

**AUDITED  
BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

**CITY OF NIAGARA FALLS, NEW YORK**

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**DECEMBER 31, 2019**

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## **FINANCIAL SECTION**

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## **INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT**

The Honorable Members of City Council  
City of Niagara Falls, New York

### **Report on the Financial Statements**

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of the governmental activities, the aggregate discretely presented component units, each major fund, and the aggregate remaining fund information of the City of Niagara Falls, New York (the City), as of and for the year ended December 31, 2019, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise the City's basic financial statements as listed in the table of contents.

### ***Management's Responsibility for the Financial Statements***

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

### ***Auditor's Responsibility***

Our responsibility is to express opinions on these financial statements based on our audit. We did not audit the financial statements of the Niagara Falls Public Library (the Library), which represents 2%, 1% and 99%, respectively, of the assets, net position, and revenues of the aggregate discretely presented component units. Those statements were audited by another auditor whose report has been furnished to us, and our opinion, insofar as it relates to the amounts included for the Library, is based solely on the report of the other auditor. We conducted our audit in accordance with 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. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgment, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the City's preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements 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, we express no such opinion. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial statements.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinions.

## **Opinions**

In our opinion, based on our audit and the report of other auditors, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the respective financial position of the governmental activities, the aggregate discretely presented component units, each major fund and the aggregate remaining fund information of the City, as of December 31, 2019, and the respective changes in financial position and, where applicable, cash flows thereof for the year then ended in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

## **Emphasis of Matter**

As stated in Note 1, the City adopted Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) Statement No. 84, *Fiduciary Activities*. Our opinions are not modified with respect to this matter.

## **Other Matters**

### *Required Supplementary Information*

Accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America require that the management's discussion and analysis, and other required supplementary information, as listed in the table of contents, be presented to supplement the basic financial statements. Such information, although not a part of the basic financial statements, is required by the Governmental Accounting Standards Board who considers it to be an essential part of financial reporting for placing the basic financial statements in an appropriate operational, economic, or historical context. We have applied certain limited procedures to the required supplementary information in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America, which consisted of inquiries of management about 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 do not express an opinion or provide any assurance on the information because the limited procedures do not provide us with sufficient evidence to express an opinion or provide any assurance.

### *Other Information*

Our audit was conducted for the purpose of forming opinions on the financial statements that collectively comprise the City's basic financial statements. The supplementary information, as listed in the table of contents, are not a required part of the basic financial statements.

The supplementary information, as listed in the table of contents, are the responsibility of management and were derived from and relate directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the basic financial statements. Such information has been subjected to the auditing procedures applied in the audit of the basic financial statements and certain additional procedures, including comparing and reconciling such information directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the basic financial statements or to the basic financial statements themselves, and other additional procedures in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America. In our opinion, the supplementary information, as listed in the table of contents, is fairly stated, in all material respects, in relation to the basic financial statements as a whole.

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

In accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*, we have also issued our report dated July 23, 2020 on our consideration of the City's internal control over financial reporting and on our tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements and other matters. The purpose of that report is 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.

*Freed Maxick CPAs, P.C.*

Buffalo, New York  
July 23, 2020



# Management's Discussion and Analysis

## City of Niagara Falls, New York

### Fiscal Year ended December 31, 2019

This section of City of Niagara Falls, New York's (the City) annual financial report presents its discussion and analysis of the City's financial performance during the fiscal year ended December 31, 2019. Please read it in conjunction with the City's financial statements, which immediately follow this section. **ALL AMOUNTS ARE EXPRESSED IN THOUSANDS OF DOLLARS, UNLESS OTHERWISE INDICATED.**

#### Financial Highlights

- In June 2011, New York State enacted Chapter 97, Laws of 2011 Real Property Tax Levy Cap and Mandated Relief Provisions, which includes a 2% property tax cap for municipalities. For fiscal years beginning in 2012, no local government is authorized to increase its property tax levy by more than 2% or the rate of inflation (whichever is less). Local governments can exceed the tax levy limit by a 60% vote of the governing body and annually adopting a local law. There are permitted exceptions and adjustments. The City did not approve an override of the allowable property tax cap in the 2019 Adopted Budget. The 2019 Adopted Budget property tax levy was \$30,952,436, an increase of \$529,089, or 1.74% from 2018.
- The final 2013-14 NYS Budget includes a new "Alternative Contribution Stabilization Program" that is similar to the pension amortization program currently available to State and local governments. Under the new program, municipalities will have the option to pay a portion of their annual pension contribution over time using a stable contribution rate system. Once a municipal employer decides to opt into the alternate program, they cannot withdraw from the program. The City did not elect to opt into the alternate program. In the State's fiscal year 2014/2015, the City did amortize its ERS and Police & Fire retirement expense under Chapter 57 (Laws of 2010). In the State's fiscal year of 2018/2019 and 2019/2020 the City fully funded the ERS and Police & Fire retirement expense. The City prepays the expense on December 15th rather than the alternative date of February 1st, to save additional interest expense.
- The City's 2019 Constitutional Tax Limit was 82.16% of the percentage of tax limit exhausted with a \$5,470,040 constitutional tax margin remaining.
- The City's 2019 taxable assessed value is \$1,283,750,014 with a 79% equalization rate. The taxable full value is \$1,625,000,018.
- The 2019 Budget included a 25% shift in the homestead/non-homestead base proportions to continue to equalize the tax rates from the City's two tier tax system.
- In 2019 the City's Constitutional Debt Limit was 47.81% of the percentage of debt limit exhausted with a total of outstanding principal on existing debt at the end of the year of \$51,319,059, leaving a \$56,018,646 debt margin.
- The City's Parking Operations Fund is not an Enterprise Fund. The 2019 General Fund's budget included a revenue transfer in from the Parking Operations Fund in the amount of \$1,896,682. The actual transfer from the Parking Operations Fund to the General Fund was \$2,476,126. This was mainly due to parking meter revenue exceeding budgeted revenue figures. Parking meter revenue collected in 2019 increased by \$198,971 compared to 2018 actual levels and by \$484,317 when compared to 2019 budgeted levels. Net revenue collected via the Parking Operations fund help offset property taxes and/or other related expenditures in the General Fund.
- The City's Golf Course Fund is not an Enterprise Fund and is typically subsidized by the City's General Fund through property taxes. Beginning in April 2019, the City agreed to lease out the daily management and operations of the golf course to a vendor for a term of five (5) years. Beginning in 2020 the Golf Course Fund will become inactive. In 2019, the City's General Fund transfer to the Golf Course to offset the net loss for operations was \$71,192.

- The City's Train Station Fund is not an Enterprise Fund. The 2019 General Fund's budget included a subsidy to the Train Station Fund in the amount of \$193,547. The actual transfer from the General Fund to the Train Station Fund was \$139,223. The City currently has two (2) lease agreements with separate vendors to lease mutually agreed upon square footage within the building. On a quarterly basis the tenants reimburse the City for costs incurred based on an allocation of the square footage included in the respective lease agreements when compared to the total square footage of the property.
- The City continues to maintain its five-year financial, debt and capital plans. These plans are good tools that allow City officials to monitor the City's existing debt and plan for future major capital projects and to see how this will impact future budgets.

### **Economic Development Update**

- In 2019, the City's Downtown Revitalization Initiative (DRI) application for the North-End 'Bridge District' was selected winner of a \$10M State award, which will center on the North Main Street corridor. The Corridor and the District contain prominent civic and cultural assets and regionally significant transportation amenities. And now with the removal of the Moses Parkway and restoration of over 140 acres along the reclaimed Niagara Gorge laying the groundwork for enhanced connectivity between these core amenities and the potential for massive revitalization, starting with historic Main Street. The DRI will create a 'Strategic Improvement Plan' that identifies the key investments that will enhance the public realm and provide funding assistance to private-sector projects that can restore Main Street's vibrancy. These development projects along with new connections to the Gorge Waterfront will be the genesis for future commercial and residential, work and live options for the next generation of residents.
- Plati Niagara Inc. d/b/a Cambria Hotel Niagara Falls has been approved for an NFC Downtown Tourism Assistance Grant in an amount up to \$250,000 to be used towards the renovation of the real property, located at 311 Rainbow Blvd, which is the construction of a 7-story 120 room upscale hotel (Cambria flag) and the construction of (3) three market rate residential apartment buildings (6-apartments); and includes the re-construction of the municipal right of way, sidewalks, curbs, and alley way. The 1.5 acre of parcel owned by Plati Niagara Inc. is located in an important heritage district in the City of Niagara Falls and borders Rainbow Boulevard on one side and Buffalo Avenue on the other. It is located in the heart of the tourist district just a few blocks from the world famous Niagara Falls. The project will be a transformational development project that addresses the need for an additional upscale hotel product, while enhancing the heritage neighborhood with a residential component. The business is scheduled to open by spring 2022. The new project will create (15) full-time jobs and (20) part-time jobs. The total project cost is \$17,800,000.
- Judas Tree, LLC is constructing a new aperitivo bar that will be located at 1507 Pine Ave. The total project cost is \$213,023 and includes the creation of two (2) full time positions and (6) part time positions. The project is currently on-going and is expected to be completed in Summer 2020.
- Spot Coffee Niagara Falls has been approved for an NFC Micro-Enterprise Grant in the amount of \$10,000 to be used towards general building renovations, equipment, furniture, fixtures and supplies. The Spot Coffee concept is a tried and tested model successful across Western New York with over 22 locations primarily in the Buffalo, NY and surrounding areas. Spot Coffee Niagara Falls will feature a wide variety of point-of-sale items such as retail coffee, custom packaged snacks and cool merchandise. The new business will be located at 24 Buffalo Avenue in downtown Niagara Falls. This will be the first Spot Coffee location in the City of Niagara Falls.
- The business is scheduled to open July 1, 2020. The total project cost is \$350,000 and includes ten (10) new jobs being created.
- Sandstone Springs, LLC, located at 3625 Highland Avenue in the City of Niagara Falls, has been approved for an NFC Development Corporation Industrial Growth Program Loan in the amount of \$115,000 to be used towards the purchase of raw materials for the Pandemic Health and Wellness Products Retooling Program. This will play a very critical role in the fight against COVID-19. Production would begin immediately. The total project cost is approximately \$475,000. The project will retain 15 full-time jobs.

