	0	975,676	0	0	7,534	983,210
Capital Outlay	0	0	0	1,363,482	500	1,363,982
<i>Total Restricted</i>	0	975,676	749,084	1,363,482	1,228,695	4,316,937
<i>Assigned for:</i>						
Purchases on Order	4,025	0	0	0	0	4,025
Future Budget Deficit	240,359	0	0	0	0	240,359
<i>Total Assigned</i>	244,384	0	0	0	0	244,384
Unassigned (Deficit)	699,183	0	0	0	(149,173)	550,010
<i>Total Fund Balances</i>	<b>\$943,567</b>	<b>\$975,676</b>	<b>\$749,084</b>	<b>\$1,363,482</b>	<b>\$1,079,522</b>	<b>\$5,111,331</b>

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**Note 11 – Contingencies**

**Litigation**

The City is defendant in several lawsuits. Although management cannot presently determine the outcome of these suits, they believe the resolution of these matters will not materially adversely affect the City's financial condition.

**Grants**

Amounts grantor agencies pay to the City are subject to audit and adjustment by the grantor. Grantors may require refunding any disallowed costs. Management cannot presently determine amounts grantors may disallow. However, based on prior experience, management believes any refunds would be immaterial.

**Note 12 – Accountability and Compliance**

**Accountability**

The City had a negative cash fund balance in the following fund as of December 31, 2022.

City Center Fund	\$149,173
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**Compliance**

Ohio Administrative Code, Section 117-2-03 (B), requires the City to prepare its annual financial report in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles. However, the City prepared its financial statements on a cash basis, which is a comprehensive basis of accounting other than accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. The accompanying financial statements omit assets, liabilities, net position/fund balances, and disclosures that, while material, cannot be determined at this time. The City could be fined and various other administrative remedies may be taken against the City.

The City inappropriately recorded \$490,084 of America Rescue Plan Act revenue in the General Fund, which is contrary to Ohio Revised Code Section 5705.10(D).

The City did not competitively bid certain contracts, which is contract to Ohio Revised Code Section 735.05. The City also entered into a contract that was not authorized by City Council, which is contrary to Ohio Revised Code Section 733.22.

The City did not certify to the County Auditor the total amount from all sources available for expenditures from each fund or obtain a certificate of estimated resources from the Budget Commission in 2022, which is contrary to Ohio Revised Code Section 5705.36(A)(1). Therefore, at December 31, 2022 the City's appropriations exceeded estimated revenue across all funds by \$9,826,581, which is contrary to Ohio Revised Code Section 5705.39.

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**Note 13 – COVID-19**

The United States and the State of Ohio declared a state of emergency in March of 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The financial impact of COVID-19 and the continuing emergency measures will impact subsequent periods of the City. The City's investment portfolio fluctuates with market conditions, and due to market volatility, the amount of gains or losses that will be realized in subsequent periods, if any, cannot be determined. In addition, the impact on the City's future operating costs, revenues, and additional recovery from emergency funding, either federal or state, cannot be estimated.

During 2022, the City received COVID-19 funding. Of the amounts received, none was sub-granted to other governments and organizations.

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*Statement of Net Position - Cash Basis*  
*As of December 31, 2021*

	Governmental Activities	Business-Type Activities	Total
<b>Assets</b>			
Equity in Pooled Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$3,594,351	(\$82,482)	\$3,511,869
Cash and Cash Equivalents in Segregated Accounts	11,066	0	11,066
<i>Total Assets</i>	3,605,417	(82,482)	3,522,935
<b>Net Position</b>			
Restricted for Capital Outlay	1,326,932	0	1,326,932
Restricted for Other Purposes	1,441,411	0	1,441,411
Unrestricted (Deficit)	837,074	(82,482)	754,592
<i>Total Net Position</i>	<u>\$3,605,417</u>	<u>(\$82,482)</u>	<u>\$3,522,935</u>

See accompanying notes to the basic financial statements.

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*Statement of Activities - Cash Basis*  
*For the Year Ended December 31, 2021*

	Program Cash Receipts			
	Cash Disbursements	Charges for Services and Sales	Operating Grants, Contributions and Interest	Capital Grants, Contributions and Interest
<b>Governmental Activities</b>				
Current:				
General Government	\$666,830	\$76,334	\$486,202	\$0
Security of Persons and Property	3,356,112	554,226	58,909	0
Leisure Time Services	56,965	1,034	6,000	0
Community Environment	89,252	10,611	0	0
Basic Utility Services	136,164	16,189	0	0
Transportation	531,879	780	554,958	0
Capital Outlay	2,605,164	0	0	1,133,222
Debt Service:				
Principal Retirement	125,242	0	0	0
Interest and Fiscal Charges	19,066	0	0	0
<i>Total Governmental Activities</i>	7,586,674	659,174	1,106,069	1,133,222
<b>Business-Type Activities</b>				
Waste Collection	762,430	621,406	0	0
<i>Total Business-Type Activities</i>	762,430	621,406	0	0
<i>Totals</i>	\$8,349,104	\$1,280,580	\$1,106,069	\$1,133,222

**General Receipts and Transfers**

Property Taxes Levied for:

    General Purposes

    Other Purposes

    Capital Outlay

Municipal Income Taxes

Grants and Entitlements not Restricted to Specific Programs

Contributions and Donations not Restricted to Specific Programs

Proceeds of OPWC Loans

Miscellaneous

*Total General Receipts and Transfers*

*Change in Net Position*

*Net Position Beginning of Year*

*Net Position End of Year*

See accompanying notes to the basic financial statements.

<u>Net (Disbursements) Receipts and Changes in Net Position</u>		
<u>Governmental Activities</u>	<u>Business-Type Activities</u>	<u>Total</u>
(\$104,294)	\$0	(\$104,294)
(2,742,977)	0	(2,742,977)
(49,931)	0	(49,931)
(78,641)	0	(78,641)
(119,975)	0	(119,975)
23,859	0	23,859
(1,471,942)	0	(1,471,942)
(125,242)	0	(125,242)
(19,066)	0	(19,066)
(4,688,209)	0	(4,688,209)
0	(141,024)	(141,024)
0	(141,024)	(141,024)
(4,688,209)	(141,024)	(4,829,233)
285,679	0	285,679
934,872	0	934,872
415,804	0	415,804
2,898,619	0	2,898,619
256,939	0	256,939
298	0	298
385,350	0	385,350
71,758	0	71,758
5,249,319	0	5,249,319
561,110	(141,024)	420,086
3,044,307	58,542	3,102,849
\$3,605,417	(\$82,482)	\$3,522,935

**City of North College Hill**  
**Hamilton County**  
*Statement of Assets and Fund Balances - Cash Basis*  
*Governmental Funds*  
*As of December 31, 2021*

	General	American Rescue Plan Act	Street Levy	All Other Governmental Funds	Total Governmental Funds
<b>Assets</b>					
Equity in Pooled Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$886,725	\$486,202	\$1,326,432	\$894,992	\$3,594,351
Cash and Cash Equivalents in Segregated Accounts	11,066	0	0	0	11,066
<i>Total Assets</i>	<u>\$897,791</u>	<u>\$486,202</u>	<u>\$1,326,432</u>	<u>\$894,992</u>	<u>\$3,605,417</u>
<b>Fund Balances</b>					
Restricted	\$0	\$486,202	\$1,326,432	\$955,709	\$2,768,343
Assigned	3,414	0	0	0	3,414
Unassigned (Deficit)	894,377	0	0	(60,717)	833,660
<i>Total Fund Balances</i>	<u>\$897,791</u>	<u>\$486,202</u>	<u>\$1,326,432</u>	<u>\$894,992</u>	<u>\$3,605,417</u>

See accompanying notes to the basic financial statements.



**City of North College Hill**  
*Statement of Receipts, Disbursements and Changes in Fund Balances - Cash Basis*  
 Governmental Funds  
 For the Year Ended December 31, 2021

	General	American Rescue Plan Act	Street Levy	All Other Governmental Funds	Total Governmental Funds
<b>Receipts</b>					
Property Taxes	\$285,679	\$0	\$415,804	\$934,872	\$1,636,355
Income Taxes	2,898,619	0	0	0	2,898,619
Special Assessments	8,999	0	0	780	9,779
Charges for Services	199	0	0	293,730	293,929
Licenses and Permits	204,941	0	0	0	204,941
Fines and Forfeitures	136,520	0	0	13,825	150,345
Intergovernmental	190,113	486,202	652,941	640,577	1,969,833
Interest	0	0	0	149	149
Rent	180	0	0	0	180
Contributions and Donations	298	0	526,248	0	526,546
Other	67,089	0	0	4,669	71,758
<i>Total Receipts</i>	3,792,637	486,202	1,594,993	1,888,602	7,762,434
<b>Disbursements</b>					
Current:					
General Government	613,241	0	0	53,589	666,830
Security of Persons and Property	2,103,599	0	0	1,252,513	3,356,112
Leisure Time Services	8,700	0	0	48,265	56,965
Community Environment	89,252	0	0	0	89,252
Basic Utility Services	136,164	0	0	0	136,164
Transportation	0	0	37,235	494,644	531,879
Capital Outlay	100	0	2,521,202	83,862	2,605,164
Debt Service:					
Principal Retirement	37,604	0	22,185	65,453	125,242
Interest and Fiscal Charges	9,947	0	0	9,119	19,066
<i>Total Disbursements</i>	2,998,607	0	2,580,622	2,007,445	7,586,674
<i>Excess of Receipts Over (Under) Disbursements</i>	794,030	486,202	(985,629)	(118,843)	175,760
<b>Other Financing Sources</b>					
Proceeds of OPWC Loans	0	0	385,350	0	385,350
<i>Total Other Financing Sources</i>	0	0	385,350	0	385,350
<i>Net Change in Fund Balances</i>	794,030	486,202	(600,279)	(118,843)	561,110
<i>Fund Balances at Beginning of Year</i>	103,761	0	1,926,711	1,013,835	3,044,307
<i>Fund Balances at End of Year</i>	\$897,791	\$486,202	\$1,326,432	\$894,992	\$3,605,417

See accompanying notes to the basic financial statements.

**City of North College Hill  
Hamilton County**

*Statement of Receipts, Disbursements and Changes in Fund Balance - Budget and Actual (Budget Basis)  
General Fund*

*For the Year Ended December 31, 2021*

	Budgeted Amounts		Actual	Variance with Final Budget Positive (Negative)
	Original	Final		
<b>Receipts</b>				
Property Taxes	\$255,957	\$285,579	\$285,679	\$100
Income Taxes	2,590,157	2,666,359	2,898,619	232,260
Special Assessments	40,000	8,999	8,999	0
Charges for Services	0	0	199	199
Licenses and Permits	218,800	202,819	204,941	2,122
Fines and Forfeitures	120,500	128,853	128,853	0
Intergovernmental	119,897	177,668	190,113	12,445
Rent	0	0	180	180
Contributions and Donations	0	0	298	298
Other	45,600	64,436	67,089	2,653
<i>Total Receipts</i>	<u>3,390,911</u>	<u>3,534,713</u>	<u>3,784,970</u>	<u>250,257</u>
<b>Disbursements</b>				
Current:				
General Government	837,523	863,479	613,241	250,238
Security of Persons and Property	2,196,525	2,250,555	2,107,013	143,542
Leisure Time Services	6,000	21,806	8,700	13,106
Community Environment	72,500	86,500	89,252	(2,752)
Basic Utility Services	156,500	208,500	136,164	72,336
Capital Outlay	0	100	100	0
Debt Service:				
Principal Retirement	59,630	67,234	37,604	29,630
Interest and Fiscal Charges	12,222	17,219	9,947	7,272
<i>Total Disbursements</i>	<u>3,340,900</u>	<u>3,515,393</u>	<u>3,002,021</u>	<u>513,372</u>
<i>Net Change in Fund Balances</i>	50,011	19,320	782,949	763,629
<i>Fund Balances at Beginning of Year</i>	100,084	100,084	100,084	0
<i>Prior Year Encumbrances Appropriated</i>	278	278	278	0
<i>Fund Balances at End of Year</i>	<u>\$150,373</u>	<u>\$119,682</u>	<u>\$883,311</u>	<u>\$763,629</u>

See accompanying notes to the basic financial statements.

**City of North College Hill  
Hamilton County**

*Statement of Receipts, Disbursements and Changes in Fund Balance - Budget and Actual (Budget Basis)  
American Rescue Plan Act Fund  
For the Year Ended December 31, 2021*

	Budgeted Amounts		Actual	Variance with Final Budget Positive (Negative)
	Original	Final		
<b>Receipts</b>				
Intergovernmental	\$0	\$486,402	\$486,202	(\$200)
<i>Total Receipts</i>	0	486,402	486,202	(200)
<b>Disbursements</b>				
Current:				
General Government	0	656,202	0	656,202
<i>Total Disbursements</i>	0	656,202	0	656,202
<i>Net Change in Fund Balances</i>	0	(169,800)	486,202	656,002
<i>Fund Balances at Beginning of Year</i>	0	0	0	0
<i>Prior Year Encumbrances Appropriated</i>	0	0	0	0
<i>Fund Balances at End of Year</i>	\$0	(\$169,800)	\$486,202	\$656,002

See accompanying notes to the basic financial statements.

**City of North College Hill**  
**Hamilton County**  
*Statement of Fund Net Position - Cash Basis*  
*Proprietary Fund*  
*As of December 31, 2021*

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	<u>Waste Collection</u>
<b>Assets</b>	
Equity in Pooled Cash and Cash Equivalents	<u>(\$82,482)</u>
<i>Total Assets</i>	(82,482)
<b>Net Position</b>	
Unrestricted (Deficit)	<u>(82,482)</u>
<i>Total Net Position</i>	<u><u>(\$82,482)</u></u>

See accompanying notes to the basic financial statements.

