

September 25, 2023

Honorable Mayor and Common Council  
City of Princeton  
705 N 2nd St  
Princeton, Minnesota 55371

We have audited the financial statements of the of City of Princeton, Minnesota as of and for the year ended December 31, 2022, and have issued our report thereon dated September 25, 2023. Professional standards require that we advise you of the following matters relating to our audit.

### **Our Responsibility in Relation to the Financial Statement Audit**

As communicated in our engagement letter dated December 21, 2022, our responsibility, as described by professional standards, is to form and express an opinion about whether the financial statements that have been prepared by management with your oversight are presented fairly, in all material respects, in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America and *Government Auditing Standards*. Our audit of the financial statements does not relieve you or management of your respective responsibilities.

Our responsibility, as prescribed by professional standards, is to plan and perform our audit to obtain reasonable, rather than absolute, assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. An audit of financial statements includes consideration of internal control over financial reporting as a basis for designing audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control over financial reporting. Accordingly, as part of our audit, we considered the internal control of City of Princeton solely for the purpose of determining our audit procedures and not to provide any assurance concerning such internal control.

We are also responsible for communicating significant matters related to the audit that are, in our professional judgment, relevant to your responsibilities in overseeing the financial reporting process. However, we are not required to design procedures for the purpose of identifying other matters to communicate to you.

We have provided our findings regarding significant control deficiencies over financial reporting and other matters noted during our audit in a separate letter to you dated September 25, 2023.

### **Planned Scope and Timing of the Audit**

We conducted our audit consistent with the planned scope and timing we previously communicated to you.

### **Compliance with All Ethics Requirements Regarding Independence**

The engagement team, others in our firm, as appropriate, our firm, and our network firms have complied with all relevant ethical requirements regarding independence.

### **Significant Risks Identified**

We have identified the following significant risks:

- Limited segregation of duties, which requires special audit consideration due to the potential magnitude of misstatement.
- Material audit adjustments, which requires special audit consideration due to the potential magnitude of misstatement.

### **Qualitative Aspects of the Entity's Significant Accounting Practices**

#### *Significant Accounting Policies*

Management has the responsibility to select and use appropriate accounting policies. A summary of the significant accounting policies adopted by the City is included in Note 1 to the financial statements. As discussed in Note 1 to the financial statements, the City implemented Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) Statement No. 87, *Leases*, during the year ended December 31, 2022. No matters have come to our attention that would require us, under professional standards, to inform you about (1) the methods used to account for significant unusual transactions and (2) the effect of significant accounting policies in controversial or emerging areas for which there is a lack of authoritative guidance or consensus.

#### *Significant Accounting Estimates*

Accounting estimates are an integral part of the financial statements prepared by management and are based on management's current judgments. Those judgments are normally based on knowledge and experience about past and current events and assumptions about future events. Certain accounting estimates are particularly sensitive because of their significance to the financial statements and because of the possibility that future events affecting them may differ markedly from management's current judgments.

The most sensitive accounting estimate(s) affecting the financial statements are:

#### *Net Pension Liability*

Management's estimate of the net pension liability is actuarially determined. We have evaluated the estimates used in the study and determined they were reasonable in relation to the basic financial statements taken as a whole and in relation to the applicable opinion units.

#### *Depreciation of Capital Assets*

Management's estimate of the useful life of purchased, constructed or contributed capital assets is based on the estimated productive life of these assets. We evaluated key factors and assumptions used to develop the estimated useful lives assigned to capital assets and determined that it is reasonable in relation to the basic financial statements taken as a whole and in relation to the applicable opinion units.

#### *Financial Statement Disclosures*

The financial statement disclosures are neutral, consistent, and clear

### **Significant Difficulties Encountered during the Audit**

We encountered no significant difficulties in dealing with management relating to the performance of the audit.

### **Uncorrected and Corrected Misstatements**

For purposes of this communication, professional standards also require us to accumulate all known and likely misstatements identified during the audit, other than those that we believe are trivial, and communicate them to the appropriate level of management. The attached schedule summarizes uncorrected financial statement misstatements whose effects in the current and prior periods, as determined by management, are immaterial, both individually and in the aggregate, to the financial statements taken as a whole. Uncorrected misstatements or matters underlying those uncorrected misstatements could potentially cause future-period financial statements to be materially misstated, even though the uncorrected misstatements are immaterial to the financial statements currently under audit.

In addition, professional standards require us to communicate to you all material, corrected misstatements that were brought to the attention of management as a result of our audit procedures. All material misstatements that we identified as a result of our audit procedures were brought to the attention of, and were corrected by, management.

### **Disagreements with Management**

For purposes of this letter, professional standards define a disagreement with management as a matter, whether or not resolved to our satisfaction, concerning a financial accounting, reporting, or auditing matter, which could be significant to City of Princeton's financial statements or the auditor's report. No such disagreements arose during the course of the audit.

### **Representations Requested from Management**

We have requested certain written representations from management, which are included in the attached letter dated September 25, 2023.

### **Management's Consultations with Other Accountants**

In some cases, management may decide to consult with other accountants about auditing and accounting matters. Management informed us that, and to our knowledge, there were no consultations with other accountants regarding auditing and accounting matters.

### **Other Significant Matters, Findings, or Issues**

In the normal course of our professional association with City of Princeton we generally discuss a variety of matters, including the application of accounting principles and auditing standards, significant events or transactions that occurred during the year, operating and regulatory conditions affecting the entity, and operational plans and strategies that may affect the risks of material misstatement. None of the matters discussed resulted in a condition to our retention as City of Princeton's auditors.

Other Matters

We applied certain limited procedures to Schedule of City Contributions and Schedule of Proportionate Share of Net Pension Liability, which are required supplementary information (RSI) that supplements the basic financial statements. Our procedures consisted of inquiries of management regarding the methods of preparing the information and comparing the information for consistency with management's responses to our inquiries, the basic financial statements, and other knowledge we obtained during our audit of the basic financial statements. We did not audit the RSI and do not express an opinion or provide any assurance on the RSI.

This report is intended solely for the information and use of the honorable mayor and city council, and management of City of Princeton and is not intended to be and should not be used by anyone other than these specified parties.

Very truly yours,

*Smith, Schaff and Associates, Ltd.*