- The LaSalle Business District Streetscape Project was awarded a \$500,000 State grant to undertake streetscape improvements. This project will get underway in Summer 2020. The staff will consult with residents and businesses about how best to utilize these special business improvement funds.
- In 2019, one additional minority owned business became certified by NYS. This brings the total number of locally owned MWBEs to 20. The City of Niagara Falls will continue its efforts to expand the number of minority-owned businesses in the city in 2020.

**Overview of the Financial Statements**

This annual report consists of three parts: management's discussion and analysis (this section), the basic financial statements, and required supplementary information. The basic financial statements include two statements that present different views of the City:

- The first two statements are government-wide financial statements that provide both short-term and long-term information about the City's overall financial status.
- The remaining statements are fund financial statements that focus on individual parts of the City, reporting the City's operations in more detail than the government-wide statements.
- The governmental funds statements tell how basic services such as public safety and transportation were financed in the short term as well as what remains for future spending.
- Fiduciary fund statements provide information about the financial relationships in which the City acts solely as a trustee or agent for the benefit of others.

The financial statements also include notes that explain some of the information in the statements and provide more detailed data. The statements are followed by a section of required supplementary information that further explains and supports the financial statements with a comparison of the City's budget for the year. Figure A-1 shows how the various parts of this annual report are arranged and related to one another.

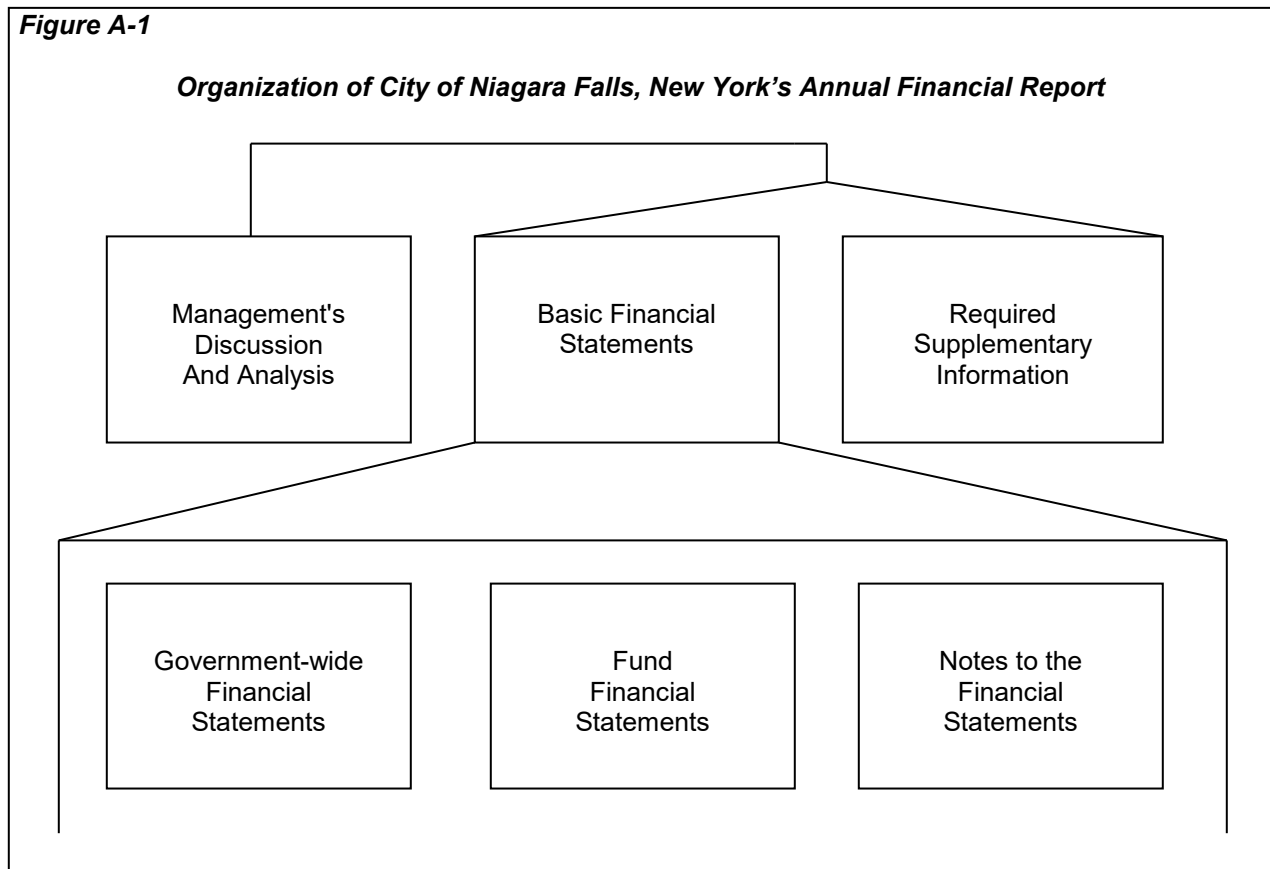


Figure A-2 summarizes the major features of the City's financial statements, including the portion of the City's activities they cover and the types of information they contain. The remainder of this overview section of management's discussion and analysis highlights the structure and contents of each of the statements.

<b>Figure A-2 Major Features of the Government-wide and Fund Financial Statements</b>			
		Fund Financial Statements	
	Government-wide Statements	Governmental Funds	Proprietary Funds
Scope	Entire government (except Fiduciary funds)	The activities of the City that are not proprietary or fiduciary, such as public safety and transportation	The activities of the City in which the City charges for services
Required financial statements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Statement of Net Position</li> <li>• Statement of Activities</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Balance Sheet</li> <li>• Statement of Revenues, Expenditures, and Changes in Fund Balances</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Statement of Net Position</li> <li>• Statement of Revenues, Expenses and Changes in Net Position</li> <li>• Statement of Cash Flows</li> </ul>
Accounting basis and measurement focus	Accrual accounting and economic resources focus	Modified accrual accounting and current financial focus	Accrual accounting and economic resources focus
Type of asset/liability information	All assets and deferred outflows of resources and liabilities and deferred inflows of resources, both financial and capital, short-term and long-term	Generally assets expected to be used up and liabilities that come due during the year or soon thereafter; generally no capital assets or long-term liabilities included	All assets and deferred outflows of resources and liabilities and deferred inflows of resources, both financial and capital, short-term and long-term
Type of inflow/outflow information	All revenues and expenses during year, regardless of when cash is received or paid	Revenues for which cash is received during or soon after the end of the year; expenditures when goods or services have been received and the related liability is due and payable	All revenues and expenses during year, regardless of when cash is received or paid

## **Government-wide Statements**

The government-wide statements report information about the City as a whole using accounting methods similar to those used by private-sector companies. The government-wide financial statements present the financial position of the City from the economic resources measurement focus using the accrual basis of accounting. They present governmental activities and business type activities separately. These statements include all assets of the City (including infrastructure) as well as all liabilities (including long-term debt).

The two government-wide statements report the City's net position and how they have changed. Net position - the difference between the City's assets and liabilities - is one way to measure the City's financial health or financial position.

- Over time, increases or decreases in the City's net position are an indicator of whether its financial position is improving or deteriorating, respectively.
- To assess the City's overall health, one needs to consider additional non-financial factors such as changes in the City's property tax base and the condition of the City's infrastructure and other facilities.

In the Statement of Net Position and the Statement of Activities, the City's activities are separated as follows:

**Governmental activities** - Most of the City's basic services are reported in this category, including the general government, police, fire, public safety, health, transportation, economic assistance, culture and recreation, home and community services, and refuse and recycling. Property and sales taxes, user fees, interest income, franchise fees, and state and federal grants finance these activities.

**Business-type activities** - The City's internal service activities are reported in this category.

## **Fund Financial Statements**

The fund financial statements provide more detailed information about the City's funds, focusing on its most significant or "major" funds - not the City as a whole. Some funds are required to be established by State law. However, the City Council establishes other funds to control and manage money for particular purposes or to show that it is meeting legal responsibilities for using certain taxes, grants or other money.

The City has three kinds of funds:

- **Governmental Funds:** Most of the City's basic services are included in governmental funds, which generally focus on (1) how cash and other financial assets can readily be converted to cash flow in and out and (2) the balances left at year-end that are available for spending. Consequently, the governmental funds statements provide a detailed short-term view that helps determine whether there are more or fewer financial resources that can be spent in the near future to finance the City's programs. Because this information does not encompass the additional long-term focus of the government-wide statements, additional information provided with the governmental funds statements explains the relationship (or differences) between them.
- **Proprietary Funds:** These funds are generally used to account for services for which the City charges customers (both external and internal). These funds use accrual accounting, which is the same method used by the private sector. The City of Niagara Falls has one internal service fund.