**City of North College Hill**  
**Hamilton County**  
*Statement of Receipts, Disbursements and Changes in Fund Net Position - Cash Basis*  
*Proprietary Fund*  
*For the Year Ended December 31, 2021*

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	<u>Waste Collection</u>
<b>Operating Receipts:</b>	
Charges for Services	<u>\$621,406</u>
<i>Total Operating Receipts</i>	621,406
<b>Operating Disbursements:</b>	
Contractual Service	<u>762,430</u>
<i>Total Operating Disbursements</i>	<u>762,430</u>
<i>Change in Net Position</i>	(141,024)
<i>Net Position Beginning of Year</i>	<u>58,542</u>
<i>Net Position End of Year</i>	<u><u>(\$82,482)</u></u>

See accompanying notes to the basic financial statements.

**City of North College Hill**  
**Hamilton County**  
*Statement of Fiduciary Net Position - Cash Basis*  
*Fiduciary Fund*  
*As of December 31, 2021*

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	Custodial
<b>Assets</b>	
Equity in Pooled Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$5
<i>Total Assets</i>	5
<b>Net Position</b>	
Restricted for Individuals, Organizations and Other Governments	5
<i>Total Net Position</i>	\$5

See accompanying notes to the basic financial statements.

**City of North College Hill**  
**Hamilton County**  
*Statement of Changes in Fiduciary Net Position - Cash Basis*  
*Fiduciary Fund*  
*For the Year Ended December 31, 2021*

	Custodial
<b>Additions:</b>	
Fines and Forfeitures for Other Governments	\$25,465
<i>Total Additions</i>	25,465
<b>Deductions:</b>	
Fines and Forfeitures Distributions to Other Governments	25,465
<i>Total Deductions</i>	25,465
<i>Change in Net Position</i>	0
<i>Net Position Beginning of Year</i>	5
<i>Net Position End of Year</i>	\$5

See accompanying notes to the basic financial statements.

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**City of North College Hill**  
**Hamilton County**  
*Notes to the Basic Financial Statements*  
*For the Year Ended December 31, 2021*

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**Note 1 – Description of the City and the Reporting Entity**

The City of North College Hill (the City) is a charter municipal corporation established under the laws of the State of Ohio. The City operates under its own Charter made effective January 1, 2008. The Charter, as amended, provides for a Council-Mayor form of government. The Mayor, President of Council and seven (7) Council Members are elected by separate ballot from the municipality-at-large for four (4) year terms. Council is the legislative body, responsible for setting appropriations. The Mayor is the Chief Executive Officer of the City, and appoints a City Administrator to serve as Chief Operating Officer. The City Administrator manages the day-to-day operations of the City.

The financial reporting entity consists of the primary government, component units, and other governmental organizations that are included to ensure the financial statements are not misleading.

**Primary Government**

The primary government consists of all funds, departments, boards, and agencies not legally separate from the City. The primary government of the City provides the following services to its citizens: police and fire protection, parks and recreation, building inspection, income tax collection, street maintenance and repairs.

**Component Units**

Component units are legally separate organizations for which the City is financially accountable. The City is financially accountable for an organization if the City appoints a voting majority of the organization's governing board; and (1) the City is able to significantly influence the programs or services performed or provided by the organization; or (2) the City is legally entitled to or can otherwise access the organization's resources; the City is legally obligated or has otherwise assumed the responsibility to finance the deficits of, or provide financial support to, the organization; or the City is obligated for the debt of the organization. Component units may also include organizations for which the City authorizes the issuance of debt or the levying of taxes or determines the budget if there is also the potential for the organization to provide specific financial benefits to, or impose specific financial burdens on the City. No separate governmental units meet the criteria for inclusion as a component unit.

The City's management believes these financial statements present all activities for which the City is financially accountable.

**Note 2 - Summary of Significant Accounting Policies**

As discussed further in the basis of accounting section of this note, these financial statements are presented on a cash basis of accounting. This cash basis of accounting differs from accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP) include all relevant Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) pronouncements, which have been applied to the extent they are applicable to the cash basis of accounting. Following are the City's more significant accounting policies.

**Basis of Presentation**

The City's basic financial statements consist of government-wide financial statements, including a statement of net position and a statement of activities, and fund financial statements providing a detailed level of financial information.

**City of North College Hill**  
**Hamilton County**  
*Notes to the Basic Financial Statements*  
*For the Year Ended December 31, 2021*

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Government-Wide Financial Statements

The statement of net position and the statement of activities display information about the City as a whole. These statements include the financial activities of the primary government, except for fiduciary funds. The statements distinguish between those activities of the City that are governmental in nature and those that are considered business-type activities. Governmental activities generally are financed through taxes, intergovernmental receipts or other nonexchange transactions. Business-type activities are financed in whole or in part by fees charged to external parties for goods or services.

The statement of net position presents the cash balance of the governmental and business-type activities of the City at year end. The statement of activities compares disbursements and program receipts for each program or function of the City's governmental activities and business-type activities. Disbursements are reported by function. A function is a group of related activities designed to accomplish a major service or regulatory program for which the City is responsible. Program receipts include charges paid by the recipient of the goods or services offered by the program, grants and contributions that are restricted to meeting the operational or capital requirements of a particular program, and receipts of interest earned on grants that are required to be used to support a particular program. Receipts which are not classified as program receipts are presented as general receipts of the City, with certain limited exceptions. The comparison of direct disbursements with program receipts identifies the extent to which each governmental program or business activity is self-financing on a cash basis or draws from the general receipts of the City.

Fund Financial Statements

During the year, the City segregates transactions related to certain City functions or activities in separate funds in order to aid financial management and to demonstrate legal compliance. Fund financial statements are designed to present financial information of the City at this more detailed level. The focus of governmental fund financial statements is on major funds. Each major fund is presented in a separate column. Nonmajor funds are aggregated and presented in a single column. Fiduciary funds are reported by type.

Proprietary fund statements distinguish operating transactions from nonoperating transactions. Operating receipts generally result from exchange transactions such as charges for services directly relating to the fund's principal services. Operating disbursements include costs of sales and services and administrative costs. The fund statements report all other receipts and disbursements as nonoperating.

**Fund Accounting**

The City uses funds to maintain its financial records during the year. A fund is defined as a fiscal and accounting entity with a self-balancing set of accounts. The funds of the City are presented in three categories: governmental proprietary, and fiduciary.

Governmental Funds

Governmental funds are those through which most governmental functions of the City are financed. The following are the City's major governmental funds:

*General* – The general fund accounts for all financial resources, except those required to be accounted for in another fund. The general fund balance is available to the City for any purpose provided it is expended or transferred according to the general laws of Ohio.

**City of North College Hill**  
**Hamilton County**  
*Notes to the Basic Financial Statements*  
*For the Year Ended December 31, 2021*

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*American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Fund* – This special revenue fund accounts for resources received from the federal government under the American Rescue Plan Act restricted to expenditures to support the City during the Coronavirus public health emergency.

*Street Levy Fund* – This capital projects fund receives property tax money for constructing, maintaining and repairing City streets.

The other governmental funds of the City account for grants and other resources whose use is restricted for a particular purpose.

Proprietary Funds

The City classifies funds financed primarily from user charges for goods or services as proprietary. Proprietary funds are classified as either enterprise funds or internal service funds. The City has no internal service funds.

Enterprise funds may be used to account for any activity for which a fee is charged to external users for goods or services. The following is the City’s major enterprise fund:

*Waste Collection Fund* – This fund accounts for the provision of waste collection services to the residents and commercial users located within the City.

Fiduciary Funds

Fiduciary fund reporting focuses on net position and changes in net position. The fiduciary fund category is split into four classifications: pension trust funds, investment trust funds, private purpose trust funds, and custodial funds. Trust funds are used to account for assets held by the City under a trust agreement, or equivalent arrangement that has certain characteristics, for individuals, private organizations, or other governments and are not available to support the City’s own programs. The City does not have any trust funds. Custodial funds are used to report fiduciary activities that are not required to be reported in a trust fund. The City’s custodial fund accounts for the City’s Mayor’s Court activity.

**Basis of Accounting**

The City’s financial statements are prepared using the cash basis of accounting. Receipts are recorded in the City’s financial records and reported in the financial statements when cash is received rather than when earned and disbursements are recorded when cash is paid rather than when a liability is incurred.

As a result of the use of this cash basis of accounting, certain assets and their related revenues (such as accounts receivable and revenue for billed or provided services not yet collected) and certain liabilities and their related expenses (such as accounts payable and expenses for goods or services received but not yet paid, and accrued expenses and liabilities) are not recorded in these financial statements.

**Budgetary Process**

All funds, except the custodial fund, are legally required to be budgeted and appropriated. The major documents prepared are the tax budget, the certificate of estimated resources, and the appropriation ordinance, all of which are prepared on the budgetary basis of accounting. The tax budget demonstrates a need for existing or increased tax rates. The certificate of estimated resources establishes a limit on the amount the City Council may appropriate.

**City of North College Hill**  
**Hamilton County**  
*Notes to the Basic Financial Statements*  
*For the Year Ended December 31, 2021*

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The appropriations ordinance is the City Council's authorization to spend resources and sets annual limits on disbursements plus encumbrances at the level of control selected by the City Council. The legal level of control has been established by the City Council at the fund, department, and object level for all funds.

The certificate of estimated resources may be amended during the year if projected increases or decreases in receipts are identified by the City Finance Director. The amounts reported as the original budgeted amounts on the budgetary statements reflect the amounts on the certificate of estimated resources when the original appropriations were adopted. The amounts reported as the final budgeted amounts on the budgetary statements reflect the amounts on the amended certificate of estimated resources in effect at the time final appropriations were passed by the City Council.

The appropriations ordinance is subject to amendment throughout the year with the restriction that appropriations cannot exceed estimated resources. The amounts reported as the original budgeted amounts reflect the first appropriation ordinance for that fund that covered the entire year, including amounts automatically carried forward from prior years. The amounts reported as the final budgeted amounts represent the final appropriation amounts passed by the City Council during the year.

**Cash and Investments**

To improve cash management, cash received by the City is pooled and invested. Individual fund integrity is maintained through City records. Interest in the pool is presented as "equity in pooled cash and cash equivalents".

The City has segregated a bank account for monies held separate from the City's treasury accounts. This depository account is presented on the statements of net position and balance sheet as "cash and cash equivalents in segregated accounts" since it is not required to be deposited into the City's treasury. The cash of the Mayor's Court is included in this line item.

**Inventory and Prepaid Items**

The City reports disbursements for inventory and prepaid items when paid. These items are not reflected as assets in the accompanying financial statements.

**Capital Assets**

Acquisitions of property, plant and equipment are recorded as disbursements when paid. These items are not reflected as assets in the accompanying financial statements.

**Accumulated Leave**

In certain circumstances, such as upon leaving employment or retirement, employees are entitled to cash payments for unused leave. Unpaid leave is not reflected as a liability under the City's cash basis of accounting.

**Employer Contributions to Cost-Sharing Pension Plans**

The City recognizes the disbursement for employer contributions to cost-sharing pension plans when they are paid. As described in notes 7 and 8, the employer contributions include portions for pension benefits and for postretirement health care benefits.

**Pensions/OPEB**

For purposes of measuring the net pension/OPEB liability (asset), information about the fiduciary net position of the pension plans and additions to/deductions from their fiduciary net position have been determined on the same basis

**City of North College Hill**  
**Hamilton County**  
*Notes to the Basic Financial Statements*  
*For the Year Ended December 31, 2021*

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as they are reported by the pension systems. For this purpose, benefit payments (including refunds of employee contributions) are recognized when due and payable in accordance with the benefit terms. The pension systems report investments at fair value.

**Long-Term Obligations**

The City's cash basis financial statements do not report liabilities for bonds and other long-term obligations. Proceeds of debt are reported when cash is received and principal and interest payments are reported when paid. Since recording a capital asset when entering into a capital lease is not the result of a cash transaction, neither an other financing source nor a capital outlay expenditure are reported at inception. Lease payments are reported when paid.

**Net Position**

Net position is reported as restricted when there are limitations imposed on their use either through enabling legislation or through external restrictions imposed by creditors, grantors, or laws or regulations of other governments. Net position restricted for other purposes represents balances of state and federal grants and other restricted purposes in special revenue funds

The City's policy is to first apply restricted resources when an expense is incurred for purposes for which both restricted and unrestricted resources are available. None of the City's restricted net position is restricted by enabling legislation.

**Fund Balance**

Fund balance is divided into five classifications based primarily on the extent to which the City is bound to observe constraints imposed upon the use of the resources in the governmental funds. The classifications are as follows:

*Nonspendable* – The nonspendable fund balance category includes amounts that cannot be spent because they are not in spendable form, or are legally or contractually required to be maintained intact. The “not in spendable form” criterion includes items that are not expected to be converted to cash. It also includes the long-term amount of interfund loans.

*Restricted* – Fund balance is reported as restricted when constraints placed on the use of resources are either externally imposed by creditors (such as through debt covenants), grantors, contributors, or laws or regulations of other governments; or is imposed by law through constitutional provisions or enabling legislation (City ordinances).

Enabling legislation authorizes the City to assess, levy, charge, or otherwise mandate payment of resources (from external resource providers) and includes a legally enforceable requirement that those resources be used only for the specific purposes stipulated in the legislation. Legal enforceability means that the City can be compelled by an external party-such as citizens, public interest groups, or the judiciary to use resources created by enabling legislation only for the purposes specified by the legislation.

*Committed* – The committed fund balance classification includes amounts that can be used only for the specific purposes imposed by formal action (ordinance or resolution) of City Council. Those committed amounts cannot be used for any other purpose unless City Council removes or changes the specified use by taking the same type of action (ordinance or resolution) it employed to previously commit those amounts. In contrast to fund balance that is restricted by enabling legislation, the committed fund balance classification may be redeployed for other purposes with appropriate due process. Constraints imposed on the use of committed amounts are imposed by City Council, separate from the authorization to raise the underlying revenue; therefore, compliance with these constraints is not considered to be legally enforceable. Committed fund balance also incorporates contractual obligations to the extent

**City of North College Hill**  
**Hamilton County**  
*Notes to the Basic Financial Statements*  
*For the Year Ended December 31, 2021*

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that existing resources in the fund have been specifically committed for use in satisfying those contractual requirements.

