

CITY COUNCIL POLICY		POLICY NO.:	FIN-06
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I. Purpose and Need for Policy

Chapter 2256 of Title 10 of the Local Government Code (“Public Funds Investment Act”) requires each city to adopt rules governing its investment practices and to define the authority of the investment officer. The following Investment Policy addresses the methods, procedures and practices which must be exercised to ensure effective and judicious fiscal management of City of Garland funds.

II. Policy

The Investment Policy applies to the investment and management of all funds under direct authority of the City of Garland. These funds include all governmental, proprietary, and trust and agency funds which are accounted for in the City’s Comprehensive Annual Financial Report. The Employees Deferred Compensation Agency Fund is excluded from coverage under this Policy.

III. Procedure To Accomplish Policy

The Statement of Investment Policy will be accomplished through the following guidelines:

A. Objectives

Investment of funds will be governed by the following investment objectives, in order of priority:

1. Preservation and safety of principal. Preservation of capital is the foremost objective of the City. Each investment transaction shall seek first to ensure that capital losses are avoided, whether the loss occurs from the default of a security or from erosion of market value.

2. Liquidity. The City’s investment portfolio will remain sufficiently liquid to enable the City to meet all operating requirements which can be reasonably anticipated. Liquidity will be achieved by matching investment maturities with forecasted cash flow requirements and by investing in securities with active secondary markets.

3. Yield. The investment portfolio of the City shall be designed to attain a market-average rate of return throughout budgetary and economic cycles, taking into account the City’s investment risk constraints and the cash flow characteristics of the

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portfolio. The Director of Financial Services will from time to time establish performance measures and goals for the portfolio rates of return. Efforts to seek returns higher than the established goals must be consistent with risk limitations identified in this policy and prudent investment principles.

B. Investment Authority

Management responsibility for the investment program has been assigned to the Director of Financial Services by the City Council. Other individuals authorized as investment officials by the City Council are the Cash Manager and the Accounting Manager. Investment authority of all investment officers will be limited by conformance with all Federal regulations, State of Texas statutes and other legal requirements including the City Charter and City Ordinances, the Statement of Investment Policy and the Statement of Investment Strategy. The Director shall establish written procedures for the operation of the investment program, consistent with the Statement of Investment Policy. No person may engage in an investment transaction or the management of funds except as provided under the terms of the Statement of Investment Policy, the Statement of Investment Strategy and the procedures established by the Director of Financial Services.

Each investment officer shall attend a training session not less than once in a two year period and receive not less than 10 hours of instruction relating to investment responsibilities. Training must be provided by an independent source approved by the City Council.

C. Internal Controls

The Director of Financial Services shall establish a system of internal controls which shall be documented in writing. The controls shall be designed to prevent losses of public funds arising from fraud, employee error, misrepresentation by third parties, unanticipated changes in financial markets, or imprudent actions by investment officials. Controls deemed most important would include: control of collusion, separation of duties, separating transaction authority from accounting and recordkeeping, custodial safekeeping, avoidance of bearer-form securities, clear delegation of authority, specific limitations regarding securities losses and remedial action, written confirmation of telephone transactions, minimizing the number of authorized investment officials, and documentation of and rationale for transactions.

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In conjunction with their annual independent audit, the auditor shall review the investment records for the end of each quarter. The independent auditor shall report the results of the review directly to the City Council.

D. Standard of Care

The standard of care to be used by investment officers shall be the “prudent person” rule which states, “Investments shall be made with the exercise of that degree of judgment and care, under circumstances then prevailing, which persons of prudence, discretion and intelligence exercise in the management of their own affairs, not for speculation but for investment, considering the probable safety of their capital as well as the probable income to be derived.”

In applying the “prudent person” rule, the investment officer shall exercise prudence with respect to the management and investment of all funds over which the officer has responsibility and control. The investment officer must determine whether investment decisions are consist with the Statement of Investment Policy.