- **Fiduciary Funds:** The City is the trustee, or fiduciary, for assets that belong to others, such as deposits. The City is responsible for ensuring that the assets reported in these funds are used only for their intended purposes and by those to whom the assets belong. The City excludes these activities from the government-wide financial statements because it cannot use these assets to finance its operations.

**Financial Analysis of the City as a Whole**

**Figure A-3**

**Condensed Statement of Net Position**  
*(in thousands of dollars)*

	Governmental Activities		Increase (Decrease)
	2019	Restated 2018	
Current and other assets	\$ 46,533	\$ 44,801	\$ 1,732
Capital assets, net	162,924	162,045	879
<b>Total assets</b>	<b>209,457</b>	<b>206,846</b>	<b>2,611</b>
Deferred outflows of resources	70,193	39,061	31,132
Long-term liabilities	480,660	457,543	23,117
Other liabilities	26,064	23,691	2,373
<b>Total liabilities</b>	<b>506,724</b>	<b>481,234</b>	<b>25,490</b>
Deferred inflow of resources	88,793	62,573	26,220
Net investment in capital assets	111,468	106,614	4,854
Restricted	4,507	1,840	2,667
Unrestricted	(431,842)	(406,354)	(25,488)
<b>Total net position</b>	<b>\$ (315,867)</b>	<b>\$ (297,900)</b>	<b>\$ (17,967)</b>

**Governmental Activities**

The largest portion of the City's total assets (78% at 2018 and 2019) represents its investment in capital assets (land, buildings, improvements, vehicles, machinery, and equipment). The City uses these capital assets to provide necessary services.

Restricted net position represents amounts required by law to be used for a specific purpose and include reserves for future capital projects and funds restricted for risk retention. These funds can only be used for expenditures for their respective purpose.

Unrestricted net position is in a deficit however, this does not mean that the City cannot fund City programs in the next fiscal year or that the City does not have sufficient resources to pay its bills next year. Rather, it is the result of having long-term commitments that are more than currently available resources.

**Figure A-4**

**Changes in Net Position from Operating Results  
(in thousands of dollars)**

	Governmental Activities		
	2019	Restated 2018	Increase (Decrease)
<b>Program Revenues:</b>			
Charges for services	\$ 7,599	\$ 7,410	\$ 189
Operating grants and contributions	6,758	6,756	2
Capital grants and contributions	6,450	4,798	1,652
<b>General Revenues:</b>			
Property taxes, special assessments and property tax items	35,553	32,702	2,851
Non-property taxes	23,264	23,046	218
Interest earnings	623	489	134
State and federal sources	19,224	19,337	(113)
Miscellaneous	5,637	4,182	1,455
Interfund revenues	19,302	-	19,302
Seneca-Niagara casino funds, Section 99-H	10,397	-	10,397
Total revenues	<u>134,806</u>	<u>98,720</u>	<u>36,086</u>
<b>Program Expenses:</b>			
General government	23,032	15,683	7,349
Public safety	88,958	62,158	26,800
Transportation	10,747	10,403	344
Economic assistance	10,153	10,533	(380)
Culture and recreation	8,552	6,058	2,494
Home and community service	9,482	8,103	1,379
Interest on debt	1,850	1,991	(141)
Total expenses	<u>152,774</u>	<u>114,929</u>	<u>37,845</u>
Change in net position	(17,967)	(16,209)	(1,758)
Net position - beginning	<u>(297,900)</u>	<u>(281,691)</u>	<u>(16,209)</u>
Net position - ending	<u>\$ (315,867)</u>	<u>\$ (297,900)</u>	<u>\$ (17,967)</u>

Overall net position decreased by \$17,967,368, resulting in a net deficit of (\$315,867,015) as of December 31, 2019. The primary support for the City's programs is local property taxes, State Aid, and sharing of sales tax from Niagara County and New York State. Taxes and related items represent 44% of total revenues in 2019 (57% in 2018). Due to an ongoing dispute between the Seneca Nation of Indians and New York State, casino revenue sharing payments that are to be paid to New York State and then passed onto the local municipalities in accordance with the Laws of New York State Section 99h have not been made for gaming activity incurred during calendar years 2017, 2018 and 2019. See additional details below in the "Factors Bearing on the City's Future" section.

Program expenses include an allocable share of employee benefits and depreciation on capital assets for each category presented. Interest expense is not allocated. The most significant category of expense is public safety at approximately 58% of total expenses in 2019 (54% in 2018), consisting principally of the City's police and fire departments. Total expenses increased by \$38 million (or 33%). The significant increase is a function of the difference in the OPEB expense and related deferred outflows and inflows. In 2018, the OPEB expense that was recorded in the individual functional expenses was approximately \$20 million and the City implemented GASB 75 in this year. In 2019, with the change in reporting (i.e. addition of deferred inflows and outflows related to OPEB), the expense recorded in the individual functional expenses was approximately \$2 million.

### **Financial Analysis of the City's Funds**

As noted earlier, the City uses fund accounting to ensure and demonstrate compliance with finance-related legal requirements.

#### **General Fund**

The General Fund is the City's main operating fund. This fund is used to account for all City operations that are not financed by a special revenue source. It includes all general City offices, police, justice courts, fire, recreation, safety inspection, and other general services. The General Fund, which also includes all tourism and grant fund activities, experienced an increase in fund balance of \$1,205,496 for 2019. This increase is explained in detail in the "General Fund Budgetary Highlights" section below.

#### **Miscellaneous Special Revenue Fund**

The Miscellaneous Special Revenue Fund is a special revenue fund supported from the Seneca Niagara Casino received in an allocation from New York State. The fund balance decreased by \$929,780 in 2019.

Revenues were \$10,971,472, while expenditures were \$11,901,252. Revenue recorded in 2019 represent an advance payment from New York State from the City's 2017 Local Share of Casino funds in the amount of \$10,397,075. The advanced revenue was equal to what the City used as a revenue to balance its' operating funds. Included in expenditures are transfers out to other funds to support other projects in the amount of \$11,801,252. Other than the advance noted above, the City has not received payment for 2017, 2018 and 2019 gaming related activity due to a dispute between the Seneca Nation of Indians and the State of New York. See additional details below in the "Factors Bearing on the City's Future" section.

#### **Community Development Fund**

The Community Development Fund is a special revenue fund supported by money from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. The fund balance increased by \$158,827 during 2019, resulting in an ending fund balance of \$493,641.

#### **Capital Projects Funds**

Used to account for financial resources to be used for the acquisition of construction of major capital facilities.

#### **Self Insurance Fund**

The Self Insurance Fund is a new fund beginning in 2019, and is used to account for all self insurance activities maintained by the City. This includes medical insurance, dental insurance, workers compensation, and litigation and claims. The total net fund balance as of December 31, 2019 is a deficit of \$1,633,237. This is due to the medical insurance fund balance being a deficit as of December 31, 2019 in the amount of \$3,027,333. See Note 2B in the Notes to Basic Financial Statements for additional detail information.

#### **Debt Service Fund**

Used to account for and report financial resources to be used in the acquisition and repayment of debt obligations.



### Other Governmental Funds

Nonmajor funds include the Golf Course, Parking Operations, Train Station and Public Library funds. The decrease in fund balance of \$19,487 during 2019 was due to the operations of the Public Library fund.

### **General Fund Budgetary Highlights**

Actual revenues earned, other than interfund transfers in, were more than the budgeted amount by \$2,482,485 in 2019. The largest increase was in the real property tax items, which accounted for a budget to actual increase of \$1,443,012. Included in this item was the gain on the sale of properties incurred as a result of the 2019 tax foreclosure auction, which saw an increase over the budgeted revenue figure of \$1,455,531. The second largest revenue line was the non-property tax items, which accounted for a budget to actual increase of \$866,724. Included in the non-property tax items is sales tax collected from Niagara County, which saw an increase over the budgeted revenue figure of \$904,273.

Actual expenditures, other than interfund transfers out, were more than budget by \$1,767,410. This was mainly due to the actual amounts paid for public safety costs being \$2,335,775 more than what was budgeted. Retirement final pays within both the police and fire departments for those who retired in 2019, in addition to overtime costs within both police and fire exceeding budgeted levels by \$1,186,170 were the main drivers behind this budget deficit.

Amendments to the budget occur throughout the year for a variety of reasons. These include reserves for encumbrances from prior year unexpended purchase orders which are added to the current year budget at time of closing of the prior year and grants or other forms of financial aid which were received during the year but not anticipated. Additionally, unavoidable expenditures and transfers of appropriations among object classes within department budgets are performed to address particular issues not anticipated at the level of object class totals within each department. The department heads and Controller have the authority to transfer appropriations among line items within each object class within departments. The reserve for encumbrances on prior year purchase orders are added to the budget as part of the annual financial closing process. All other budget amendments must be authorized by formal resolution of the City Council.

### **Capital Asset and Debt Administration**

#### **Capital Assets**

Net capital assets increased by \$878,623 during the current year. This reflects new improvement and infrastructure projects under construction of \$6,808,790 and reduced by current year depreciation expense of \$6,076,802. Additional information on the City's capital assets can be found in Note 3.F to the financial statements.