*Assigned* – Amounts in the assigned fund balance classification are intended to be used by the City for specific purposes but do not meet the criteria to be classified as restricted or committed. In governmental funds other than the general fund, assigned fund balance represents the remaining amount that is not restricted or committed. In the general fund, assigned amounts represent intended uses established by City Council or a City official delegated that authority by City Charter or ordinance, or by State Statute.

*Unassigned* – Unassigned fund balance is the residual classification for the general fund and includes amounts not contained in the other classifications. In other governmental funds, the unassigned classification is used only to report a deficit balance.

The City applies restricted resources first when expenditures are incurred for purposes for which either restricted or unrestricted (committed, assigned, and unassigned) amounts are available. Similarly, within unrestricted fund balance, committed amounts are reduced first followed by assigned, and then unassigned amounts when expenditures are incurred for purposes for which amounts in any of the unrestricted fund balance classifications could be used.

**Internal Activity**

Transfers between governmental and business-type activities on the government-wide financial statements are reported in the same manner as general receipts.

Internal allocations of overhead expenses from one function to another or within the same function are eliminated on the statement of activities. Payments for interfund services provided and used are not eliminated.

Exchange transactions between funds are reported as receipts in the seller funds and as disbursements in the purchaser funds. Subsidies from one fund to another without a requirement for repayment are reported as interfund transfers. Interfund transfers are reported as other financing sources/uses in governmental funds and after nonoperating receipts/disbursements in proprietary funds. Repayments from funds responsible for particular disbursements to the funds that initially paid for them are not presented in the financial statements.

**Note 3 – Budgetary Basis Fund Balances**

The budgetary basis as provided by law is based upon accounting for certain transactions on the basis of cash receipts, disbursements, and encumbrances. The statement of receipts, disbursements and changes in fund balance – budget and actual (budget basis) presented for the general fund is prepared on the budgetary basis to provide a meaningful comparison of actual results with the budget. The differences between the budgetary basis and the cash basis are as follows:

1. Outstanding year end encumbrances are treated as cash disbursements (budget basis) rather than as restricted, committed or assigned fund balance (cash basis).
2. Custodial fund distributions to appropriate City funds.

**City of North College Hill**  
**Hamilton County**  
*Notes to the Basic Financial Statements*  
*For the Year Ended December 31, 2021*

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Adjustments necessary to convert the fund balances at the end of the year on the budget basis to the cash basis are as follows:

	General	ARPA
Budgetary Basis Fund Balances	\$883,311	\$486,202
Encumbrances	3,414	0
Custodial Fund Distributions	11,066	0
Fund Cash Balances	\$897,791	\$486,202

**Note 4 – Deposits and Investments**

Monies held by the City are classified by State statute into three categories.

Active monies are public monies determined to be necessary to meet current demands upon the City treasury. Active monies must be maintained either as cash in the City treasury, in commercial accounts payable or withdrawable on demand, including negotiable order of withdrawal (NOW) accounts, or in money market deposit accounts.

Inactive deposits are public deposits that Council has identified as not required for use within the current five year period of designation of depositories. Inactive deposits must either be evidenced by certificates of deposit maturing not later than the end of the current period of designation of depositories, or by savings or deposit accounts including, but not limited to, passbook accounts.

Interim deposits are deposits of interim monies. Interim monies are those monies which are not needed for immediate use but which will be needed before the end of the current period of designation of depositories. Interim deposits must be evidenced by time certificates of deposit maturing not more than one year from the date of deposit or by savings or deposit accounts, including passbook accounts.

Protection of the City's deposits is provided by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC), by eligible securities pledged by the financial institution as security for repayment, or by the financial institutions participation in the Ohio Pooled Collateral System (OPCS), a collateral pool of eligible securities deposited with a qualified trustee and pledged to the Treasurer of State to secure the repayment of all public monies deposited in the financial institution.

Interim monies held by the City can be deposited or invested in the following securities:

1. United States Treasury bills, bonds, notes, or any other obligation or security issued by the United States Treasury, or any other obligation guaranteed as to principal and interest by the United States;
2. Bonds, notes, debentures, or any other obligation or security issued by any federal government agency or instrumentality including, but not limited to, the Federal National Mortgage Association, Federal Home Loan Bank, Federal Farm Credit Bank, Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corporation, Government National Mortgage Association, and Student Loan Marketing Association. All federal agency securities shall be direct issuances of federal government agencies or instrumentalities;
3. Written repurchase agreements in the securities listed above provided the market value of the securities subject to the repurchase agreement must exceed the principal value of the agreement by at least 2 percent and be marked to market daily, and the term of the agreement must not exceed thirty days;
4. Bonds and other obligations of the State of Ohio, and, with certain limitations including a requirement for maturity within ten years from the date of settlement, bonds and other obligations of political subdivisions of the State of Ohio, if training requirements have been met;
5. Time certificates of deposit or savings or deposit accounts including, but not limited to, passbook accounts;

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6. No-load money market mutual funds consisting exclusively of obligations described in division (1) or (2) and repurchase agreements secured by such obligations, provided that investments in securities described in this division are made only through eligible institutions;
7. The State Treasurer's investment pool (STAR Ohio); and
8. Certain bankers' acceptances (for a period not to exceed one hundred eighty days) and commercial paper notes (for a period not to exceed two hundred seventy days) in an amount not to exceed 40 percent of the interim monies available for investment at any one time if training requirements have been met.

Investments in stripped principal or interest obligations, reverse repurchase agreements, and derivatives are prohibited. The issuance of taxable notes for the purpose of arbitrage, the use of leverage, and short selling are also prohibited. Except as noted above, an investment must mature within five years from the date of settlement, unless matched to a specific obligation or debt of the City, and must be purchased with the expectation that it will be held to maturity.

Investments may only be made through specified dealers and institutions. Payment for investments may be made only upon delivery of the securities representing the investments to the Treasurer or, if the securities are not represented by a certificate, upon receipt of confirmation of transfer from the custodian.

### **Deposits**

Custodial credit risk is the risk that in the event of bank failure, the City will not be able to recover deposits or collateral securities that are in the possession of an outside party. At year end, the City's bank balance of \$3,781,714 was insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation or collateralized in the manner discussed below.

The City has no deposit policy for custodial risk beyond the requirements of State statute. Ohio law requires that deposits either be insured or be protected by:

- Eligible securities pledged to the City and deposited with a qualified trustee by the financial institution as security for repayment whose market value at all times shall be at least 105 percent of the deposits being secured; or
- Participation in the Ohio Pooled Collateral System (OPCS), a collateral pool of eligible securities deposited with a qualified trustee and pledged to the Treasurer of State to secure the repayment of all public monies deposited in the financial institution. OPCS requires the total market value of the securities pledged to be 102 percent of the deposits being secured or a rate set by the Treasurer of State.

### **Note 5 – Taxes**

#### **Property Taxes**

Property taxes include amounts levied against all real and public utility property located in the City. Property tax revenue received during 2021 for real and public utility property taxes represents collections of 2020 taxes.

2021 real property taxes are levied after October 1, 2021, on the assessed value as of January 1, 2021, the lien date. Assessed values are established by State law at 35 percent of appraised market value. 2021 real property taxes are collected in and intended to finance 2022.

Real property taxes are payable annually or semi-annually. If paid annually, payment is due December 31; if paid semi-annually, the first payment is due December 31, with the remainder payable by June 20. Under certain circumstances, State statute permits later payment dates to be established.



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Public utility tangible personal property currently is assessed at varying percentages of true value; public utility real property is assessed at 35 percent of true value. 2021 public utility property taxes which became a lien December 31, 2020, are levied after October 1, 2021, and are collected in 2022 with real property taxes.

The full tax rate for all City operations for the year ended December 31, 2021 was \$16.08 per \$1,000 of assessed value. The assessed values of real and tangible personal property upon which 2021 property tax receipts were based are as follows:

<i>Real Property</i>	
Residential/Agricultural	\$89,512,680
Commercial/Industrial	28,220,360
<i>Public Utility</i>	
Personal	7,842,780
Total Assessed Value	<u>\$125,575,820</u>

The County Treasurer collects property taxes on behalf of all taxing districts in the County, including the City of North College Hill. The County Auditor periodically remits to the City its portion of the taxes collected.

**Income Taxes**

The City levies a 1.5 percent income tax on substantially all income earned in the City. The City does not give credit to residents for income taxes paid to other municipalities. Additional increases in the income tax rate require voter approval. Employers within the City withhold income tax on employee compensation and remit at least quarterly and file an annual declaration of estimated tax.

The income tax receipts are to be used to pay the cost of administering the tax, general fund operations, capital improvements, debt service and other governmental functions when needed, as determined by Council. All tax receipts are allocated to the general fund. The Regional Income Tax Agency administers the City's income tax.

**Note 6 - Risk Management**

**Risk Pool Membership**

The City is a member of the Public Entities Pool of Ohio (the Pool). The Pool assumes the risk of loss up to the limits of the City's policy. The Pool covers the following risks:

- General liability and casualty
- Public official's liability
- Cyber
- Law enforcement liability
- Automobile liability
- Vehicles
- Property
- Equipment breakdown

The Pool reported the following summary of assets and actuarially-measured liabilities available to pay those liabilities as of December 31, 2021:

Cash and Investments	\$41,996,850
Actuarial Liabilities	14,974,099

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There has been no significant reduction in insurance coverage from the prior year. Settled claims resulting from these risks have not exceeded commercial insurance coverages in any of the past three fiscal years.

**Worker's Compensation**

Workers' Compensation coverage is provided by the State of Ohio. The City pays the State Workers' Compensation System a premium based on a rate per \$100 of salaries. This rate is calculated based on accident history and administrative costs.

**Note 7 - Defined Benefit Pension Plans**

The Statewide retirement systems provide both pension benefits and other postemployment benefits (OPEB).

**Net Pension/OPEB Liability (Asset)**

Pensions and OPEB are a component of exchange transactions – between an employer and its employees – of salaries and benefits for employee services. Pensions are provided to an employee – on a deferred-payment basis – as part of the total compensation package offered by an employer for employee services each financial period.

The net pension liability (asset) and the net OPEB liability represent the City's proportionate share of each pension/OPEB plan's collective actuarial present value of projected benefit payments attributable to past periods of service, net of each pension/OPEB plan's fiduciary net position. The net pension/OPEB liability (asset) calculation is dependent on critical long-term variables, including estimated average life expectancies, earnings on investments, cost-of-living adjustments and others. While these estimates use the best information available, unknowable future events require adjusting this estimate annually.

Ohio Revised Code limits the City's obligation for this liability to annually required payments. The City cannot control benefit terms or the manner in which pensions/OPEB are financed; however, the City does receive the benefit of employees' services in exchange for compensation including pension and OPEB.

GASB 68/75 assumes the liability is solely the obligation of the employer, because (1) they benefit from employee services; and (2) State statute requires funding to come from these employers. All pension contributions to date have come solely from these employers (which also includes pension costs paid in the form of withholdings from employees). The retirement systems may allocate a portion of the employer contributions to provide for these OPEB benefits. In addition, health care plan enrollees pay a portion of the health care costs in the form of a monthly premium. State statute requires the retirement systems to amortize unfunded pension liabilities within 30 years. If the pension amortization period exceeds 30 years, each retirement system's board must propose corrective action to the State legislature. Any resulting legislative change to benefits or funding could significantly affect the net pension/OPEB liability (asset). Resulting adjustments to the net pension/OPEB liability would be effective when the changes are legally enforceable. The Ohio Revised Code permits, but does not require, the retirement systems to provide health care to eligible benefit recipients.

The net pension/net OPEB liability (asset) are not reported on the face of the financial statements, but rather are disclosed in the notes because of the use of the cash basis framework.

The remainder of this note includes the pension disclosures. See note 8 for the OPEB disclosures.

**Ohio Public Employees Retirement System (OPERS)**

*Plan Description* – City employees, other than full-time police and firefighters, participate in the Ohio Public Employees Retirement System (OPERS). OPERS administers three separate pension plans. The traditional pension

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plan is a cost-sharing, multiple-employer defined benefit pension plan. The member-directed plan is a defined contribution plan, and the combined plan is a combination cost-sharing, multiple-employer defined benefit/defined contribution pension plan.

OPERS provides retirement, disability, survivor and death benefits, and annual cost-of-living adjustments to members of the traditional and combined plans. Authority to establish and amend benefits is provided by Chapter 145 of the Ohio Revised Code. OPERS issues a stand-alone financial report that includes financial statements, required supplementary information and detailed information about OPERS' fiduciary net position that may be obtained by visiting <https://www.opers.org/financial/reports.shtml>, by writing to the Ohio Public Employees Retirement System, 277 East Town Street, Columbus, Ohio 43215-4642, or by calling 800-222-7377.

Senate Bill (SB) 343 was enacted into law with an effective date of January 7, 2013. In the legislation, members in the traditional and combined plans were categorized into three groups with varying provisions of the law applicable to each group. The following table provides age and service requirements for retirement and the retirement formula applied to final average salary (FAS) for the three member groups under the traditional and combined plans as per the reduced benefits adopted by SB 343 (see OPERS annual comprehensive financial report referenced above for additional information, including requirements for reduced and unreduced benefits):

<b>Group A</b> Eligible to retire prior to January 7, 2013, or five years after January 7, 2013	<b>Group B</b> 20 years of service credit prior to January 7, 2013, or eligible to retire ten years after January 7, 2013	<b>Group C</b> Members not in other Groups and members hired on or after January 7, 2013
<b>State and Local</b>	<b>State and Local</b>	<b>State and Local</b>
<b>Age and Service Requirements:</b> Age 60 with 60 months of service credit or Age 55 with 25 years of service credit	<b>Age and Service Requirements:</b> Age 60 with 60 months of service credit or Age 55 with 25 years of service credit	<b>Age and Service Requirements:</b> Age 57 with 25 years of service credit or Age 62 with 5 years of service credit
<b>Traditional Plan Formula:</b> 2.2% of FAS multiplied by years of service for the first 30 years and 2.5% for service years in excess of 30	<b>Traditional Plan Formula:</b> 2.2% of FAS multiplied by years of service for the first 30 years and 2.5% for service years in excess of 30	<b>Traditional Plan Formula:</b> 2.2% of FAS multiplied by years of service for the first 35 years and 2.5% for service years in excess of 35
<b>Combined Plan Formula:</b> 1% of FAS multiplied by years of service for the first 30 years and 1.25% for service years in excess of 30	<b>Combined Plan Formula:</b> 1% of FAS multiplied by years of service for the first 30 years and 1.25% for service years in excess of 30	<b>Combined Plan Formula:</b> 1% of FAS multiplied by years of service for the first 35 years and 1.25% for service years in excess of 35

Final average salary (FAS) represents the average of the three highest years of earnings over a member's career for Groups A and B. Group C is based on the average of the five highest years of earnings over a member's career.