All participants in the investment program will seek to act responsibly as custodians of the public trust. Investment officials will avoid any transaction that might impair public confidence in the City’s ability to govern effectively. Investment officers shall recognize that the investment portfolio is subject to public review and evaluation. The overall program shall be designed and managed with a degree of professionalism which is worthy of the public trust. Nevertheless, the City recognizes that in a diversified portfolio, occasional measured losses are inevitable and must be considered within the context of the overall portfolio’s investment return, provided that adequate diversification has been implemented.

Investment officers, acting in accordance with written procedures and exercising due diligence, shall not be held personally responsible for market-price changes, provided that these changes are reported immediately and that appropriate action is taken to control adverse developments.

E. Instruments

Investment instruments authorized for purchase by the City are limited to:

1. Direct obligations of the United States government with a stated final maturity of five years or less from the date of purchase.

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2. Debentures or discount notes with a stated final maturity of five years or less from the date of purchase issued by, guaranteed by, or for which the credit of any of the following Federal Agencies and Instrumentalities is pledged for payment: Federal National Mortgage Association (FNMA), Federal Home Loan Bank (FHLB), Federal Farm Credit Bank (FFCB), Student Loan Marketing Association (SLMA), and Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corporation (FHLMC).

3. Bonds or other interest bearing obligations having a stated final maturity of five years or less from the date of purchase of which the principal and interest are guaranteed by the full faith and credit of the United States government

4. Repurchase agreements collateralized with U.S. Treasury securities at a minimum market value of 102 percent of the dollar value of the transaction, with any accrued interest accumulated on the collateral included in the calculation. Eligible collateral will have a maximum maturity of ten years.

Repurchase Agreements will be entered into with primary government securities dealers who have executed a City approved Master Repurchase Agreement. Collateral shall be delivered to and held by the City's third party safekeeping agent.

The term Repurchase agreement includes direct security repurchase agreements and reverse security repurchase agreements. A written master repurchase agreement shall be established between the City and the seller prior to purchase. The maximum term for direct security repurchase agreements and reverse security repurchase agreements will be 90 days or less. Funds received under the terms of a reverse security repurchase agreement may not be used to purchase any investment whose final maturity date exceeds the expiration of the reverse.

5. Certificates of Deposit issued by a depository institution that has its main office or branch office in Texas:

(a) And such Certificates of Deposit are:

1. Guaranteed or insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation or the National Credit Union Share Insurance Fund or their successors; or
2. Secured by obligations described in Section E, 1 and 2 above, and the collateral will be held by the City's third party custodian.

(b) Or such depository institution contractually agrees to place the funds in federally insured depository institutions in accordance with the conditions prescribed in Section 2256.010(b) of the Government Code (Public Funds Investment Act) as amended.

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Certificates of Deposit brokered by an authorized broker/dealer that has its main office or a branch office in Texas who contractually agrees to place the funds in federally insured depository institutions in accordance with the conditions prescribed in Section 2256.010(b) of the Government Code (Public Funds Investment Act) as amended

6. SEC registered no-load money market mutual funds with a dollar-weighted average portfolio maturity of 90 days or less. Assets will consist exclusively of those securities listed in paragraphs 1, 2, 3, and 4 above. The investment objective of the fund is to maintain a stable \$1 net asset value. The maximum stated maturity of the fund will be 13 months.

7. State or local investment pools organized under the Interlocal Cooperation Act. The investment pool must be rated no lower than investment grade by at least one nationally recognized rating agency and have a dollar-weighted average portfolio maturity of 90 days or less. Assets will consist exclusively of those securities listed in paragraphs 1, 2, 3 and 4 above. The investment objective of the pool is to maintain a stable \$1 net asset value. All securities owned in the pool will have a stated remaining maturity of thirteen (13) months.

8. Commercial paper rated not less than A1 or P1 or an equivalent rating by at least two nationally recognized credit rating agencies or one nationally recognized credit rating agency and is fully secured by an irrevocable letter of credit issued by a bank organized and existing under the laws of the United States or any state. The securities must have a stated maturity of 180 days or less from the date of purchase. No more than 2% of any one issuer may be held and no more than 25% of any fund or group of funds will be invested in commercial paper. Physical delivery securities are ineligible.