**Figure A-5**

**Capital Assets Net of Depreciation  
(in thousands of dollars)**

	Governmental Activities	
	2019	2018
Land	\$ 2,891	\$ 2,891
Construction work in progress	43,021	44,102
Land improvement	1,335	1,335
Land held for development and sale	1,291	1,291
Works of art/historical treasures	17	17
Land improvement-exhaustible	2,991	2,986
Buildings and building improvements	23,778	24,615
Furniture, office and other equipment	661	680
Vehicles	3,343	3,883
Infrastructure	83,596	80,245
Total	<u>\$ 162,924</u>	<u>\$ 162,045</u>

**Long-Term Obligations**

The City has a bond rating of BBB from Standard and Poor's, BBB- from Fitch Rating Services, and Baa3 rating from Moody's Investors Services, Inc. for the uninsured outstanding bonded indebtedness of the City.

At December 31, 2019, the City has total long-term debt outstanding of \$51,319,843 of which \$4,254,706 is estimated to be payable within the next year. The City has pledged its full faith and credit for the serial bonds that are outstanding. The remainder of the City's outstanding obligations arise out of contractual or other legal obligations.

The State of New York has a statutory limit for the amount of general obligation debt a local governmental entity may enter into. These limitations are applicable to the serial bonded debt of the City. In general the City may issue such obligations not to exceed 7% of its annual average five-year valuation. The current debt-margin for the City approximates 47.81%; therefore the City is in compliance with its constitutional debt limit.

More detailed information on the City's capital assets and long-term debt activity is provided in the Notes to the Financial Statements under Note 3 subsections E and H, respectively.

**Figure A-5**

**Outstanding Long-Term Obligations  
(in thousands of dollars)**

	Governmental Activities	
	2019	2018
General obligation debt backed by the City	\$ 51,150	\$ 54,963
Unamortized bond premium	1,845	1,960
Installment purchase debt	170	311
Due to retirement system	2,717	3,390
Compensated absences	15,651	15,300
Workers' compensation	11,953	11,262
Other postemployment benefit obligations	381,334	360,760
Net pension liability	15,840	9,597
Total	<u>\$ 480,660</u>	<u>\$ 457,543</u>

**Factors Bearing on the City's Future**

- In 2019 the City continued to see growth in the local tourism market which resulted in increased local sales tax collection and continued increases in revenue collected from the parking operations fund, which represents parking revenue collected in the downtown tourist district. These increases assisted in the City improving on its unassigned fund balance figure in 2019, from a deficit unassigned figure of \$427,111 at the end of 2018 to a positive unassigned figure of \$1,191,738 at the end of 2019. This increase however, is offset by a deficit fund balance in the newly created self insurance fund. Actual medical insurance costs incurred by the City have outpaced budgeted levels over the past several years and as a result have created a deficit fund balance of \$1,633,237 in the self insurance fund. The City is looking at all options to assist in reducing this deficit fund balance, including but not limited to increasing budgeted medical insurance costs, potentially reducing administrative costs of managing the program, transferring eligible members on the program to a less expensive medicare advantage plan, and completing audits relating to dependent eligibility and medical claims
  
- In March 2020 the World Health Organization declared the coronavirus a pandemic. Due to the actions to help mitigate the spread of the coronavirus across the world, restrictions were put in place that included impacts on travel, forced closures for certain types of public places and businesses, and quarantines in certain areas. Being a municipality that takes advantage of the tourism market, the impacts on the City were felt immediately. Additionally, being a City that has a border with Canada, the closure of all cross border discretionary travel has also had a negative impact on the City. The local impacts of the coronavirus will likely be felt for the rest of 2020 and potentially for multiple years to come.

## **Impact of Seneca Nation / New York State Compact**

In August of 2002, a Nation-State Gaming Compact was entered into by and between the Seneca Nation of Indians (Senecas) and the State of New York. This compact was to expire on December 31, 2016 and has now been extended until December 31, 2023. This compact permits the Senecas to operate Class III gaming facilities in certain geographic areas in Western New York. In consideration for this exclusivity, the Senecas agreed to pay New York State a percentage of the net drop from a certain type of gaming device. Legislation was enacted that provided New York State to pay a certain amount that it receives from the Senecas to the host communities. That Legislation is Section 99-h of the New York State Finance Law and the City of Niagara Falls is one of those host communities. Since the compact came into existence, the City has benefited from this compact and the legislation. Section 99-h provides for the City to pay certain amounts to various entities such as the Niagara Falls School District and the Niagara Falls Medical Center Hospital from its share of host community benefit revenues. The balance is retained by the City and is to be used for such public purposes as are determined, by the City, to enhance economic development, neighborhood revitalization, public health and safety, and infrastructure improvements.

As of the date of this Auditor's report the City has collected \$221,998,377 in Casino funds for the period 2003 through December 31, 2018. Of this amount, \$61,621,180 was paid out to other entities or restricted for City road repair in accordance with the Laws of New York Section 99h. The remaining \$160,377,197 of discretionary funds were used for City capital equipment, economic development, infrastructure, neighborhood revitalization and health and public safety costs.

Due to an ongoing dispute between the Senecas and New York State, casino revenue sharing payments that are to be paid to New York State and then passed onto the local municipalities in accordance with the Laws of New York State Section 99h have not been made for gaming activity incurred during calendar years 2017, 2018, and 2019. In March 2017, the Senecas took the position that the casino revenue sharing section of the compact was no longer applicable. The Senecas claim that while the compact had been extended until December 31, 2023, the revenue sharing agreement was only intended to last through 2016. Both New York State and the City of Niagara Falls believed that the extension of the compact from December 31, 2016 to December 31, 2023 also extended the casino revenue sharing agreement through December 31, 2023. The dispute was presented to a mutually agreed upon arbitration panel. In January 2019 the arbitration panel ruled in favor of New York State, requiring the Senecas to provide payment for 2017 and 2018 gaming activity, and to continue providing revenue sharing payments going forward in accordance with the current compact. As of the date of this Auditor's report, the Senecas have yet to provide payment to New York State.

The City's annual local share of Casino funds from 2013 through 2016 has gradually decreased from \$20,138,918 in 2013 to \$16,794,680 in 2016. The continual decrease has created some concern since the City has been utilizing casino funds in its General Fund operating budget to help offset increases in debt service payments, loss of tax revenue from the land the Seneca Niagara Casino is located on, to offset increases in public safety overtime costs in the area of the Seneca Niagara Casino, increases in animal control costs, and utilizing a portion for property tax relief. The City has increased its use of Casino funds from \$6.6 million in 2014 to \$10.3 million in 2019.

## **Minimum Fund Balance Policy**

Under the City's minimum fund balance policy, approximately 5% of the General Fund appropriations should be reported as unassigned fund balance. At December 31, 2019, the City was not in compliance with this policy as the City had an unassigned fund balance of \$1,191,738. During 2019, the City was able to improve on its unassigned fund balance from a deficit of \$427,111 as of December 31, 2018 to the positive figure identified above. The City continues to review all current sources of revenue to determine what adjustments can be made going forward. Additionally, the City is reviewing all of its expenses to identify where adjustments are necessary. The 2020 budget included property tax increases below the allowable tax cap threshold and also included the institution of a refuse user fee, which is expected to add an additional \$4,001,595 of revenue.

From 2017 through 2019 the City was able to agree on new long-term union contracts with all unions through at least 2024. Due to this, the amount of retro payments to be made by the City going forward should be minimal. In previous years, retro payments have been one of the main reasons for costs exceeding revenues.

## **Contacting the City's Financial Management**

This financial report is designed to provide the City's citizens, taxpayers, customers, investors and creditors with a general overview of the City's finances and to demonstrate the City's accountability for the money it receives. If you have questions about this report or need additional financial information, contact the Office of the City Controller, City of Niagara Falls, 745 Main Street, P.O. Box 69, Niagara Falls, New York.

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**CITY OF NIAGARA FALLS, NEW YORK  
STATEMENT OF NET POSITION  
DECEMBER 31, 2019**

	<u>Primary Government Governmental Activities</u>	<u>Component Units</u>
<b>ASSETS</b>		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 7,071,729	\$ 1,334,180
Cash and cash equivalents - restricted	4,506,915	-
Accounts receivable, net	5,229,869	4,879
Taxes receivable, net	15,455,824	-
State and federal receivables	3,116,483	-
Due from other governments	1,202,393	118,734
Loans receivable	6,970,545	-
Inventory	737,421	-
Prepays items	2,241,580	28,203
Capital assets not being depreciated	48,555,161	-
Capital assets, net of accumulated depreciation	114,368,695	29,423,945
Total assets	<u>209,456,615</u>	<u>30,909,941</u>
<b>DEFERRED OUTFLOWS OF RESOURCES</b>		
Deferred outflows - pension	16,426,192	-
Deferred outflows - OPEB	52,058,187	-
Deferred outflows on refunding	1,708,762	-
Total deferred outflows of resources	<u>70,193,141</u>	<u>-</u>
<b>LIABILITIES</b>		
Accounts payable	4,400,554	33,612
Accrued liabilities	2,952,729	6,859
Accrued interest payable	347,710	-
Due to custodial funds	1,894,946	-
Due to other governments	9,385,801	-
Unearned revenues	7,082,290	233,287
Noncurrent liabilities:		
Due and payable within one year	5,065,054	-
Due and payable after one year	475,595,075	-
Total liabilities	<u>506,724,159</u>	<u>273,758</u>
<b>DEFERRED INFLOWS OF RESOURCES</b>		
Deferred inflows - pension	6,576,553	-
Deferred inflows - OPEB	82,216,059	-
Total deferred inflows of resources	<u>88,792,612</u>	<u>-</u>
<b>NET POSITION (DEFICIT)</b>		
Net investment in capital assets	111,468,113	29,423,945
Restricted for:		
Tourism	615,619	-
Trolley	875,393	-
Community development	493,641	-
Miscellaneous	1,426,066	-
Debt service	1,096,196	-
Unrestricted (deficit)	(431,842,043)	1,212,238
Total net position (deficit)	<u>\$ (315,867,015)</u>	<u>\$ 30,636,183</u>

See accompanying notes to basic financial statements.