Members who retire before meeting the age and years of service credit requirement for unreduced benefits receive a percentage reduction in the benefit amount. The initial amount of a member's pension benefit is vested upon receipt of the initial benefit payment for calculation of an annual cost-of-living adjustment.

When a traditional plan benefit recipient has received benefits for 12 months, current law provides for an annual cost of living adjustment (COLA). This COLA is calculated on the base retirement benefit at the date of retirement and is not compounded. Members retiring under the combined plan receive a cost-of-living adjustment on the defined benefit portion of their pension benefit. For those who retired prior to January 7, 2013, the cost of living adjustment is 3 percent. For those retiring on or after January 7, 2013, beginning in calendar year 2019, the adjustment is based on the average percentage increase in the Consumer Price Index, capped at 3 percent.

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Defined contribution plan benefits are established in the plan documents, which may be amended by the Board. Member-directed plan and combined plan members who have met the retirement eligibility requirements may apply for retirement benefits. The amount available for defined contribution benefits in the combined plan consists of the member's contributions plus or minus the investment gains or losses resulting from the member's investment selections. Combined plan members wishing to receive benefits must meet the requirements for both the defined benefit and defined contribution plans. Member-directed participants must have attained the age of 55, have money on deposit in the defined contribution plan and have terminated public service to apply for retirement benefits. The amount available for defined contribution benefits in the member-directed plan consists of the members' contributions, vested employer contributions and investment gains or losses resulting from the members' investment selections. Employer contributions and associated investment earnings vest over a five-year period, at a rate of 20 percent each year. At retirement, members may select one of several distribution options for payment of the vested balance in their individual OPERS accounts. Options include the annuitization of the benefit (which includes joint and survivor options), partial lump-sum payments (subject to limitations), a rollover of the vested account balance to another financial institution, receipt of entire account balance, net of taxes withheld, or a combination of these options. When members choose to annuitize their defined contribution benefit, the annuitized portion of the benefit is reclassified to a defined benefit.

Beginning in 2022, the Combined Plan will be consolidated under the Traditional Pension Plan (defined benefit plan) and the Combined Plan option will no longer be available for new hires beginning in 2022.

*Funding Policy* – The Ohio Revised Code (ORC) provides statutory authority for member and employer contributions as follows:

	State and Local
<b>Statutory Maximum Contribution Rates</b>	
Employer	14.0 %
Employee *	10.0 %
 <b>Actual Contribution Rates</b>	
Employer:	
Pension **	14.0 %
Post-employment Health Care Benefits **	0.0
Total Employer	14.0 %
Employee	10.0 %

\*Member contributions within the combined plan are not used to fund the defined benefit retirement allowance.

\*\*These pension and employer health care rates are for the traditional and combined plans. The employer contributions rate for the member-directed plan is allocated 4 percent for health care with the remainder going to pension.

Employer contribution rates are actuarially determined and are expressed as a percentage of covered payroll.

For 2021, the City's contractually required contribution was \$103,840.

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**Ohio Police & Fire Pension Fund (OP&F)**

*Plan Description* – City full-time police and firefighters participate in Ohio Police and Fire Pension Fund (OP&F), a cost-sharing, multiple-employer defined benefit pension plan administered by OP&F. OP&F provides retirement and disability pension benefits, annual cost-of-living adjustments, and death benefits to plan members and beneficiaries. Benefit provisions are established by the Ohio State Legislature and are codified in Chapter 742 of the Ohio Revised Code. OP&F issues a publicly available financial report that includes financial information and required supplementary information and detailed information about OP&F fiduciary net position. The report that may be obtained by visiting the OP&F website at [www.op-f.org](http://www.op-f.org) or by writing to the Ohio Police and Fire Pension Fund, 140 East Town Street, Columbus, Ohio 43215-5164.

Upon attaining a qualifying age with sufficient years of service, a member of OP&F may retire and receive a lifetime monthly pension. OP&F offers four types of service retirement: normal, service commuted, age/service commuted and actuarially reduced. Each type has different eligibility guidelines and is calculated using the member's average annual salary. The following discussion of the pension formula relates to normal service retirement.

For members hired after July 1, 2013, the minimum retirement age is 52 for normal service retirement with at least 25 years of service credit. For members hired on or before after July 1, 2013, the minimum retirement age is 48 for normal service retirement with at least 25 years of service credit.

The annual pension benefit for normal service retirement is equal to a percentage of the allowable average annual salary. The percentage equals 2.5 percent for each of the first 20 years of service credit, 2.0 percent for each of the next five years of service credit and 1.5 percent for each year of service credit in excess of 25 years. The maximum pension of 72 percent of the allowable average annual salary is paid after 33 years of service credit (see OP&F annual comprehensive financial report referenced above for additional information, including requirements for Deferred Retirement Option Plan provisions and reduced and unreduced benefits):

Under normal service retirement, retired members who are at least 55 years old and have been receiving OP&F benefits for at least one year may be eligible for a cost-of-living allowance adjustment. The age 55 provision for receiving a COLA does not apply to those who are receiving a permanent and total disability benefit, surviving beneficiaries, and statutory survivors. Members participating in the DROP program have separate eligibility requirements related to COLA.

The COLA amount for members who have 15 or more years of service credit as of July 1, 2013, and members who are receiving a pension benefit that became effective before July 1, 2013, will be equal to 3.0 percent of the member's base pension benefit.

The COLA amount for members who have less than 15 years of service credit as of July 1, 2013, and members whose pension benefit became effective on or after July 1, 2013, will be equal to a percentage of the member's base pension benefit where the percentage is the lesser of 3.0% or the percentage increase in the consumer price index, if any, over the twelve-month period that ends on the thirtieth day of September of the immediately preceding year, rounded to the nearest one-tenth of one percent.

Members who retired prior to July 24, 1986, or their surviving beneficiaries under optional plans are entitled to cost-of-living allowance increases. The annual increase is paid on July 1st of each year. The annual COLA increase is \$360 under a Single Life Annuity Plan with proportional reductions for optional payment plans.

*Funding Policy* – The Ohio Revised Code (ORC) provides statutory authority for member and employer contributions as follows:

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	<u>Police</u>	<u>Firefighters</u>
<b>Statutory Maximum Contribution Rates</b>		
Employer	19.50 %	24.00 %
Employee	12.25 %	12.25 %
<b>Actual Contribution Rates</b>		
Employer:		
Pension	19.00 %	23.50 %
Post-employment Health Care Benefits	<u>0.50</u>	<u>0.50</u>
Total Employer	<u>19.50 %</u>	<u>24.00 %</u>
Employee	12.25 %	12.25 %

Employer contribution rates are expressed as a percentage of covered payroll. The City's contractually required contribution to OP&F was \$353,638 for 2021.

**Net Pension Liability (Asset)**

The net pension liability (asset) for OPERS was measured as of December 31, 2020, and the total pension liability used to calculate the net pension liability (asset) was determined by an actuarial valuation as of that date. OP&F's total pension liability was measured as of December 31, 2020, and was determined by rolling forward the total pension liability as of January 1, 2020, to December 31, 2020. The City's proportion of the net pension liability (asset) was based on the City's share of contributions to the pension plan relative to the contributions of all participating entities. Following is information related to the proportionate share of the City's defined benefit pension plans:

	<u>OPERS Traditional Plan</u>	<u>OPERS Combined Plan</u>	<u>OP&amp;F</u>	<u>Total</u>
Proportion of the Net Pension Liability/Asset:				
Current Measurement Date	0.00407500%	0.00704200%	0.05223250%	
Prior Measurement Date	<u>0.00539100%</u>	<u>0.00829300%</u>	<u>0.04709190%</u>	
Change in Proportionate Share	<u>-0.00131600%</u>	<u>-0.00125100%</u>	<u>0.00514060%</u>	
Proportionate Share of the:				
Net Pension Liability	\$603,419	\$0	\$3,560,737	\$4,164,156
Net Pension Asset	0	(20,328)	0	(20,328)

**Actuarial Assumptions – OPERS**

Actuarial valuations of an ongoing plan involve estimates of the values of reported amounts and assumptions about the probability of occurrence of events far into the future. Examples include assumptions about future employment, mortality, and cost trends. Actuarially determined amounts are subject to continual review or modification as actual results are compared with past expectations and new estimates are made about the future.

Projections of benefits for financial reporting purposes are based on the substantive plan (the plan as understood by the employers and plan members) and include the types of benefits provided at the time of each valuation. The total pension liability was determined by an actuarial valuation as of December 31, 2020, using the following actuarial

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assumptions applied to all periods included in the measurement in accordance with the requirements of GASB 67. Key methods and assumptions used in the latest actuarial valuation, reflecting experience study results, prepared as of December 31, 2020, are presented below.

	<u>OPERS Traditional Plan</u>	<u>OPERS Combined Plan</u>
Wage Inflation	3.25 percent	3.25 percent
Future Salary Increases, including inflation	3.25 to 10.75 percent including wage inflation	3.25 to 8.25 percent including wage inflation
COLA or Ad Hoc COLA:		
Pre-January 7, 2013 Retirees	3 percent, simple	3 percent, simple
Post-January 7, 2013 Retirees	0.5 percent, simple through 2021, then 2.15 percent, simple	0.5 percent, simple through 2021, then 2.15 percent, simple
Investment Rate of Return	7.2 percent	7.2 percent
Actuarial Cost Method	Individual Entry Age	Individual Entry Age

In October 2020, the OPERS Board adopted a change in COLA for Post-January 7, 2013 retirees, changing it from 1.4 percent simple through 2020 then 2.15 simple to .5 percent simple through 2021 then 2.15 percent simple.

Pre-retirement mortality rates are based on the RP-2014 Employees mortality table for males and females, adjusted for mortality improvement back to the observation period base year of 2006. The base year for males and females was then established to be 2015 and 2010, respectively. Post-retirement mortality rates are based on the RP-2014 Healthy Annuitant mortality table for males and females, adjusted for mortality improvement back to the observation period base year of 2006. The base year for males and females was then established to be 2015 and 2010, respectively. Post-retirement mortality rates for disabled retirees are based on the RP-2014 Disabled mortality table for males and females, adjusted for mortality improvement back to the observation period base year of 2006. The base year for males and females was then established to be 2015 and 2010, respectively. Mortality rates for a particular calendar year are determined by applying the MP-2015 mortality improvement scale to all of the above described tables.

The most recent experience study was completed for the five year period ended December 31, 2015.

The allocation of investment assets with the Defined Benefit portfolio is approved by the Board of Trustees as outlined in the annual investment plan. Plan assets are managed on a total return basis with a long-term objective of achieving and maintaining a fully funded status for the benefits provided through the defined benefit pension plans. The long-term expected rate of return on defined benefit investment assets was determined using a building-block method in which best-estimate ranges of expected future real rates of return are developed for each major asset class. These ranges are combined to produce the long-term expected real rate of return by weighting the expected future real rates of return by the target asset allocation percentage, adjusted for inflation. Best estimates of arithmetic real rates of return were provided by the Board's investment consultant. For each major asset class that is included in the Defined Benefit portfolio's target asset allocation as of December 31, 2020, these best estimates are summarized in the following table:

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<u>Asset Class</u>	<u>Target Allocation</u>	<u>Weighted Average Long-Term Expected Real Rate of Return (Arithmetic)</u>
Fixed Income	25.00 %	1.32 %
Domestic Equities	21.00	5.64
Real Estate	10.00	5.39
Private Equity	12.00	10.42
International Equities	23.00	7.36
Other investments	9.00	4.75
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.00 %</b>	<b>5.43 %</b>

*Discount Rate* – The discount rate used to measure the total pension liability was 7.2 percent for the traditional plan and the combined plan. The projection of cash flows used to determine the discount rate assumed that contributions from plan members and those of the contributing employers are made at the contractually required rates, as actuarially determined. Based on those assumptions, the pension plan’s fiduciary net position was projected to be available to make all projected future benefits payments of current plan members. Therefore, the long-term expected rate of return on pension plan investments was applied to all periods of projected benefit payments to determine the total pension liability.

*Sensitivity of the City’s Proportionate Share of the Net Pension Liability (Asset) to Changes in the Discount Rate* – The following table presents the City’s proportionate share of the net pension liability (asset) calculated using the current period discount rate assumption of 7.2 percent, as well as what the City’s proportionate share of the net pension liability (asset) would be if it were calculated using a discount rate that is one percentage point lower (6.2 percent) or one percentage point higher (8.2 percent) than the current rate:

	<u>1% Decrease (6.20%)</u>	<u>Discount Rate (7.20%)</u>	<u>1% Increase (8.20%)</u>
<b>City's proportionate share of the net pension liability (asset)</b>			
OPERS Traditional Plan	\$1,151,025	\$603,419	\$148,086
OPERS Combined Plan	(14,154)	(20,328)	(24,929)

*Changes between Measurement Date and Report Date* – During 2021, the OPERS Board lowered the investment rate of return from 7.2 percent to 6.9 along with certain other changes to assumptions for the actuarial valuation as of December 31, 2021. The effects of these changes are unknown.