9. Obligations of states, agencies, cities, and other political subdivisions of any state rated not less than A or an equivalent rating by at least two nationally recognized credit rating agencies.

10. The credit rating of Investment instruments will be continuously monitored through daily market participation and through the monthly mark to market pricing of securities. The liquidation of an investment instrument will be considered if its credit rating falls below minimums stated in the Investment Policy.

The City is expressly prohibited from entering into options trading or futures contracts, hedging or purchasing any security which is not authorized by Texas state law.

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F. Investment Strategies

As an integral part of the Statement of Investment Policy, the City shall adopt a separate written Statement of Investment Strategy (See FIN-05) for each fund or group of funds. Each investment strategy shall describe the investment objectives of each fund or group of funds according to the following order of importance:

1. suitability
2. preservation and safety of principal
3. liquidity
4. marketability of the investment before maturity
5. diversification
6. yield

G. Safekeeping and Custody

Securities purchased for the City's portfolios will be delivered by book entry and will be held in third party safekeeping by a Federal Reserve member financial institution designated as the City's custody and safekeeping agent.

The City will execute Safekeeping Agreements prior to utilizing the custodian's safekeeping services. The safekeeping agreement must provide that the safekeeping agent will immediately record and promptly issue and deliver a safekeeping receipt showing the receipt and the identification of the security, as well as the City's interest. All securities owned by the City will be held in a Customer Account naming the City of Garland as the customer.

All security transactions will be on a delivery versus payment basis to the City's third party custody and safekeeping agent through the Federal Reserve Bank wire system. In this manner, the City will always have possession of either the securities or moneys.

Custody and safekeeping procedures will be reviewed annually by the independent auditor.

H. Other Investment Guidelines

The City seeks active portfolio management to enhance total returns within the guidelines of this policy. Investment decisions should not incur unreasonable investment risk in order to obtain investment income. The City will not make investments for the purpose of trading or speculation.

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Each investment transaction must be based on competitive quotations from at least three securities dealers authorized to engage investment transactions with the City. Authorized investment officers shall access real-time electronic financial information to monitor the market price of acquired investments. The pricing information will be used to verify the accuracy of quoted prices for a potential purchase or sale to ensure that a fair market price is attained.

The City will comply with all federal, state and City of Garland regulations governing the investment of funds.

In managing its investment portfolio, the City will avoid any purchase of investments, or any investment practice or procedure which is not specifically authorized under this policy.

I. Diversification

It is the policy of the City to avoid concentration of assets in a specific maturity, a specific issuer or a specific class of securities. The allocation of assets in the portfolios should be flexible depending upon the outlook for the economy and the securities markets. In establishing specific diversification strategies, the following general policies and constraints shall apply.

1. Portfolio maturities shall be staggered in a way that avoids undue concentration of assets in a specific maturity sector. Maturities shall be selected which provide for stability of income and reasonable liquidity.

2. To attain sufficient liquidity, the City shall schedule the maturity of its investments to coincide with known disbursements.

3. Risks of market price volatility shall be controlled through maturity diversification.

4. The placement of investment transactions and the gathering of market information shall be diversified among all authorized brokers.

J. Selection of Depository

A qualified financial institution shall be selected to serve as the City's primary depository through a bank services procurement process, which shall include a formal

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request for application issued at least every five years. In selecting a depository, the City shall consider various criteria as specified prior to the issuance of the request for application. Financial institutions located outside of the city boundaries may be considered to participate in the request for application process provided the City has adopted a policy permitting it.

Upon selection, the financial institution shall comply with the requirements and agreements identified in the request for application. The financial institution is required to comply with Government Code 2257, Collateral for Public Funds.

Eligible securities as defined in Chapter 2257 and identified below shall be deposited with a third party custodian prior to the deposit of City funds. The City reserves the right to accept or reject any form of collateral, at its discretion. The pledged collateral must be maintained at all times during the term of the depository contract at required levels. In order to perfect the City's security interest in the pledged collateral under the Financial Institutions Reform, Recovery, and Enforcement Act of 1989 (FIRREA), it is required that a collateral agreement between the City and the Depository be signed by both parties prior to the deposit of City funds. The collateral agreement must be approved by the Board of Directors or its Loan Committee, which approval shall be reflected in the minutes of said Board or Committee. The signed collateral agreement, Board resolution, and minutes certifying the approval of the collateral agreement must be presented to the City prior to the deposit of City funds.