**CITY OF NIAGARA FALLS, NEW YORK  
STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2019**

Functions/Programs:	Expenses	Program Revenues			Net (Expense) Revenue and Changes in Net Position	
		Charges for Services	Operating Grants and Contributions	Capital Grants and Contributions	Primary Governmental Activities	Component Units
<b>Governmental activities:</b>						
General government	\$ 23,032,045	\$ 1,509,884	\$ -	\$ -	\$ (21,522,161)	\$ -
Public safety	88,958,332	2,041,734	215,881	-	(86,700,717)	-
Transportation	10,746,765	3,790,806	-	6,450,178	(505,781)	-
Economic assistance and opportunity	10,152,881	16,625	-	-	(10,136,256)	-
Culture and recreation	8,551,938	107,062	-	-	(8,444,876)	-
Home and community services	9,482,329	132,589	6,542,385	-	(2,807,355)	-
Interest on debt	1,849,569	-	-	-	(1,849,569)	-
Total governmental activities	<u>152,773,859</u>	<u>7,598,700</u>	<u>6,758,266</u>	<u>6,450,178</u>	<u>(131,966,715)</u>	<u>-</u>
<b>Component units:</b>						
Bellevue Local Development Corporation	\$ 995,332	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -		(995,332)
N.F.C. Development Corporation	37,515	6,295	-	-		(31,220)
Niagara Falls Public Library	2,042,514	2,201,622	-	-		159,108
Total component units	<u>\$ 3,075,361</u>	<u>\$ 2,207,917</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>		<u>(867,444)</u>
General revenues:						
					31,553,212	-
					3,999,685	-
					23,263,743	-
					622,775	3,179
					2,993,838	-
					2,643,200	-
					19,302,084	-
					29,620,810	-
Total general revenues					<u>113,999,347</u>	<u>3,179</u>
Change in net position					(17,967,368)	(864,265)
Net position - beginning, as restated (Note 4)					<u>(297,899,647)</u>	<u>31,500,448</u>
Net position - ending					<u>\$ (315,867,015)</u>	<u>\$ 30,636,183</u>

See accompanying notes to basic financial statements.



**CITY OF NIAGARA FALLS, NEW YORK  
BALANCE SHEET – GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS  
DECEMBER 31, 2019**

	General	Community Development	Capital Projects	Miscellaneous Special Revenue	Self Insurance	Debt Service	Nonmajor Governmental Funds	Total Governmental Funds
<b>ASSETS</b>								
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 2,870	\$ 2,236,609	\$ 4,402,326	\$ -	\$ 303,200	\$ -	\$ 117,325	\$ 7,062,330
Cash and cash equivalents - restricted	1,491,012	493,641	-	1,426,066	-	1,096,196	-	4,506,915
Receivables	4,875,187	116,794	87,959	-	-	-	149,929	5,229,869
Taxes receivable, net	15,455,824	-	-	-	-	-	-	15,455,824
Due from other funds	5,066,956	-	1,450,250	-	1,519,745	-	-	8,036,951
State and federal receivables	1,271,104	339,580	1,505,799	-	-	-	-	3,116,483
Due from other governments	1,202,393	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,202,393
Loans receivable	5,000,000	1,970,545	-	-	-	-	-	6,970,545
Prepaid items	2,145,786	-	-	-	95,459	-	-	2,241,245
Total assets	<u>\$ 36,511,132</u>	<u>\$ 5,157,169</u>	<u>\$ 7,446,334</u>	<u>\$ 1,426,066</u>	<u>\$ 1,918,404</u>	<u>\$ 1,096,196</u>	<u>\$ 267,254</u>	<u>\$ 53,822,555</u>
<b>LIABILITIES</b>								
Accounts payable	\$ 3,310,776	\$ -	\$ 734,823	\$ -	\$ 165,439	\$ -	\$ 105,971	\$ 4,317,009
Accrued liabilities	2,219,737	-	-	-	731,882	-	1,110	2,952,729
Due to other funds	4,951,302	1,729,228	2,178	-	2,654,320	-	179,660	9,516,688
Due to other governments	8,414,664	971,137	-	-	-	-	-	9,385,801
Unearned revenues	5,012,939	1,963,163	106,188	-	-	-	-	7,082,290
Total liabilities	<u>23,909,418</u>	<u>4,663,528</u>	<u>843,189</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>3,551,641</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>286,741</u>	<u>33,254,517</u>
<b>DEFERRED INFLOWS OF RESOURCES</b>								
Unavailable revenue - property taxes	7,773,178	-	-	-	-	-	-	7,773,178
Total deferred inflows of resources	<u>7,773,178</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>7,773,178</u>
<b>FUND BALANCES</b>								
Nonspendable	2,145,786	-	-	-	95,459	-	-	2,241,245
Restricted for:								
Tourism	615,619	-	-	-	-	-	-	615,619
Trolley	875,393	-	-	-	-	-	-	875,393
Community development	-	493,641	-	-	-	-	-	493,641
Miscellaneous	-	-	-	1,426,066	-	-	-	1,426,066
Debt service	-	-	-	-	-	1,096,196	-	1,096,196
Assigned	-	-	6,603,145	-	1,873,353	-	-	8,476,498
Unassigned (deficit)	1,191,738	-	-	-	(3,602,049)	-	(19,487)	(2,429,798)
Total fund balances (deficit)	<u>4,828,536</u>	<u>493,641</u>	<u>6,603,145</u>	<u>1,426,066</u>	<u>(1,633,237)</u>	<u>1,096,196</u>	<u>(19,487)</u>	<u>12,794,860</u>
Total liabilities, deferred inflows of resources and fund balances (deficit)	<u>\$ 36,511,132</u>	<u>\$ 5,157,169</u>	<u>\$ 7,446,334</u>	<u>\$ 1,426,066</u>	<u>\$ 1,918,404</u>	<u>\$ 1,096,196</u>	<u>\$ 267,254</u>	<u>\$ 53,822,555</u>

See accompanying notes to basic financial statements.

**CITY OF NIAGARA FALLS, NEW YORK  
RECONCILIATION OF THE BALANCE SHEET – GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS  
TO THE STATEMENT OF NET POSITION  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2019**

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Amounts reported for governmental activities in the Statement of Net Position (page 16) are different because:

Total fund balance - governmental funds (page 18)	\$ 12,794,860
Capital assets used in governmental activities are not financial resources and therefore are not reported in the funds, net of accumulated depreciation	162,923,856
Long-term liabilities, are not due and payable in the current period and therefore are not reported in the funds:	
Serial bonds (including unamortized premiums)	(52,994,662)
Installment purchase debt	(169,843)
Due to retirement system	(2,717,153)
Worker's compensation	(11,953,320)
Compensated absences	(15,651,036)
Total OPEB liability	(381,334,320)
Net pension liability	(15,839,795)
Net accrued interest expense for bonds not reported in the funds	(347,710)
Other long-term assets are not available to pay for current period expenditures and therefore are deferred in the funds	7,773,178
Internal service net position which is due to governmental activities and related to charges for services provided	248,401
Deferred outflow and inflows are not assets or liabilities of the current period and therefore are not reported in the funds:	
Deferred pension outflows	16,426,192
Deferred pension inflows	(6,576,553)
Deferred OPEB outflows	52,058,187
Deferred OPEB inflows	(82,216,059)
Deferred outflows - bond refunding	<u>1,708,762</u>
Net position of governmental activities	<u>\$ (315,867,015)</u>

**CITY OF NIAGARA FALLS, NEW YORK**  
**STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCES – GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2019**

	<u>General</u>	<u>Community Development</u>	<u>Capital Projects</u>	<u>Miscellaneous Special Revenue</u>	<u>Self Insurance</u>	<u>Debt Service</u>	<u>Nonmajor Governmental Funds</u>	<u>Total Governmental Funds</u>
<b>REVENUES</b>								
Real property taxes	\$ 30,987,999	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 30,987,999
Real property tax items	3,999,685	-	-	-	-	-	-	3,999,685
Non-property tax items	23,263,743	-	-	-	-	-	-	23,263,743
Departmental income	699,278	-	-	-	-	-	3,455,565	4,154,843
Intergovernmental charges	1,978,038	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,978,038
Use of money and property	568,414	35,437	-	18,619	305	-	-	622,775
Licenses and permits	759,618	-	-	-	-	-	-	759,618
Fines and forfeitures	601,181	-	-	-	-	-	-	601,181
Sale of property and compensation for loss	2,499,416	-	-	-	-	-	-	2,499,416
Miscellaneous	301,543	182,514	132,739	432,840	495,422	850,000	-	2,395,058
Interfund revenues	105,020	-	-	-	19,302,084	-	-	19,407,104
State sources	18,664,926	87,690	4,291,332	10,397,075	-	-	-	33,441,023
Federal sources	-	6,542,385	2,845,846	-	-	-	-	9,388,231
Total revenues	<u>84,428,861</u>	<u>6,848,026</u>	<u>7,269,917</u>	<u>10,848,534</u>	<u>19,797,811</u>	<u>850,000</u>	<u>3,455,565</u>	<u>133,498,714</u>
<b>EXPENDITURES</b>								
Current:								
General government	10,135,038	-	-	100,000	2,579,855	1,750	895,833	13,712,476
Public safety	42,215,678	-	-	-	-	-	-	42,215,678
Transportation	4,019,254	-	-	-	-	-	-	4,019,254
Economic assistance and opportunity	2,998,606	-	-	-	-	-	-	2,998,606
Culture and recreation	2,929,614	-	-	-	-	-	1,289,278	4,218,892
Home and community services	6,573,708	6,689,199	-	-	-	-	-	13,262,907
Employee benefits	19,068,864	-	-	-	19,189,579	-	856,929	39,115,372
Capital outlay:								
General government	-	-	97,487	-	-	-	-	97,487
Public safety	-	-	1,753,895	-	-	-	-	1,753,895
Transportation	-	-	5,435,617	-	-	-	-	5,435,617
Economic assistance and opportunity	-	-	551,731	-	-	-	-	551,731
Culture and recreation	-	-	1,307,157	-	-	-	-	1,307,157
Debt service:								
Principal	-	-	-	-	-	3,954,831	-	3,954,831
Interest	-	-	-	-	-	1,903,161	-	1,903,161
Total expenditures	<u>87,940,762</u>	<u>6,689,199</u>	<u>9,145,887</u>	<u>100,000</u>	<u>21,769,434</u>	<u>5,859,742</u>	<u>3,042,040</u>	<u>134,547,064</u>

See accompanying notes to basic financial statements.