**Actuarial Assumptions – OP&F**

OP&F’s total pension liability as of December 31, 2020, is based on the results of an actuarial valuation date of January 1, 2020, and rolled-forward using generally accepted actuarial procedures. The total pension liability is determined by OP&F’s actuaries in accordance with GASB Statement No. 67, as part of their annual valuation. Actuarial valuations of an ongoing plan involve estimates of reported amounts and assumptions about probability of occurrence of events far into the future. Examples include assumptions about future employment mortality, salary increases, disabilities, retirements and employment terminations. Actuarially determined amounts are subject to continual review and potential modifications, as actual results are compared with past expectations and new estimates are made about the future. Assumptions considered were: withdrawal rates, disability retirement, service retirement, DROP elections, mortality, percent married and forms of the payment, DROP interest rate, CPI-based COLA, investment returns, salary increases and payroll growth.



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Key methods and assumptions used in the latest actuarial valuation, reflecting experience study results, prepared as of January 1, 2020 are presented below.

Valuation Date	January 1, 2020, with actuarial liabilities rolled forward to December 31, 2020
Actuarial Cost Method	Entry Age Normal
Investment Rate of Return	8.0 percent
Projected Salary Increases	3.75 percent to 10.5 percent
Payroll Growth	3.25 percent per annum, compounded annually, consisting of inflation rate of 2.75 percent plus productivity increase rate of 0.5 percent
Cost-of-Living Adjustments	2.2 percent simple for increases based on the lesser of the increase in CPI and 3 percent

Mortality for non-disabled participants is based on the RP-2014 Total Employee and Healthy Annuitant Mortality Tables rolled back to 2006, adjusted according to the rates in the following table, and projected with the Buck Modified 2016 Improvement Scale. Rates for surviving beneficiaries are adjusted by 120 percent.

Age	Police	Fire
67 or less	77 %	68 %
68-77	105	87
78 and up	115	120

Mortality for disabled retirees is based on the RP-2014 Disabled Mortality Tables rolled back to 2006, adjusted according to the rates in the following table, and projected with the Buck Modified 2016 Improvement Scale.

Age	Police	Fire
59 or less	35 %	35 %
60-69	60	45
70-79	75	70
80 and up	100	90

The most recent experience study was completed for the five year period ended December 31, 2016.

The long-term expected rate of return on pension plan investments was determined using a building-block approach and assumes a time horizon, as defined in the Statement of Investment Policy. A forecasted rate of inflation serves as the baseline for the return expected. Various real return premiums over the baseline inflation rate have been established for each asset class. The long-term expected nominal rate of return has been determined by calculating a weighted average of the expected real return premiums for each asset class, adding the projected inflation rate and adding the expected return from rebalancing uncorrelated asset classes. Best estimates of the long-term expected geometric real rates of return for each major asset class included in OP&F's target asset allocation as of December 31, 2020, are summarized below:

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Asset Class	Target Allocation	Long-Term Expected Real Rate of Return
Cash and Cash Equivalents	0.00%	0.00%
Domestic Equity	21.00%	4.10%
Non-U.S. Equity	14.00%	4.80%
Private Markets	8.00%	6.40%
Core Fixed Income*	23.00%	0.90%
High Yield Fixed Income	7.00%	3.00%
Private Credit	5.00%	4.50%
U.S. Inflation Linked Bonds*	17.00%	0.70%
Midstream Energy Infrastructure	5.00%	5.60%
Real Assets	8.00%	5.80%
Gold	5.00%	1.90%
Private Real Estate	12.00%	5.30%
	125.00%	

OP&F's Board of Trustees has incorporated the risk parity concept into OP&F's asset liability valuation with the goal of reducing equity risk exposure, which reduces overall Total Portfolio risk without sacrificing return, and creating a more risk-balanced portfolio based on their relationship between asset classes and economic environments. From the notional portfolio perspective above, the Total Portfolio may be levered up to 1.25 times due to the application of leverage in certain fixed income asset classes.

*Discount Rate* – The total pension liability was calculated using the discount rate of 8.00 percent. The projection of cash flows used to determine the discount rate assumed the contributions from employers and from the members would be computed based on contribution requirements as stipulated by State statute. Projected inflows from investment earning were calculated using the longer-term assumed investment rate of return 8.00 percent. Based on those assumptions, the plan's fiduciary net position was projected to be available to make all future benefit payments of current plan members. Therefore, a long-term expected rate of return on pension plan investments was applied to all periods of projected benefits to determine the total pension liability.

*Sensitivity of the City's Proportionate Share of the Net Pension Liability to Changes in the Discount Rate* – Net pension liability is sensitive to changes in the discount rate, and to illustrate the potential impact the following table presents the City's proportionate share of the net pension liability calculated using the discount rate of 8.00 percent, as well as what the City's proportionate share of the net pension liability would be if it were calculated using a discount rate that is one percentage point lower (7.00 percent), or one percentage point higher (9.00 percent) than the current rate.

	1% Decrease (7.00%)	Current Discount Rate (8.00%)	1% Increase (9.00%)
City's proportionate share of the net pension liability	\$4,957,001	\$3,560,737	\$2,392,204

**Note 8 - Postemployment Benefits**

**Net OPEB Liability (Asset)**

See note 7 for a description of the net OPEB liability (asset).

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**Ohio Public Employees Retirement System (OPERS)**

*Plan Description* – The Ohio Public Employees Retirement System (OPERS) administers three separate pension plans: the traditional pension plan, a cost-sharing, multiple-employer defined benefit pension plan; the member-directed plan, a defined contribution plan; and the combined plan, a cost-sharing, multiple-employer defined benefit pension plan that has elements of both a defined benefit and defined contribution plan.

OPERS maintains a cost-sharing, multiple-employer defined benefit post-employment health care trust, which funds multiple health care plans including medical coverage, prescription drug coverage and deposits to a Health Reimbursement Arrangement (HRA) to qualifying benefit recipients of both the traditional pension and the combined plans. Currently, Medicare-eligible retirees are able to select medical and prescription drug plans from a range of options and may elect optional vision and dental plans. Retirees and eligible dependents enrolled in Medicare Parts A and B have the option to enroll in a Medicare supplemental plan with the assistance of the OPERS Medicare Connector. The OPERS Medicare Connector is a relationship with a vendor selected by OPERS to assist retirees, spouses and dependents with selecting a medical and pharmacy plan. Monthly allowances, based on years of service and the age at which the retiree first enrolled in OPERS coverage, are deposited into an HRA. For non-Medicare retirees and eligible dependents, OPERS sponsors medical and prescription coverage through a professionally managed self-insured plan. An allowance to offset a portion of the monthly premium is offered to retirees and eligible dependents. The allowance is based on the retiree's years of service and age when they first enrolled in OPERS coverage.

Medicare-eligible retirees who choose to become re-employed or survivors who become employed in an OPERS-covered position are prohibited from participating in an HRA. For this group of retirees, OPERS sponsors secondary coverage through a professionally managed self-insured program. Retirees who enroll in this plan are provided with a monthly allowance to offset a portion of the monthly premium. Medicare-eligible spouses and dependents can also enroll in this plan as long as the retiree is enrolled.

OPERS provides a monthly allowance for health care coverage for eligible retirees and their eligible dependents. The base allowance is determined by OPERS.

The health care trust is also used to fund health care for member-directed plan participants, in the form of a Retiree Medical Account (RMA). At retirement or separation, member directed plan participants may be eligible for reimbursement of qualified medical expenses from their vested RMA balance.

Effective January 1, 2022, OPERS will discontinue the group plans currently offered to non-Medicare retirees and re-employed retirees. Instead, eligible non-Medicare retirees will select an individual medical plan. OPERS will provide a subsidy or allowance via an HRA allowance to those retirees who meet health care eligibility requirements. Retirees will be able to seek reimbursement for plan premiums and other qualified medical expenses. These changes are reflected in the December 31, 2020, measurement date health care valuation.

In order to qualify for postemployment health care coverage, age and service retirees under the traditional pension and combined plans must have twenty or more years of qualifying Ohio service credit with a minimum age of 60, or generally 30 years of qualifying service at any age. Health care coverage for disability benefit recipients and qualified survivor benefit recipients is available. Current retirees eligible (or who become eligible prior to January 1, 2022) to participate in the OPERS health care program will continue to be eligible after January 1, 2022. Eligibility requirements will change for those retiring after January 1, 2022, with differing eligibility requirements for Medicare retirees and non-Medicare retirees. The health care coverage provided by OPERS meets the definition of an Other Post Employment Benefit (OPEB) as described in GASB Statement 75. See OPERS' annual comprehensive financial report referenced below for additional information.

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The Ohio Revised Code permits, but does not require OPERS to provide health care to its eligible benefit recipients. Authority to establish and amend health care coverage is provided to the Board in Chapter 145 of the Ohio Revised Code.

Disclosures for the health care plan are presented separately in the OPERS financial report. Interested parties may obtain a copy by visiting <https://www.opers.org/financial/reports.shtml>, by writing to OPERS, 277 East Town Street, Columbus, Ohio 43215-4642, or by calling (614) 222-5601 or 800-222-7377.

*Funding Policy* – The Ohio Revised Code provides the statutory authority requiring public employers to fund postemployment health care through their contributions to OPERS. When funding is approved by OPERS’ Board of Trustees, a portion of each employer’s contribution to OPERS is set aside to fund OPERS health care plans. Beginning in 2018, OPERS no longer allocated a portion of its employer contributions to fund health care for the traditional plan and the combined plan.

Employer contribution rates are expressed as a percentage of the earnable salary of active members. In 2021, state and local employers contributed at a rate of 14.0 percent of earnable salary. These are the maximum employer contribution rates permitted by the Ohio Revised Code. Active member contributions do not fund health care.

Each year, the OPERS Board determines the portion of the employer contribution rate that will be set aside to fund health care plans. For 2021, OPERS did not allocate any employer contributions to health care for members of the traditional plan and combined plan. The OPERS Board is also authorized to establish rules for the retiree or their surviving beneficiaries to pay a portion of the health care provided. Payment amounts vary depending on the number of covered dependents and the coverage selected. The employer contribution as a percentage of covered payroll deposited into the RMA for participants in the Member-Directed Plan for 2021 was 4.0 percent.

Employer contribution rates are actuarially determined and are expressed as a percentage of covered payroll.

The City’s contractually required contribution was \$0 for 2021.

**Plan Description – Ohio Police & Fire Pension Fund (OP&F)**

*Plan Description* – The City contributes to the Ohio Police and Fire Pension Fund (OP&F) sponsored healthcare program, a cost-sharing, multiple-employer defined post-employment health care plan administered by a third-party provider. This program is not guaranteed and is subject to change at any time upon action of the Board of Trustees. On January 1, 2019, OP&F implemented a new model for health care. Under this new model, OP&F provides eligible retirees with a fixed stipend earmarked to pay for health care and Medicare Part B reimbursements.

OP&F contracted with a vendor who assists eligible retirees in choosing health care plans that are available where they live (both Medicare-eligible and pre-65 populations). A stipend funded by OP&F is available to these members through a Health Reimbursement Arrangement and can be used to reimburse retirees for qualified health care expenses.

A retiree is eligible for the OP&F health care stipend unless they have access to any other group coverage including employer and retirement coverage. The eligibility of spouses and dependent children could increase the stipend amount. If the spouse or dependents have access to any other group coverage including employer or retirement coverage, they are not eligible for stipend support from OP&F. Even if an OP&F member or their dependents are not eligible for a stipend, they can use the services of the third-party administrator to select and enroll in a plan. The stipend provided by OP&F meets the definition of an Other Post Employment Benefit (OPEB) as described in Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) Statement No. 75.

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OP&F maintains funds for health care in two separate accounts: one account for health care benefits and one account for Medicare Part B reimbursements. A separate health care trust accrual account is maintained for health care benefits under IRS Code Section 115 trust. IRS Code Section 401(h) account is maintained for Medicare Part B reimbursements.

The Ohio Revised Code allows, but does not mandate, OP&F to provide OPEB benefits. Authority for the OP&F Board of Trustees to provide health care coverage to eligible participants and to establish and amend benefits is codified in Chapter 742 of the Ohio Revised Code.

OP&F issues a publicly available financial report that includes financial information and required supplementary information for the plan. The report may be obtained by visiting the OP&F website at [www.op-f.org](http://www.op-f.org) or by writing to the Ohio Police and Fire Pension Fund, 140 East Town Street, Columbus, Ohio 43215-5164.

*Funding Policy* – The Ohio Revised Code provides for contribution requirements of the participating employers and of plan members to the OP&F defined benefit pension plan. Participating employers are required to contribute to the pension plan at rates expressed as percentages of the payroll of active pension plan members, currently 19.5 percent and 24 percent of covered payroll for police and fire employer units, respectively. The Ohio Revised Code states that the employer contribution may not exceed 19.5 percent of covered payroll for police employer units and 24 percent of covered payroll for fire employer units. Active members do not make contributions to the OPEB Plan.

The Board of Trustees is authorized to allocate a portion of the total employer contributions for retiree health care benefits. For 2021, the portion of employer contributions allocated to health care was 0.5 percent of covered payroll. The amount of employer contributions allocated to the health care plan each year is subject to the Trustees' primary responsibility to ensure that pension benefits are adequately funded.

The OP&F Board of Trustees is also authorized to establish requirements for contributions to the health care plan by retirees and their eligible dependents or their surviving beneficiaries. Payment amounts vary depending on the number of covered dependents and the coverage selected.

The City's contractually required contribution to OP&F was \$9,039 for 2021.

**Net OPEB Liability (Asset)**

The net OPEB liability (asset) and total OPEB liability for OPERS were determined by an actuarial valuation as of December 31, 2019, rolled forward to the measurement date of December 31, 2020, by incorporating the expected value of health care cost accruals, the actual health care payment, and interest accruals during the year. OP&F's total OPEB liability was measured as of December 31, 2020, and was determined by rolling forward the total OPEB liability as of January 1, 2020, to December 31, 2020. The City's proportion of the net OPEB liability (asset) was based on the City's share of contributions to the retirement plan relative to the contributions of all participating entities. Following is information related to the proportionate share:

	OPERS	OP&F	Total
Proportion of the Net OPEB Liability (Asset):			
Current Measurement Date	0.004000%	0.0522325%	
Prior Measurement Date	0.005265%	0.0470919%	
Change in Proportionate Share	-0.0012650%	0.0051406%	
Proportionate Share of the Net			
OPEB Liability	\$0	\$553,412	\$553,412
OPEB Asset	(71,263)	0	(71,263)

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**Actuarial Assumptions – OPERS**

Actuarial valuations of an ongoing plan involve estimates of the values of reported amounts and assumptions about the probability of occurrence of events far into the future. Examples include assumptions about future employment, mortality, and cost trends. Actuarially determined amounts are subject to continual review or modification as actual results are compared with past expectations and new estimates are made about the future.