The following securities are approved as collateral for City funds:

1. United States Treasury notes, bills or bonds or obligations fully and unconditionally guaranteed as to principal and interest by the full faith and credit of the United States,
2. Obligations of the Agencies and Instrumentalities of the United States, including, but not limited to: Federal Home Loan Bank, Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corporation and Federal National Mortgage Association,
3. Mortgage-Backed Securities issued by the United States and its Agencies and Instrumentalities, including but not limited to Government National Mortgage Association.

The use of a Federal Home Loan Bank issued Letter of Credit to meet the required collateral requirements may be proposed by the financial institution for consideration by the City.

K. Selection of Security Broker/Dealer

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Government security broker/dealers authorized to engage in investment transactions with the City will be selected on the basis of their financial stability, expertise in cash management for local government and their ability to service the City's account. The qualifications of prospective broker/dealers will be determined from a completed broker/dealer questionnaire, personal interview and reference checks.

Before engaging in investment transactions with the City, a prospective securities broker/dealer must provide a written instrument certifying that the securities broker/dealer has received and has thoroughly reviewed the City's Statement of Investment Policy and has implemented reasonable procedures and controls in an effort to preclude conducting investment transactions that are not authorized by the City's Statement of Investment Policy, except to the extent that this authorization is dependent upon the portfolio over which the broker/dealer has no control or knowledge. A prospective securities broker/dealer must provide evidence of FINRA registration and State of Texas Securities Commission certification. Qualified broker/dealers authorized to engage in investment transactions with the City are required to regularly submit their most recent audited financial statements to the City.

The City Council will adopt and annually review the list of dealers authorized to engage in investment transactions with the City.

L. Management Reports

The investment officer shall prepare and submit to the City Council and management on a quarterly basis an investment report for each fund and fund group which describes in detail the current investment position, states the beginning market value, the additions and changes to market value, and ending market value for each pooled fund, states the book value and market value of each separately invested asset at the beginning and end of the reporting period, states the maturity date of each separately invested asset, states the fund for which each individual investment was acquired and states compliance of each fund group with the Statement of Investment Strategy, the Public Funds Investment Act and generally accepted accounting principles. The report shall also summarize and present, on a combined portfolio basis, total market valuation, total realized gains and losses, total unrealized gains and losses, distribution by maturity sector and distribution by security type. The monthly report will also indicate, by portfolio, total investments held and total interest income earned on a full accrual basis.

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The report may comment on current investment approaches and other items significant to the investment program. The report shall be signed by the Director of Financial Services and the investment officer.

The investment report presented at the end of the fiscal year may also include a review of the investment activities and earnings for the entire fiscal year for each fund or fund group, discuss investment techniques and suggest improvements which will enhance the investment program and present an investment plan for the ensuing fiscal year. The report may discuss other significant issues related to the investment program.

M. Ethics and Conflicts of Interest

Investment officers of the City shall refrain from personal and business activities involving any of the City's custodians, depositories, broker/dealers or investment advisors which may influence the officers' ability to conduct his duties in an unbiased manner. Investment officers will not utilize investment advice concerning specific securities or classes of securities obtained in the transaction of the City's business for personal investment decisions, will in all respects subordinate their personal investment transactions to those of the City, particularly with regard to the timing of purchase and sales and will keep all investment advice obtained on behalf of the City and all transactions contemplated and completed by the City confidential, except when disclosure is required by law.

N. Responsibility and Authority

The Statement of Investment Policy and the Statement of Investment Strategy will be reviewed annually by the City Council. Upon completion of the review, the City Council will adopt a resolution stating that it has reviewed the Investment Policy and Investment Strategy. Periodic revisions to the Investment Policy and the Investment Strategy will be approved by resolution of the City Council.

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