**CITY OF NIAGARA FALLS, NEW YORK**  
**STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCES – GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2019 (Continued)**

	<u>General</u>	<u>Community Development</u>	<u>Capital Projects</u>	<u>Miscellaneous Special Revenue</u>	<u>Self Insurance</u>	<u>Debt Service</u>	<u>Nonmajor Governmental Funds</u>	<u>Total Governmental Funds</u>
Excess (deficit) of revenues over expenditures	<u>(3,511,901)</u>	<u>158,827</u>	<u>(1,875,970)</u>	<u>10,748,534</u>	<u>(1,971,623)</u>	<u>(5,009,742)</u>	<u>413,525</u>	<u>(1,048,350)</u>
<b>OTHER FINANCING SOURCES (USES)</b>								
Interfund transfers in	13,925,313	-	1,377,671	122,938	1,229,333	6,840,439	2,024,023	25,519,717
Interfund transfers out	<u>(9,207,916)</u>	-	<u>(1,084,423)</u>	<u>(11,801,252)</u>	-	<u>(950,000)</u>	<u>(2,476,126)</u>	<u>(25,519,717)</u>
Total other financing sources (uses)	<u>4,717,397</u>	-	<u>293,248</u>	<u>(11,678,314)</u>	<u>1,229,333</u>	<u>5,890,439</u>	<u>(452,103)</u>	-
Net change in fund balances	1,205,496	158,827	(1,582,722)	(929,780)	(742,290)	880,697	(38,578)	(1,048,350)
Fund balances (deficit) - beginning, as restated (Note 4)	<u>3,623,040</u>	<u>334,814</u>	<u>8,185,867</u>	<u>2,355,846</u>	<u>(890,947)</u>	<u>215,499</u>	<u>19,091</u>	<u>13,843,210</u>
Fund balances (deficit) - ending	<u>\$ 4,828,536</u>	<u>\$ 493,641</u>	<u>\$ 6,603,145</u>	<u>\$ 1,426,066</u>	<u>\$ (1,633,237)</u>	<u>\$ 1,096,196</u>	<u>\$ (19,487)</u>	<u>\$ 12,794,860</u>

See accompanying notes to basic financial statements.

**CITY OF NIAGARA FALLS, NEW YORK**  
**RECONCILIATION OF THE STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES AND CHANGES IN FUND**  
**BALANCES OF GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS TO THE STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2019**

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Amounts reported for governmental activities in the Statement of Activities (page 17) are different because:

Net change in fund balances - total governmental funds (page 21)	\$	(1,048,350)
Governmental funds report capital outlays as expenditures. However in the Statement of Activities, the cost of those assets are allocated over their estimated useful lives as depreciation expense. This is the amount by which capital outlays (\$14,848,108), excluding construction work in progress placed in service (\$7,889,801), exceeded depreciation expense (\$6,076,802) in the current period. The internal service fund activity is excluded from these amounts.		881,505
The net effect of various miscellaneous transactions involving capital assets (i.e. sales, trades) is to decrease net position		(2,882)
Revenues that are not available to pay current obligations are not reported in the fund financial statements, but they are presented as revenues in the Statement of Activities.		565,213
Long-term liabilities, including bonds payable, installment purchase debt, workers' compensation, retirement system, net pension liability, compensated absences and total OPEB liability are not due and payable in the current period and therefore are not reported in the funds. Also, governmental funds report the effect of premiums and similar items when debt is first issued, whereas these amounts are deferred and amortized in the Statement of Activities.		
Repayment of serial bonds	\$	3,813,305
Repayment of installment purchase debt		141,526
Premium amortization		115,292
Change in due to retirement system		672,440
Change in Workers' Compensation liability		(691,565)
Change in compensated absences		(351,351)
Change in total OPEB liability		(20,574,050)
Change in net pension liability		<u>(6,242,997)</u>
		(23,117,400)
Interest on debt in the Statement of Activities differs from the amount reported in the governmental funds because interest is recognized as an expenditure in the fund when it is due and payable, and thus require current financial resources. In the Statement of Activities, however, interest expense is recognized as the interest accrues, regardless of when it is due.		33,231
Change in the deferred outflow of bond refunding does not provide for or require the use of current financial resources and therefore are not reported as expenditures in the governmental funds.		(94,931)
Changes in the proportionate share of the net pension and OPEB deferred inflows and outflows reported in the Statement of Net Position during the measurement period between the City's contributions and its proportionate share to the total contributions to the pension systems and OPEB subsequent to the measurement date do not provide for or require the use of current financial resources and therefore are not reported as expenditures in the governmental funds.		
Net pension - proportionate share		3,898,967
Other postemployment benefits		1,108,339
Internal service fund is used by management to charge the costs of the central garage, postage, stationary, copier leases and telephone. The change in the net position for such services is reported with governmental activities.		<u>(191,060)</u>
Change in net position of governmental activities	\$	<u><u>(17,967,368)</u></u>

See accompanying notes to basic financial statements.

**CITY OF NIAGARA FALLS, NEW YORK**  
**STATEMENT OF NET POSITION – PROPRIETARY FUND - INTERNAL SERVICE FUNDS**  
**DECEMBER 31, 2019**

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	<b>Internal Service Funds</b>
<b>ASSETS</b>	
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 9,399
Prepaid items	335
Inventory	737,421
Total assets	<u>747,155</u>
<b>LIABILITIES</b>	
Accounts payable	83,545
Due to other funds	415,209
Total liabilities	<u>498,754</u>
<b>NET POSITION</b>	
Unrestricted	<u>248,401</u>
Total net position	<u>\$ 248,401</u>

See accompanying notes to basic financial statements.

**CITY OF NIAGARA FALLS, NEW YORK  
 STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENSES AND CHANGES IN NET POSITION - PROPRIETARY FUND -  
 INTERNAL SERVICE FUNDS  
 FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2019**

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	<u>Internal Service Funds</u>
<b>REVENUES</b>	
Charges for services	\$ 742,564
Total revenues	<u>742,564</u>
<b>EXPENSES</b>	
Contractual expenses	<u>933,624</u>
Total expenses	<u>933,624</u>
Operating loss	<u>(191,060)</u>
Change in net position	(191,060)
Net position - beginning	<u>439,461</u>
Net position - ending	<u>\$ 248,401</u>

See accompanying notes to basic financial statements.

**CITY OF NIAGARA FALLS, NEW YORK  
 STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS - PROPRIETARY FUND - INTERNAL SERVICE FUNDS  
 FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2019**

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	<u>Internal Service Funds</u>
<b>CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES</b>	
Cash received from providing services	\$ 742,564
Cash payments for contractual expenses	<u>(738,700)</u>
Net cash provided by operating activities	<u>3,864</u>
Net increase in cash and cash equivalents	3,864
Cash and cash equivalents - beginning	<u>5,535</u>
Cash and cash equivalents - ending	<u>\$ 9,399</u>
<b>Reconciliation of operating loss to net cash provided by operating activities:</b>	
Operating loss	\$ (191,060)
Adjustments to reconcile operating loss to net cash provided by operating activities:	
Decrease in prepaid items	1,882
Increase in inventory	(24,012)
Increase in accounts payable	12,225
Increase in due to other funds	<u>204,829</u>
Net cash provided by operating activities	<u>\$ 3,864</u>

See accompanying notes to basic financial statements.



**CITY OF NIAGARA FALLS, NEW YORK**  
**STATEMENT OF NET POSITION – COMPONENT UNITS**  
**DECEMBER 31, 2019**

	<u>Bellevue Local Development Corporation</u>	<u>N.F.C. Development Corporation</u>	<u>Niagara Falls Public Library</u>	<u>Total</u>
<b>ASSETS</b>				
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ -	\$ 749,162	\$ 585,018	\$ 1,334,180
Accounts receivable	-	-	4,879	4,879
Loans receivable, net	-	118,734	-	118,734
Due from other governments	-	-	28,203	28,203
Capital assets, net of accumulated depreciation	29,362,292	-	61,653	29,423,945
Total assets	<u>29,362,292</u>	<u>867,896</u>	<u>679,753</u>	<u>30,909,941</u>
<b>LIABILITIES</b>				
Accounts payable	-	159	33,453	33,612
Accrued liabilities	-	-	6,859	6,859
Unearned revenue	-	-	233,287	233,287
Total liabilities	<u>-</u>	<u>159</u>	<u>273,599</u>	<u>273,758</u>
<b>NET POSITION</b>				
Net investment in capital assets	29,362,292	-	61,653	29,423,945
Unrestricted	-	867,737	344,501	1,212,238
Total net position	<u>\$ 29,362,292</u>	<u>\$ 867,737</u>	<u>\$ 406,154</u>	<u>\$ 30,636,183</u>

See accompanying notes to basic financial statements.