Projections of benefits for financial reporting purposes are based on the substantive plan and include the types of coverage provided at the time of each valuation and the historical pattern of sharing of costs between OPERS and plan members. The total OPEB liability was determined by an actuarial valuation as of December 31, 2019, rolled forward to the measurement date of December 31, 2020. The actuarial valuation used the following actuarial assumptions applied to all prior periods included in the measurement in accordance with the requirements of GASB 74:

Wage Inflation	3.25 percent
Projected Salary Increases, including inflation	3.25 to 10.75 percent including wage inflation
Single Discount Rate:	
Current measurement date	6.00 percent
Prior Measurement date	3.16 percent
Investment Rate of Return	6.00 percent
Municipal Bond Rate	
Current measurement date	2.00 percent
Prior Measurement date	2.75 percent
Health Care Cost Trend Rate	
Current measurement date	8.50 percent, initial 3.50 percent, ultimate in 2035
Prior Measurement date	10.50 percent, initial 3.50 percent, ultimate in 2030
Actuarial Cost Method	Individual Entry Age

Pre-retirement mortality rates are based on the RP-2014 Employees mortality table for males and females, adjusted for mortality improvement back to the observation period base year of 2006. The base year for males and females was then established to be 2015 and 2010, respectively. Post-retirement mortality rates are based on the RP-2014 Healthy Annuitant mortality table for males and females, adjusted for mortality improvement back to the observation period base year of 2006. The base year for males and females was then established to be 2015 and 2010, respectively. Post-retirement mortality rates for disabled retirees are based on the RP-2014 Disabled mortality table for males and females, adjusted for mortality improvement back to the observation period base year of 2006. The base year for males and females was then established to be 2015 and 2010, respectively. Mortality rates for a particular calendar year are determined by applying the MP-2015 mortality improvement scale to all of the above described tables.

The most recent experience study was completed for the five year period ended December 31, 2015.

The allocation of investment assets within the Health Care portfolio is approved by the Board of Trustees as outlined in the annual investment plan. Assets are managed on a total return basis with a long-term objective of continuing to offer a sustainable health care program for current and future retirees. OPERS' primary goal is to achieve and maintain a fully funded status for the benefits provided through the defined pension plans. Health care is a discretionary benefit. The long-term expected rate of return on health care investment assets was determined using a building-block method in which best-estimate ranges of expected future real rates of return are developed

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for each major asset class. These ranges are combined to produce the long-term expected real rate of return by weighting the expected future real rates of return by the target asset allocation percentage, adjusted for inflation. Best estimates of arithmetic rates of return were provided by OPERS investment consultant. For each major asset class that is included in the Health Care’s portfolio’s target asset allocation as of December 31, 2020, these best estimates are summarized in the following table:

<u>Asset Class</u>	<u>Target Allocation</u>	<u>Weighted Average Long-Term Expected Real Rate of Return (Arithmetic)</u>
Fixed Income	34.00 %	1.07 %
Domestic Equities	25.00	5.64
Real Estate Investment Trust	7.00	6.48
International Equities	25.00	7.36
Other Investments	9.00	4.02
Total	<u>100.00 %</u>	<u>4.43 %</u>

*Discount Rate* – A single discount rate of 6.00 percent was used to measure the OPEB liability on the measurement date of December 31, 2020. A single discount rate of 3.16 percent was used to measure the OPEB liability on the measurement date of December 31, 2019. Projected benefit payments are required to be discounted to their actuarial present value using a single discount rate that reflects (1) a long-term expected rate of return on OPEB plan investments (to the extent that the health care fiduciary net position is projected to be sufficient to pay benefits), and (2) tax-exempt municipal bond rate based on an index of 20-year general obligation bonds with an average AA credit rating as of the measurement date (to the extent that the contributions for use with the long-term expected rate are not met). This single discount rate was based on an expected rate of return on the health care investment portfolio of 6.00 percent and a municipal bond rate of 2.00 percent (Fidelity Index’s “20-Year Municipal GO AA Index”). The projection of cash flows used to determine this single discount rate assumed that employer contributions will be made at rates equal to the actuarially determined contribution rate. Based on these assumptions, the health care fiduciary net position and future contributions were sufficient to finance health care costs through 2120. As a result, the actuarial assumed long-term expected rate of return on health care investments was applied to projected costs through the year 2120, the duration of the projection period through which projected health care payments are fully funded.

*Sensitivity of the City’s Proportionate Share of the Net OPEB Asset to Changes in the Discount Rate* – The following table presents the City’s proportionate share of the net OPEB asset calculated using the single discount rate of 6.00 percent, as well as what the City’s proportionate share of the net OPEB asset would be if it were calculated using a discount rate that is one percentage point lower (5.00 percent) or one percentage point higher (7.00 percent) than the current rate:

	<u>1% Decrease (5.00%)</u>	<u>Current Discount Rate (6.00%)</u>	<u>1% Increase (7.00%)</u>
City's proportionate share of the net OPEB asset	(\$17,720)	(\$71,263)	(\$115,280)

*Sensitivity of the City’s Proportionate Share of the Net OPEB Asset to Changes in the Health Care Cost Trend Rate* – Changes in the health care cost trend rate may also have a significant impact on the net OPEB asset. The following table presents the net OPEB asset calculated using the assumed trend rates, and the expected net OPEB asset if it

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were calculated using a health care cost trend rate that is 1.0 percent lower or 1.0 percent higher than the current rate.

Retiree health care valuations use a health care cost-trend assumption that changes over several years built into the assumption. The near-term rates reflect increases in the current cost of health care; the trend starting in 2021 is 8.50 percent. If this trend continues for future years, the projection indicates that years from now virtually all expenditures will be for health care. A more reasonable alternative is the health plan cost trend will decrease to a level at, or near, wage inflation. On this basis, the actuaries project premium rate increases will continue to exceed wage inflation for approximately the next decade, but by less each year, until leveling off at an ultimate rate, assumed to be 3.50 percent in the most recent valuation.

	1% Decrease	Current Health Care Cost Trend Rate Assumption	1% Increase
City's proportionate share of the net OPEB asset	(\$73,000)	(\$71,263)	(\$69,320)

*Changes between Measurement Date and Reporting Date* – During 2021, the OPERS Board made various changes to assumptions for the actuarial valuation as of December 31, 2021. The effects of these changes are unknown.

**Actuarial Assumptions – OP&F**

OP&F’s total OPEB liability as of December 31, 2020, is based on the results of an actuarial valuation date of January 1, 2020, and rolled-forward using generally accepted actuarial procedures. The total OPEB liability is determined by OP&F’s actuaries in accordance with GASB Statement No. 74, as part of their annual valuation. Actuarial valuations of an ongoing plan involve estimates of reported amounts and assumptions about probability of occurrence of events far into the future. Examples include assumptions about future employment mortality, salary increases, disabilities, retirements and employment terminations. Actuarially determined amounts are subject to continual review and potential modifications, as actual results are compared with past expectations and new estimates are made about the future.

Projections of benefits for financial reporting purposes are based on the substantive plan (the plan as understood by the employers and plan members) and include the types of benefits provided at the time of each valuation and the historical pattern of sharing benefit costs between the employers and plan members to that point. The projection of benefits for financial reporting purposes does not explicitly incorporate the potential effects of legal or contractual funding limitations.

Actuarial calculations reflect a long-term perspective. For a newly hired employee, actuarial calculations will take into account the employee’s entire career with the employer and also take into consideration the benefits, if any, paid to the employee after termination of employment until the death of the employee and any applicable contingent annuitant. In many cases, actuarial calculations reflect several decades of service with the employer and the payment of benefits after termination.

Key methods and assumptions used in the latest actuarial valuation, reflecting experience study results, are presented below.



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Valuation Date	January 1, 2020, with actuarial liabilities rolled forward to December 31, 2020
Actuarial Cost Method	Entry Age Normal
Investment Rate of Return	8.0 percent
Projected Salary Increases	3.75 percent to 10.5 percent
Payroll Growth	3.25 percent
Single discount rate:	
Current measurement date	2.96 percent
Prior measurement date	3.56 percent
Cost-of-Living Adjustments	2.2 percent simple

Mortality for non-disabled participants is based on the RP-2014 Total Employee and Healthy Annuitant Mortality Tables rolled back to 2006, adjusted according to the rates in the following table, and projected with the Buck Modified 2016 Improvement Scale. Rates for surviving beneficiaries are adjusted by 120 percent.

<u>Age</u>	<u>Police</u>	<u>Fire</u>
67 or less	77 %	68 %
68-77	105	87
78 and up	115	120

Mortality for disabled retirees is based on the RP-2014 Disabled Mortality Tables rolled back to 2006, adjusted according to the rates in the following table, and projected with the Buck Modified 2016 Improvement Scale.

<u>Age</u>	<u>Police</u>	<u>Fire</u>
59 or less	35 %	35 %
60-69	60	45
70-79	75	70
80 and up	100	90

The most recent experience study was completed for the five year period ended December 31, 2016.

The long-term expected rate of return on OPEB plan investments was determined using a building-block approach and assumes a time horizon, as defined in the Statement of Investment Policy. A forecasted rate of inflation serves as the baseline for the return expected. Various real return premiums over the baseline inflation rate have been established for each asset class. The long-term expected nominal rate of return has been determined by calculating a weighted average of the expected real return premiums for each asset class, adding the projected inflation rate and adding the expected return from rebalancing uncorrelated asset classes. Best estimates of the long-term expected geometric real rates of return for each major asset class included in OP&F's target asset allocation as of December 31, 2020, are summarized below:

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Asset Class	Target Allocation	Long-Term Expected Real Rate of Return
Cash and Cash Equivalents	0.00%	0.00%
Domestic Equity	21.00%	4.10%
Non-U.S. Equity	14.00%	4.80%
Private Markets	8.00%	6.40%
Core Fixed Income*	23.00%	0.90%
High Yield Fixed Income	7.00%	3.00%
Private Credit	5.00%	4.50%
U.S. Inflation Linked Bonds*	17.00%	0.70%
Midstream Energy Infrastructure	5.00%	5.60%
Real Assets	8.00%	5.80%
Gold	5.00%	1.90%
Private Real Estate	12.00%	5.30%
	<u>125.00%</u>	

OP&F's Board of Trustees has incorporated the risk parity concept into OP&F's asset liability valuation with the goal of reducing equity risk exposure, which reduces overall Total Portfolio risk without sacrificing return, and creating a more risk-balanced portfolio based on their relationship between asset classes and economic environments. From the notional portfolio perspective above, the Total Portfolio may be levered up to 1.25 times due to the application of leverage in certain fixed income asset classes.

*Discount Rate* – For 2020, the total OPEB liability was calculated using the discount rate of 2.96 percent. For 2019, the total OPEB liability was calculated using the discount rate of 3.56 percent. The projection of cash flows used to determine the discount rate assumed the contribution from employers and from members would be computed based on contribution requirements as stipulated by State statute. Projected inflows from investment earnings were calculated using the longer-term assumed investment rate of return 8 percent. Based on those assumptions, OP&F's fiduciary net position was projected to not be able to make all future benefit payments of current plan members. Therefore, a municipal bond rate of 2.12 percent at December 31, 2020, and 2.75 percent at December 31, 2019, was blended with the long-term rate of 8 percent, which resulted in a blended discount rate of 2.96 percent for 2020 and 3.56 percent for 2019. The municipal bond rate was determined using the Bond Buyers General Obligation 20-year Municipal Bond Index Rate. The OPEB plan's fiduciary net position was projected to be available to make all projected OPEB payments until 2037. The long-term expected rate of return on health care investments was applied to projected costs through 2037, and the municipal bond rate was applied to all health care costs after that date.

*Sensitivity of the City's Proportionate Share of the Net OPEB Liability to Changes in the Discount Rate* – Net OPEB liability is sensitive to changes in the discount rate, and to illustrate the potential impact the following table presents the City's proportionate share of the net OPEB liability calculated using the discount rate of 2.96 percent, as well as what the City's proportionate share of the net OPEB liability would be if it were calculated using a discount rate that is one percentage point lower (1.96 percent) or one percentage point higher (3.96 percent) than the current rate.

	1% Decrease (1.96%)	Current Discount Rate (2.96%)	1% Increase (3.96%)
City's proportionate share of the net OPEB liability	\$690,073	\$553,412	\$440,682

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*Sensitivity of the City's Proportionate Share of the Net OPEB Liability to Changes in the Health Care Cost Trend Rate* – The total OPEB liability is based on a medical benefit that is a flat dollar amount; therefore, it is unaffected by a health care cost trend rate. An increase or decrease in the trend rate would have no effect on the total OPEB liability.

**Note 9 – Debt**

The changes in the City's long-term debt during fiscal year 2021 were as follows:

Governmental Activities	Restated Balance 1/1/21	Additions	Reductions	Balance 12/31/21	Due Within One Year
<i>General Obligation Bonds/Loans</i>					
2011 Energy Upgrade Loan – 3.7%	\$7,604	\$0	(\$7,604)	\$0	\$0
2012 Various Purpose Bonds – 3-4.5%	220,000	0	(30,000)	190,000	15,000
2017 Building Improvement Bonds – 3.14%	165,039	0	(39,352)	125,687	40,597
<i>Total General Obligation Bonds/Loans</i>	392,643	0	(76,956)	315,687	55,597
<i>Ohio Public Works Loans</i>					
2016 Multi Street Projects - 0%	191,022	0	(14,694)	176,328	9,796
2019 Center Ridge Avenue – 0%	132,379	167,279	(7,491)	292,167	14,983
2020 Sundale Avenue Recon – 0%	50,000	70,000	0	120,000	0
2020 Galbraith & Goodman Imp – 0%	30,000	148,071	0	178,071	0
<i>Total Ohio Public Works Loans</i>	403,401	385,350	(22,185)	766,566	24,779
2020 Ambulance Lease-Purchase – 2.99%	190,749	0	(26,101)	164,648	25,456
<i>Total Governmental Activities</i>					
<i>Long-Term Debt</i>	\$986,793	\$385,350	(\$125,242)	\$1,246,901	\$105,832

All general obligation bonds and loans are supported by the full faith and credit of the City and are payable from unvoted property tax receipts to the extent that other resources are not available to meet annual principal and interest payments. The lease-purchase agreement will be secured by the ambulance purchased from the proceeds of the agreement.

The City funds street improvement projects through the use of grants and 0% interest loans made available through the Ohio Public Works Commission (OPWC). OPWC loan debt is paid with the proceeds from the City's Street Improvements Levy, and loans are typically paid in full by the first loan installment due date. The 2016 Multi Street Projects loan has been drawn in full, and the first payment was made in 2020. The Center Ridge Avenue loan has been approved for up to \$299,658 and has been drawn in full. The first payment on this loan was made in 2021. The 2020 Sundale Avenue Reconstruction loan has been approved for up to \$120,000 and has been drawn in full. The 2020 Galbraith and Goodman Improvements loan has been approved for up to \$281,500. \$178,071 has been drawn as of December 31, 2021. Amortization schedules have not yet been provided for the two 2020 OPWC loans.

The 2011 energy upgrade loan and OPWC loans are also subject to default stipulations. According to the 2011 energy upgrade loan agreement, in the event of default, the lender, at its option, may exercise any one or more of the following remedies a) declare an amount equal to all amounts then due under the agreement, and all loan payments which shall come due over the remaining portion of the entire term, to be immediately due and payable, b) request borrower to promptly return improvements to lender or enter upon premises where improvements are located and take immediate possession of and remove such improvements, c) sell or lease the improvements or sublease them

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for the account of the borrower, holding borrower liable for i) all loan payments due to the effective date of such selling, leasing, or subleasing, and ii) for difference between the purchase price, rental, or other amounts paid by the purchaser, borrower, or sub-borrower pursuant to such sale, lease, or sublease, and remaining amounts payable to borrower, and/or d) exercise any other right, remedy, or privilege that may be available to it under applicable law, including the right to i) proceed by appropriate court action to specifically and/or otherwise enforce the terms of the agreement, ii) recover damages for breach of agreement, and iii) rescind the agreement as to any or all of the improvements. According to the OPWC loan agreements, if the City fails to make any payment due and is not corrected within thirty days, the amount in default shall bear interest thereafter at the default rate of 8 percent per annum from the date of default until the date of payment. In addition, the entire principal remaining unpaid, together with accrued interest and other charges shall, at OPWC's option, become immediately due and payment.

Principal and interest requirements to retire general obligation bonds outstanding at December 31, 2020 are as follows:

Year Ending December 31,	2017 Building Improvement Bonds			2012 Various Purpose Bonds		
	Principal	Interest	Total	Principal	Interest	Total
2022	\$40,597	\$3,630	\$44,227	\$15,000	\$8,550	\$23,550
2023	41,882	2,346	44,228	15,000	7,875	22,875
2024	43,208	1,020	44,228	15,000	7,200	22,200
2025	0	0	0	20,000	6,525	26,525
2026	0	0	0	20,000	5,625	25,625
2027-2031	0	0	0	105,000	14,625	119,625
Total	\$125,687	\$6,996	\$132,683	\$190,000	\$50,400	\$240,400

Year Ending December 31,	OPWC Loans		
	Principal	Interest	Total
2022	\$24,779	\$0	\$24,779
2023	24,779	0	24,779
2024	24,779	0	24,779
2025	24,779	0	24,779
2026	24,779	0	24,779
2027-2031	123,895	0	123,895
2032-2036	123,895	0	123,895
2037-2041	96,810	0	96,810
Total	\$468,495	\$0	\$468,495

The OPWC amortization above does not agree to the table on the previous page as the 2020 Sundale Avenue Reconstruction and 2020 Galbraith & Goodman Improvements loans have not been drawn in full.

Year Ending December 31,	2020 Ambulance Lease-Purchase		
	Principal	Interest	Total
2022	\$25,456	\$4,923	\$30,379
2023	26,217	4,162	30,379
2024	27,001	3,378	30,379
2025	27,808	2,571	30,379
2026	28,640	1,739	30,379
2027	29,526	853	30,379
Total	\$164,648	\$17,626	\$182,274

**City of North College Hill**  
**Hamilton County**  
*Notes to the Basic Financial Statements*  
*For the Year Ended December 31, 2021*

The Ohio Revised Code provides that net general obligation debt of the City, exclusive of certain exempt debt, issued without a vote of the electors shall never exceed 5.5 percent of the tax valuation of the City. The Revised Code further provides that total voted and unvoted net debt of the City, less the same exempt debt, shall never exceed an amount equal to 10.5 percent of its tax valuation. The effects of the debt limitations at December 31, 2021 were an overall debt margin of \$12,869,774 and an unvoted debt margin of \$6,590,983.

**Note 10 – Fund Balances**

Fund balance is classified as nonspendable, restricted, committed, assigned and/or unassigned based primarily on the extent to which the City is bound to observe constraints imposed upon the use of the resources in the governmental funds. The constraints placed on fund balance for the major governmental funds and all other governmental funds are presented below:

Fund Balances	General	American Rescue Plan Act	Street Levy	All Other Governmental Funds	Total Governmental Funds
<i>Restricted for:</i>					
Government Operations	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$6,476	\$6,476
Police Operations	0	0	0	126,685	126,685
Fire Operations	0	0	0	518,747	518,747
Leisure Time Services	0	0	0	11,475	11,475
Transportation	0	0	0	282,818	282,818
COVID Support	0	486,202	0	9,008	495,210
Capital Outlay	0	0	1,326,432	500	1,326,932
<i>Total Restricted</i>	0	486,202	1,326,432	955,709	2,768,343
<i>Assigned for:</i>					
Purchases on Order	3,414	0	0	0	3,414
Unassigned (Deficit)	894,377	0	0	(60,717)	833,660
<i>Total Fund Balances</i>	<u>\$897,791</u>	<u>\$486,202</u>	<u>\$1,326,432</u>	<u>\$894,992</u>	<u>\$3,605,417</u>

**Note 11 – Contingencies**

**Litigation**

The City is defendant in several lawsuits. Although management cannot presently determine the outcome of these suits, they believe the resolution of these matters will not materially adversely affect the City's financial condition.

**Grants**

Amounts grantor agencies pay to the City are subject to audit and adjustment by the grantor. Grantors may require refunding any disallowed costs. Management cannot presently determine amounts grantors may disallow. However, based on prior experience, management believes any refunds would be immaterial.

**City of North College Hill**  
**Hamilton County**  
*Notes to the Basic Financial Statements*  
*For the Year Ended December 31, 2021*

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**Note 12 – Accountability and Compliance**

**Accountability**

The City had negative cash fund balances in the following funds as of December 31, 2021.

City Center Fund	\$60,717
Waste Collection	82,482

**Compliance**

Ohio Administrative Code, Section 117-2-03 (B), requires the City to prepare its annual financial report in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles. However, the City prepared its financial statements on a cash basis, which is a comprehensive basis of accounting other than accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. The accompanying financial statements omit assets, liabilities, net position/fund balances, and disclosures that, while material, cannot be determined at this time. The City could be fined and various other administrative remedies may be taken against the City.

The City entered into a contract that was not authorized by City Council, which is contrary to Ohio Revised Code Section 733.22.

The City's Street Levy Fund and Waste Collection Fund had expenditures in excess of appropriations of \$432,948 and \$21,340, respectively, as of December 31, 2021, which is contrary to Ohio Revised Code Section 5705.41(B).

The City's appropriations exceeded the amount certified as available by the budget commission in the Recovery Plan Act Fund by \$169,800 as of December 31, 2021, which is contrary to Ohio Revised Code Section 5705.39.

**Note 13 – COVID-19**

The United States and the State of Ohio declared a state of emergency in March of 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The financial impact of COVID-19 and the continuing emergency measures will impact subsequent periods of the City. The City's investment portfolio fluctuates with market conditions, and due to market volatility, the amount of gains or losses that will be realized in subsequent periods, if any, cannot be determined. In addition, the impact on the City's future operating costs, revenues, and additional recovery from emergency funding, either federal or state, cannot be estimated.

During 2021, the City received COVID-19 funding. Of the amounts received, none was sub-granted to other governments and organizations.

# OHIO AUDITOR OF STATE KEITH FABER



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## INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT ON INTERNAL CONTROL OVER FINANCIAL REPORTING AND ON COMPLIANCE AND OTHER MATTERS REQUIRED BY *GOVERNMENT AUDITING STANDARDS*

City of North College Hill  
Hamilton County  
1500 West Galbraith Road  
Cincinnati, Ohio 45231

To the City Council:

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 (*Government Auditing Standards*), the cash-basis financial statements of the governmental activities, the business-type activities, each major fund, and the aggregate remaining fund information of the City of North College Hill, Hamilton County, (the City) as of and for the years ended December 31, 2022 and 2021, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise the City's basic financial statements and have issued our report thereon dated November 9, 2023, wherein we noted the City uses a special purpose framework other than generally accepted accounting principles. We also noted the financial impact of COVID-19 and the continuing emergency measures which may impact subsequent periods of the City.

### ***Report on Internal Control Over Financial Reporting***

In planning and performing our audit of the financial statements, we considered the City's internal control over financial reporting (internal control) as a basis for designing audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances for the purpose of expressing our opinion on the financial statements, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the City's internal control. Accordingly, we do not express an opinion on the effectiveness of the City'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 City'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. We did identify certain deficiencies in internal control, described in the accompanying schedule of findings as items 2022-001 through 2022-003, 2022-005, 2022-006, 2022-008, and 2022-009 that we consider to be material weaknesses.

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

As part of obtaining reasonable assurance about whether the City'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 financial statements. 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 instances of noncompliance or other matters we must report under *Government Auditing Standards* which are described in the accompanying schedule of findings as items 2022-003 through 2022-008.

***City's Response to Findings***

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

***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 City'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 City's internal control and compliance. Accordingly, this communication is not suitable for any other purpose.



Keith Faber  
Auditor of State  
Columbus, Ohio  
November 9, 2023



CITY OF NORTH COLLEGE HILL  
HAMILTON COUNTY

SCHEDULE OF FINDINGS  
DECEMBER 31, 2022 AND 2021

FINDINGS RELATED TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
REQUIRED TO BE REPORTED IN ACCORDANCE WITH GAGAS

FINDING NUMBER 2022-001

**Material Weakness – Financial Reporting**

In our audit engagement letter, as required by AU-C Section 210, *Term of Engagement*, paragraph .06, management acknowledged its responsibility for the preparation and fair presentation of their financial statements; this responsibility includes designing, implementing, and maintaining internal control relevant to preparing and fairly presenting financial statements free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error as discussed in AU-C Section 210 paragraphs .A14 & .A16.

Due to deficiencies in the City's internal controls over financial reporting, the following conditions related to the City's financial statements and accounting records were identified:

- Intergovernmental receipts totaling \$77,635 in the Street Maintenance Fund were incorrectly posted to the Waste Collection Fund in 2022.
- Intergovernmental receipts totaling \$193,180 in the Street Maintenance Fund were incorrectly posted to the General Fund in 2022.
- Intergovernmental receipts from Homestead and Rollback were overstated by \$31,694 and \$66,973 in the General Fund and Street Maintenance Fund, respectively, and understated by \$45,690, \$35,154, \$12,254 and \$5,569 in the Street Levy Fund, Fire Levy Fund, Police Levy Fund and Senior Center Fund, respectively, in 2022.

The financial statements and accounting system, where applicable, have been adjusted for these errors.

In addition to the adjustments listed above, we also identified additional immaterial misstatements ranging from \$6,061 to \$91,531 that we have brought to the City's attention. The financial statements were not adjusted for these errors.

The City did not have procedures in place for effective monitoring of the City's financial activity, and the accuracy of accounting and financial reporting. It is important that the City Council take an active role in monitoring the posting and reporting of such activity. Failure to accurately post and monitor financial activity increases the risk that errors, theft, and fraud could occur and not be detected in a timely manner.

Due care should be exercised when posting entries to the financial records and financial statement preparation. The City should review the chart of accounts to assure that items are being posted to the proper account codes and funds, and update control procedures for review of financial activity so that errors can be detected and corrected in a timely manner.

FINDING NUMBER 2022-002

**Material Weakness – Cash Reconciliation Process Errors**

Sound accounting practices require that when designing the public office's system of internal control and the specific control activities, management should ensure adequate security of assets and records, and verify the existence and valuation of assets and liabilities and periodically reconcile them to the accounting records.

**FINDING NUMBER 2022-002  
(Continued)**

The reconciliation of all cash (bank) balances to accounting system records (book) to the accounting system is the most basic and primary control process performed. Lack of completing an accurate and timely reconciliation may allow for accounting errors, theft and fraud to occur without timely detection.

The Finance Director is responsible for reconciling the book (fund) balance to the total bank balance on a monthly basis, and the Council and/or other administrator are responsible for reviewing the reconciliations and related support.

Monthly bank to book reconciliations were not accurately prepared or reviewed each month of 2021 and 2022. The City contracted with an accounting firm to prepare its cash reconciliations for 2021 and 2022. Once known factors were considered, adjustments totaling \$867,076 were required to reconcile the December 2022 bank balance to the City's fund balances recorded in the accounting system and on the financial statements. Failure to reconcile monthly increases the possibility that the City will not be able to identify, assemble, analyze, classify, and record its transactions correctly or to document compliance with finance related legal and contractual requirements. Further, the lack of accurate monthly reconciliations increases the risk of theft/fraud over the cash cycle and could lead to inaccurate reporting in the annual financial statements.