**CITY OF NIAGARA FALLS, NEW YORK**  
**STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENSES AND CHANGES IN NET POSITION - COMPONENT UNITS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2019**

	<u>Bellevue Local Development Corporation</u>	<u>N.F.C. Development Corporation</u>	<u>Niagara Falls Public Library</u>	<u>Total</u>
<b>OPERATING REVENUES</b>				
Transfers from City of Niagara Falls	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,813,302	\$ 1,813,302
Charges for services	-	328	14,736	15,064
Grants and aid	-	-	188,036	188,036
Other revenues	-	5,967	185,548	191,515
Total operating revenues	<u>-</u>	<u>6,295</u>	<u>2,201,622</u>	<u>2,207,917</u>
<b>OPERATING EXPENSES</b>				
Contractual expense	-	13,175	2,013,732	2,026,907
Grant expense	-	24,340	-	24,340
Depreciation	995,332	-	28,782	1,024,114
Total operating expenses	<u>995,332</u>	<u>37,515</u>	<u>2,042,514</u>	<u>3,075,361</u>
Operating income (loss)	<u>(995,332)</u>	<u>(31,220)</u>	<u>159,108</u>	<u>(867,444)</u>
<b>NONOPERATING REVENUES (EXPENSES)</b>				
Interest income	-	3,179	-	3,179
Total nonoperating revenues (expenses)	<u>-</u>	<u>3,179</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>3,179</u>
Change in net position	(995,332)	(28,041)	159,108	(864,265)
Net position - beginning	<u>30,357,624</u>	<u>895,778</u>	<u>247,046</u>	<u>31,500,448</u>
Net position - ending	<u>\$ 29,362,292</u>	<u>\$ 867,737</u>	<u>\$ 406,154</u>	<u>\$ 30,636,183</u>

See accompanying notes to basic financial statements.

**CITY OF NIAGARA FALLS, NEW YORK  
STATEMENT OF FIDUCIARY NET POSITION – FIDUCIARY FUNDS  
DECEMBER 31, 2019**

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	<u>Private Purpose Trust Fund</u>	<u>Custodial Funds</u>
<b>ASSETS</b>		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 56,705	\$ 4,910
Due from other funds	-	2,097,078
	<u>56,705</u>	<u>2,101,988</u>
Total assets	<u>56,705</u>	<u>2,101,988</u>
<b>LIABILITIES</b>		
Due to other funds	-	202,132
	<u>-</u>	<u>202,132</u>
Total liabilities	<u>-</u>	<u>202,132</u>
<b>NET POSITION</b>		
Restricted for:		
Trusts	56,705	63,935
Forfeitures	-	167,624
Individuals, organizations and other governments	-	1,668,297
	<u>-</u>	<u>1,668,297</u>
Total net position	<u>\$ 56,705</u>	<u>\$ 1,899,856</u>

See accompanying notes to basic financial statements.

**CITY OF NIAGARA FALLS, NEW YORK  
 STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN FIDUCIARY NET POSITION – FIDUCIARY FUNDS  
 FOR THE YEAR DECEMBER 31, 2019**

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	<u>Private Purpose Trust Fund</u>	<u>Custodial Funds</u>
<b>ADDITIONS</b>		
Custodial fees	\$ -	\$ 3,155,631
Interest and earnings	105	-
Forfeiture of crime proceeds	-	976,855
Donations	-	21,052
Proceeds of seized and unclaimed properties	-	5,600,182
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total additions	105	9,753,720
<b>DEDUCTIONS</b>		
Administrative expenses	-	76,370
Disbursements to individuals, organizations or other governments	4,985	8,724,569
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total deductions	4,985	8,800,939
Change in net position	(4,880)	952,781
Net position - beginning, as restated (Note 4)	61,585	947,075
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Net position - ending	\$ 56,705	\$ 1,899,856
	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>

See accompanying notes to basic financial statements.

**CITY OF NIAGARA FALLS, NEW YORK  
NOTES TO BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

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**NOTE 1 - SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES**

The basic financial statements of the City of Niagara Falls, New York (the City) have been prepared in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America (GAAP) as applied to government units, except as otherwise noted. The Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) is the accepted standard setting body for establishing governmental accounting and financial reporting principles. The more significant of the City's accounting policies are described below.

**A. REPORTING ENTITY**

**PRIMARY GOVERNMENT**

The City is a unit of local government created by the State of New York. The City operates under provisions of New York State law and with authority vested by those statutes and under the provisions of the City Charter adopted by the City Council. The City provides services and facilities in the areas of police, highway, sanitation, parks, recreation, storm sewers, library, community development, fire and general administration. The five-member City Council is the legislative body responsible for overall operations. The Mayor serves as Chief Executive Officer. The City Administrator serves as the Chief Administrative Officer. The City Controller serves as the Chief Financial Officer. Independently elected officials of the City include the Mayor and five council members.

The County of Niagara, New York, is a unit of local government whose boundaries include the City. Public education is provided by an independent school district within the City, the Niagara Falls City School District.

The financial reporting entity includes all organizational functions, and activities over which the City's elected officials exercise oversight responsibility. The oversight responsibility is derived from the governmental unit's power and includes, but is not limited to, financial interdependency, a selection of government authority, designation of management, ability to significantly influence operations and accountability for fiscal matters. The financial reporting entity consists of (a) the primary government, (b) organizations for which the primary government is financially accountable, and (c) organizations for which the nature and significance of their relationship with the primary government are such that exclusion would cause the reporting entity's financial statements to be misleading or incomplete.

**COMPONENT UNITS**

In conformity with GAAP, the financial statements of three component units have been included in the financial reporting entity as discretely presented component units. The discretely presented component units are reported in a separate column in the government-wide financial statements to emphasize that they are legally separate from the primary government.

The N.F.C. Development Corporation's (NFC) purpose is to identify and develop business opportunities within the City, to package needed financing and to develop financial programs to support business development. The governing body of NFC is comprised of the Mayor, the five members of the City Council, four members appointed by the Mayor and nine at large members elected by the existing NFC Board. Additionally, NFC is managed by the City; therefore, the City is able to impose its will on NFC. Complete financial statements for NFC may be obtained at their offices located at 1022 Main Street, Niagara Falls, New York.

The Bellevue Local Development Corporation's (Bellevue) purpose was to develop and construct a new public safety facility, plus other functions related to the administration of justice for the City. The governing body of Bellevue is comprised of the Mayor and additional Board members appointed by the Mayor. Additionally, Bellevue is managed by the City; therefore, the City is able to impose its will on Bellevue. Upon the completion of the facility the asset was to be transferred to the City. The facility has been completed, but it is awaiting approval related to environmental matters before being transferred to the City. Bellevue does not issue stand-alone financial statements.

**CITY OF NIAGARA FALLS, NEW YORK**  
**NOTES TO BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

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The Niagara Falls Public Library's (the Library) purpose is to provide the citizens of the City with quality library service, access to excellent collections, and assistance in using emerging technologies in a pleasing, safe environment. The Library operates two city-owned buildings, one of which is commonly referred to as the Main Library or Earl W. Brydges Public Library and the other which is commonly known as the LaSalle Library. Complete financial statements for the Library can be obtained from their offices located at 1425 Main Street, Niagara Falls, New York.

**B. BASIS OF PRESENTATION**

**1. GOVERNMENT-WIDE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

While separate government-wide and fund financial statements are presented, they are interrelated. The governmental activities column incorporates data from governmental funds and internal service funds. Separate financial statements are provided for governmental funds, proprietary funds, and fiduciary funds, even though the latter are excluded from the government-wide financial statements.

As discussed earlier, the City has three discretely presented component units. None of these component units consisting of the N.F.C Development Corporation, Bellevue Local Development Corporation and Niagara Falls Public Library are considered to be a major component unit, therefore they are shown in one component unit column in the government-wide financial statements.

As a general rule, the effect of interfund activity has been eliminated from the government-wide financial statements. Exceptions to this general rule are payments in lieu of taxes where the amounts are reasonably equivalent in value to the interfund services provided and other charges between the City's water and transit functions and various other functions of the City. Elimination of these charges would distort the direct costs and program revenues reported for the various functions concerned.

**2. FUND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

Fund financial statements of the reporting entity are organized into funds, each of which is considered to be a separate accounting entity. Each fund is accounted for by providing a separate set of self-balancing accounts that constitute its assets, liabilities, fund equity, revenues, and expenditures/expenses. Funds are organized into three major categories: governmental, proprietary, and fiduciary. An emphasis is placed on major funds within the governmental and proprietary categories.

Governmental Funds:

Governmental funds are those through which most governmental functions are financed. The acquisition, use and balances of expendable financial resources and the related liabilities are accounted for through governmental funds. The measurement focus of the governmental funds is based upon determination of financial position and changes in financial position. The City reports the following major governmental funds:

- a. General Fund - the principal operating fund of the City. It is used to account for all financial resources except those required to be accounted for in another fund.
- b. Community Development Fund - this is used to account for the various programs of financial assistance (principally federal aid) for urban development. Community Development administers programs directly, as well as acting as a conduit for pass-through funds to sub-recipients whose goal is also to benefit the community.
- c. Capital Projects Fund - used to account for and report financial resources to be used in the acquisition, construction or renovation of major capital facilities.
- d. Debt Service Fund - used to account for and report financial resources to be used in the acquisition and repayment of debt obligations.
- e. Miscellaneous Special Revenue Fund - used to account for the receipts and disbursements of the Seneca Niagara Casino money received by the City.