The Finance Director should record all transactions and prepare monthly bank to book cash reconciliations, which include all bank accounts and all fund balances. Variances should be investigated, documented and corrected. In addition, the Council should review the monthly cash reconciliations including the related support (such as reconciling items) and document the reviews.

**FINDING NUMBER 2022-003**

**Noncompliance/Material Weakness – Recording in Incorrect Fund**

**Ohio Rev. Code § 5705.10(D)** provides in part that all revenue derived from a source other than the general property tax and which the law prescribes shall be used for a particular purpose, shall be paid into a special fund for such purpose.

The City inappropriately recorded \$490,084 of America Rescue Plan Act revenue in the General Fund. Given the source of the revenue, this should have been recorded in the America Rescue Plan Act special revenue fund. Audit adjustments are reflected in the financial statements and in the accounting records correcting the misstatement. Additionally, the City did not have sufficient grant tracking and monitoring in place to verify that the American Rescue Plan Act, CARES Act, Residential Recycling Incentive Grant, and We Thrive Grant revenues were used for intended purposes.

The lack of controls over the posting of financial transactions and monitoring grant usage decreases the reliability of financial data at year-end and can result in undetected errors and irregularities. The City should implement controls to help ensure all transactions are reviewed, posting to the proper funds and grants are properly monitored.

**FINDING NUMBER 2022-004**

**Noncompliance – Filing of Annual Financial Reports**

**Ohio Rev. Code § 117.38** provides that each public office shall file a financial report for each fiscal year. The Auditor of State may prescribe forms by rule or may issue guidelines, or both, for such reports. If the Auditor of State has not prescribed a rule regarding the form for the report, the public office shall submit its report on the form utilized by the public office.

**FINDING NUMBER 2022-004**  
**(Continued)**

**Ohio Admin. Code 117-2-03(B)**, which further clarifies the requirements of Ohio Rev. Code § 117.38, requires the City to file annual financial reports which are prepared using generally accepted accounting principles (GAAP).

The City prepared financial statements that, although formatted similar to financial statements prescribed by the Governmental Accounting Standards Board, report on the cash basis of accounting rather than GAAP. The accompanying financial statements and notes omit certain assets, liabilities, deferred inflows/outflows of resources, fund equities/net position, and disclosures that, while presumed material, cannot be determined at this time.

In addition, the City filed its 2021 and 2022 annual reports on January 6, 2023 and May 31, 2023, respectively, and no extensions were obtained. The City did not have procedures in place for effective monitoring of the timeliness of the City's annual report. Failure to file an annual report in a timely manner could result in auditing difficulties.

Pursuant to Ohio Rev. Code § 117.38 the City may be fined and subject to various other administrative remedies for its failure to file the required financial report in a timely fashion. Failure to report on a GAAP basis compromises the City's ability to evaluate and monitor the overall financial condition of the City. To help provide the users with more meaningful financial statements, the City should prepare its annual financial statements according to generally accepted accounting principles.

**FINDING NUMBER 2022-005**

**Noncompliance/Material Weakness – Municipal Contracts**

**Ohio Rev. Code § 735.05** provides that expenditures exceeding fifty thousand dollars shall first be authorized and directed by ordinance of the city legislative authority. When so authorized and directed, the director of public service shall make a written contract with the lowest and best bidder after advertisement for not less than two nor more than four consecutive weeks in a newspaper of general circulation within the city.

**Ohio Rev. Code § 733.22** indicates no contract in the department of public service, in excess of five thousand dollars, shall be awarded except on the approval of the board of control of the city, which board shall direct the director to enter into the contract.

Contrary to the above requirements for municipal contracts, the following condition was identified:

- In March 2021, the City purchased a Street Sweeper for \$167,000. This contract was not competitively bid or approved by Council in the minutes. The contract was signed by the former Finance Director.

Unauthorized contracts and expenditures could result in illegal expenditures being made by the City and potential findings for recovery for such illegal expenditures.

To improve the internal controls over municipal contracts, the City should implement controls to help ensure all contracts over \$50,000 are bid, are formally approved by Council via resolution, and are properly signed.

#### **FINDING NUMBER 2022-006**

##### **Noncompliance/Material Weakness – Expenditures Exceeding Appropriations**

**Ohio Rev. Code § 5705.41(B)** prohibits a subdivision or taxing authority unit from making any expenditure of money unless it has been appropriated in accordance with the Ohio Revised Code.

Due to inadequate policies and procedures in approving and reviewing budget versus actual information, the City's Street Levy Fund (#401) and Waste Collection Fund (#230) had expenditures in excess of appropriations of \$432,948 and \$21,340, respectively, as of December 31, 2021.

Failure to have adequate appropriations in place at the time expenditures are made could cause expenditures to exceed available resources, further resulting in deficit spending practices.

The Council should closely monitor expenditures and appropriations and make the necessary appropriation amendments, if possible, to reduce the likelihood of expenditures exceeding appropriations. Additionally, the Finance Director should deny payment requests exceeding appropriations when appropriations are inadequate to cover the expenditures.

#### **FINDING NUMBER 2022-007**

##### **Noncompliance – Appropriations Exceeding Estimated Resources**

**Ohio Rev. Code § 5705.39** provides that total appropriations from each fund shall not exceed the total of the estimated revenue available for expenditure there-from, as certified by the county budget commission, or in case of appeal, by the board of tax appeals. No appropriation measure shall become effective until the county auditor files with the appropriating authority a certificate that the total appropriations from each fund, taken together with all other outstanding appropriations, do not exceed such official estimate or amended official estimate. For purposes of this section of the Ohio Rev. Code, estimated revenue is commonly referred to as “estimated resources” because it includes unencumbered fund balances.

At December 31, 2021 the City's appropriations exceeded the amount certified as available by the budget commission in the Recovery Plan Act Fund by \$169,800. In 2022 the City failed to obtain the budget commission's certification of estimated revenue; see Finding 2022-008. Therefore, at December 31, 2022 the City's appropriations exceeded estimated revenue across all funds by \$9,826,581.

Failure to limit appropriations to the amount certified by the budget commission due to deficiencies in the City's compliance monitoring policies and procedures could result in overspending and negative cash fund balances.

The City should draft, approve, and implement procedures to compare appropriations to estimated resources and, if adequate resources are available for additional appropriations, the City should submit an amended certificate of estimated resources to the budget commission for certification. If the resources are not available to cover the appropriations, an amendment to the appropriation resolution should be passed by the Council to reduce the appropriations.

#### FINDING NUMBER 2022-008

##### **Noncompliance/Material Weakness – No Amended Official Certificate**

**Ohio Rev. Code § 5705.36(A)(1)** provides, in part, on or about the first day of each fiscal year, the fiscal officer of each subdivision and other taxing unit shall certify to the county auditor the total amount from all sources available for expenditures from each fund set up in the tax budget or, if adoption of a tax budget was waived under section 5705.281 of the Revised Code, from each fund created by or on behalf of the taxing authority.

The budget commission, taking into consideration the balances and revenues to be derived from taxation and other sources, shall revise its estimate of the amounts that will be credited to each fund from such sources, and shall certify to the taxing authority of each subdivision an amended official certificate of estimated resources.

The Finance Director did not certify to the County Auditor the total amount from all sources available for expenditures from each fund or obtain a certificate of estimated resources from the Budget Commission in 2022. This was not detected by the City due to deficiencies in the budgetary compliance and monitoring control policies and procedures. Failure to obtain the required amended certificate of estimated resources can lead to improper budgeting and limits the effectiveness of management monitoring.

The Finance Director should on, or about the first day of each fiscal year, certify to the county auditor the total amount from all sources available for expenditures from each fund and obtain the approved amended certificate of estimated resources.

#### FINDING NUMBER 2022-009

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##### **Material Weakness – Budgetary Amounts not recorded in accounting system**

In our audit engagement letter, as required by AU-C Section 210, *Term of Engagement*, paragraph .06, management acknowledged its responsibility for the preparation and fair presentation of their financial statements; this responsibility includes designing, implementing, and maintaining internal control relevant to preparing and fairly presenting financial statements free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error as discussed in AU-C Section 210 paragraphs .A14 & .A16.

Sound accounting practices require accurately posting estimated receipts and appropriations to the ledgers to provide information for budget versus actual comparison and to allow the Council to make informed decisions regarding budgetary matters.

The Appropriation resolution and subsequent amendments establish the legal spending authority of the City and the appropriation ledger provides the process by which the City controls spending, it is therefore necessary the amounts appropriated by the Council are precisely stated and accurately posted to the appropriation ledger.

The original certificate and amendments establish the amounts available for expenditures for the City and the receipts ledger provides the process by which the City controls what is available, it is therefore necessary the amounts estimated by the County Budget Commission are posted accurately to the receipts ledger.

The City did not have procedures in place to accurately post authorized budgetary measures to the accounting system. The appropriations (and/or amendments thereof) approved by Council were not properly posted to the accounting system. Additionally, the approved Certificate of Estimated Resources (and/or amendments thereof) was not properly posted to the accounting system.

**FINDING NUMBER 2022-009**  
**(Continued)**

At December 31, 2022, the budgeted amounts posted to the City's accounting ledgers varied from the appropriations adopted by the Council as follows:

Funds	Per Appropriation Resolutions	Amount Posted to System	Variance
General Fund	\$4,307,698	\$4,478,112	\$170,414
Fire Equipment Fund	266,000	276,191	10,191

At December 31, 2021, the budgeted amounts posted to the City's accounting ledgers varied from the appropriations adopted by the Council as follows:

Funds	Per Appropriation Resolutions	Amount Posted to System	Variance
General Fund	\$3,483,801	\$3,529,856	\$46,055
Street Fund	568,430	594,003	25,573
Down Payment Assistance Fund	34,200	0	(34,200)
CARES Relief Fund	3,397	292,346	288,949
Fire Equipment Fund	260,029	268,479	8,450
Waste Collection Fund	741,000	765,000	24,000
ARPA Fund	656,202	486,402	(169,800)
Police Levy Fund	616,419	634,373	17,954
Fire/EMS Levy Fund	445,946	501,945	55,999
Street Levy Fund	2,147,674	1,964,860	(182,814)
City Center Fund	28,197	0	(28,197)
Hamilton Avenue Capital Fund	590,000	0	(590,000)
Stormwater Assessment Fund	30,000	45,000	15,000

At December 31, 2021, the budgeted amount for the General Fund posted to the City's accounting ledgers and Final Budget in the Budget and Actual Statement varied from the Certificate of Estimated Resources certified by the County Budget Commission by \$143,802.

In addition, the following conditions related to the footnotes to the financial statements were identified:

- Original Budgeted Disbursements for the General Fund were understated by \$4,304,698 for 2022.
- Original Budgeted Disbursements for the Fire Levy Fund were understated by \$1,304,644 for 2022.
- Final Budgeted Receipts for the Fire Levy Fund were overstated by \$339,328 for 2022.
- Final Budgeted Receipts for the General Fund were overstated by \$143,802 for 2021.
- Final Budgeted Disbursements for the General Fund were overstated by \$135,768 and \$31,591 for 2022 and 2021, respectively.
- Final Budgeted Disbursements for the ARPA Fund were understated by \$169,800 for 2021.

Failure to accurately post the appropriations and estimated resources to the ledgers could result in overspending and negative cash balances. In addition, this could lead to inaccurate reporting of the budgetary information in the financial statements.

**FINDING NUMBER 2022-009  
(Continued)**

To effectively control the budgetary cycle and to maintain accountability over receipts and expenditures, the City should post to the ledgers, on a timely basis, estimated resources as certified by the budget commission and appropriations approved by the Council. The City should then monitor budget versus actual reports to help ensure amended certificates of resources and appropriations have been properly posted to the ledgers.

**Official's Response:**

- 2022-01: We are correcting this finding and updating our policies and procedures to ensure that this is handled correctly going forward. Unfortunately, in 2021-2022 we had a lot of turnover of staff.
- 2022-02: We are correcting this finding and updating our policies and procedures to ensure that this is handled correctly going forward.
- 2022-03: Posting errors are being corrected.
- 2022-04: Posting errors are being corrected.
- 2022-08: We are correcting this finding and updating our policies and procedures to ensure that this is handled correctly going forward.
- 2022-09: We are correcting this finding and updating our policies and procedures to ensure that this is handled correctly going forward.

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**SUMMARY SCHEDULE OF PRIOR AUDIT FINDINGS**

**DECEMBER 31, 2022 AND 2021**

<b>Finding Number</b>	<b>Finding Summary</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Additional Information</b>
2020-001	AU-C Section 210, <i>Term of Engagement</i> , paragraph .06, management acknowledges it is their responsibility for preparation and fair presentation of their financial statements.	Not Corrected	Reissued as Finding 2022-001
2020-002	Monthly bank to book reconciliations were not accurately prepared or reviewed each month.	Not Corrected	Reissued as Finding 2022-002
2020-003	Ohio Rev. Code § 5705.10 (I) requires that money paid into any fund shall be used only for the purposes for which such fund is established.	Not Corrected	Reissued as Finding 2022-003
2020-004	Ohio Administrative Code, Section 117-2-03(B), requires the City to prepare its annual financial report in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles.	Not Corrected	Reissued as Finding 2022-004



# OHIO AUDITOR OF STATE KEITH FABER



**CITY OF NORTH COLLEGE HILL**

**HAMILTON COUNTY**

**AUDITOR OF STATE OF OHIO CERTIFICATION**

This is a true and correct copy of the report, which is required to be filed pursuant to Section 117.26, Revised Code, and which is filed in the Office of the Ohio Auditor of State in Columbus, Ohio.



**Certified for Release 11/21/2023**

88 East Broad Street, Columbus, Ohio 43215  
Phone: 614-466-4514 or 800-282-0370

This report is a matter of public record and is available online at  
[www.ohioauditor.gov](http://www.ohioauditor.gov)