**CITY OF NIAGARA FALLS, NEW YORK**  
**NOTES TO BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

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- f. Self Insurance Fund - used to account activity related to judgments and claims, dental and health insurance and workers' compensation.

The City reports the following nonmajor governmental funds consolidated into the nonmajor governmental funds column:

- a. Special Revenue Funds (Train Station, Golf Course, Public Library, and Parking Ramp) - To account for the proceeds of specific revenue sources (other than expendable trusts or major capital projects) that are legally restricted to expenditures for specified purposes or for which separate accounting is required by administrative action.

Proprietary Funds:

These funds are used to account for ongoing operations or activities, which are similar to those often found in the private sector. The measurement focus is based upon determination of net income, financial position and cash flows. The City applies all applicable GASB pronouncements, as well as, Financial Accounting Standards Board's (FASB) Accounting Standards Codification unless these standards conflict with or contradict GASB pronouncements.

- a. Internal Service Fund – used to account for copying, postage, stationary, telephone and central garage services provided to other departments or agencies of the City on a cost reimbursement basis.

Other Fund Types

Fiduciary Fund – is used to account for certain trust funds and other custodial funds. Custodial Funds report fiduciary activities not held in trust. These activities are not included in the government-wide financial statements because their resources do not belong to the City and are not available for use.

During the course of operations the City has activity between funds for various purposes. Any residual balances outstanding at year end are reported as due from/to other funds and advances to/from other funds. While these balances are reported in fund financial statements, certain eliminations are made in the preparation of the government-wide financial statements. Balances between the funds included in governmental activities (i.e., the governmental funds) are eliminated so that only the net amount is included as internal balances in the governmental activities column.

Further, certain activity occurs during the year involving transfers of resources between funds. In fund financial statements these amounts are reported at gross amounts as transfers in/out. While reported in fund financial statements, certain eliminations are made in the preparation of the government-wide financial statements. Transfers between the funds included in governmental activities are eliminated so that only the net amount is included as transfers in the governmental activities column.

**C. MEASUREMENT FOCUS AND BASIS OF ACCOUNTING**

The accounting and financial reporting treatment is determined by the applicable measurement focus and basis of accounting. Measurement focus indicates the type of resources being measured such as *current financial resources or economic resources*. The basis of accounting indicates the timing of transactions or events for recognition in the financial statements.

The government-wide and fiduciary fund financial statements are reported using the *economic resources measurement focus* and the *accrual basis of accounting*. Revenues are recorded when earned and expenses are recorded when the liability is incurred, regardless of the timing of related cash flows. Property taxes are recognized as revenues in the year for which they are levied. Grants and similar items are recognized as revenue as soon as all eligibility requirements imposed by the provider have been met.

The governmental fund statements are reported using the *current financial resources measurement focus* and the *modified accrual basis of accounting*. Revenues are recognized as soon as they are both measurable and available. Revenues are considered to be available when they are collectible with the current period or soon enough thereafter to pay liabilities of the current period. For this purpose, the City considers revenues to be available if they are collected within sixty days of the end of the current fiscal period.

**CITY OF NIAGARA FALLS, NEW YORK  
NOTES TO BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

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Expenditures generally are recorded when a liability is incurred, as under accrual accounting. However, debt service expenditures, as well as expenditures related to compensated absences, are recorded only when payment is due. General capital asset acquisitions are reported as expenditures in the governmental funds. Issuance of long-term debt and acquisitions under capital leases are reported as other financing sources.

Property taxes, sales taxes, franchise taxes, licenses, and interest associated with the current fiscal period are all considered to be susceptible to accrual and so have been recognized as revenues of the current fiscal period. Expenditure-driven grants are recognized as revenue when the qualifying expenditures have been incurred and all other eligibility requirements have been met, and the amount is received during the period or within the availability period for this revenue source (within sixty days of year-end). All other revenue items are considered to be measurable and available only when cash is received by the City.

**D. ASSETS, LIABILITIES, DEFERRED OUTFLOWS/INFLOWS OF RESOURCES, AND NET POSITION/FUND BALANCE**

**1. CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS**

The City's cash and cash equivalents consists of cash on hand, demand deposits, and short-term investments with original maturities of three months or less from the date of purchase.

**2. RESTRICTED ASSETS**

Certain assets are classified on the balance sheet as restricted because their use is limited. Amounts to support fund balance restrictions are reported as restricted.

**3. INVENTORY**

All inventories are valued at cost using the first-in/first-out (FIFO) method for proprietary funds. Inventories of governmental funds are recorded as expenditures when purchased rather than when consumed.

**4. PREPAID ITEMS**

Certain payments to vendors reflect costs applicable to future accounting periods and are recorded as prepaid items in both government-wide and fund financial statements. The cost of prepaid items is recorded as expenditures/expenses when consumed rather than when purchased.

**5. RECEIVABLES**

Receivables, with the exception of taxes receivable, are shown gross, with uncollectible amounts recognized under the direct write-off method. Generally accepted accounting principles require the establishment of an allowance for uncollectible receivables; however, no allowance for uncollectible receivables has been provided since it is believed that such allowance would not be material.

**6. TAXES RECEIVABLE**

The City accounts for taxes receivable at outstanding billed amounts, net of the allowance for uncollectible taxes. Accounts for which no payments have been received for one year are considered delinquent and further collection efforts are begun. After all collection efforts are exhausted, the account is written off. As of December 31, 2019, the allowance for uncollectible taxes was \$4,267,558, which is estimated based on historical collection experience.

**7. DUE TO/FROM OTHER FUNDS**

During the course of operations, numerous transactions occur between individual funds that may result in amounts owed between funds. Those related to goods and services type transactions are classified as "due to and from other funds."



**CITY OF NIAGARA FALLS, NEW YORK**  
**NOTES TO BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

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The amounts reported on the Statement of Net Position for due to and due from other funds represents amounts due between different fund types (governmental and business-type activities, and fiduciary funds). Eliminations have been made for amounts due to and due from within the same fund type. A detailed description of these interfund balances at year-end is provided in Note 3.J.

**8. CAPITAL ASSETS**

Government-wide statements:

Capital assets, which include property, plant, equipment, and infrastructure assets (e.g. roads, bridges, sidewalks, and similar items), are reported in the applicable governmental activities column in the government-wide financial statements.

In the case of the initial capitalization of general infrastructure assets (i.e., those reported by governmental activities), the City chose to include all such items regardless of their acquisition date or amount. The City was able to estimate the historical cost for the initial reporting of these assets through back trending (i.e., estimating the current replacement cost of the infrastructure to be capitalized and using an appropriate price-level index to deflate the cost to the acquisition year or estimated acquisition year). As the City constructs or acquires additional capital assets each period, including infrastructure assets, they are capitalized and reported at historical cost.

The reported value excludes normal maintenance and repairs which are essentially amounts spent in relation to capital assets that do not increase the capacity or efficiency of the item or increase its estimated useful life. Contributed fixed assets are recorded at fair value at the date received.

Land and construction in progress are not depreciated. Capitalization thresholds (the dollar value above which asset acquisitions are added to the capital asset accounts), depreciation methods, and estimated useful lives of capital assets reported in the government-wide statements are as follows:

	<u>Capitalization Threshold</u>	<u>Depreciation Method</u>	<u>Estimated Useful Life</u>
Buildings and building improvements	\$ 100,000	straight-line	25-50 years
Land improvements - exhaustible	100,000	straight-line	20-100 years
Infrastructure	100,000	straight-line	30-50 years
Machinery and equipment	5,000	straight-line	3-10 years

Fund Financial Statements:

In the fund financial statements, fixed assets used in governmental fund operations are accounted for as capital outlay expenditures of the governmental fund upon acquisition.

**9. INSURANCE**

The City is self-insured for general liability including but not limited to property damage and personal injury, workers' compensation and medical insurance.

The City has purchased reinsurance agreements to reduce exposure to large losses. Judgments and claims are recorded when it is probable that an asset has been impaired or a liability has been incurred and the amount of loss can be reasonably estimated.

**10. UNEARNED REVENUES**

Unearned revenues arise when potential revenues do not meet both the measurable and available criteria for recognition in the current period. This occurs when resources are received by the City before it has a legal claim to them, as when grant monies are received prior to incurring qualifying expenditures. In subsequent periods, when both recognition criteria are met, or when the City has legal claim to resources, the liability for unearned revenues is removed and revenues are recognized.

## **11. DEFERRED OUTFLOWS/INFLOWS OF RESOURCES**

In addition to assets, the Statement of Net Position will sometimes report a separate section for deferred outflows of resources. This separate financial statement element, deferred outflows of resources, represents a consumption of net position that applies to a future period(s) and so will not be recognized as an outflow of resources (expense/expenditure) until then. The City has three items that qualified for reporting in this category. These are related to pensions, other postemployment benefits (OPEB) and debt charge of refunding reported in the government-wide Statement of Net Position.

In relation to the pension, this amount represents the effect of the net change in the City's proportion of the collective net pension liability and the difference during the measurement period between the City's contributions and its proportional share of total contributions to the pension system not included in pension expense. Also included is the City's contributions to the pension system subsequent to the measurement date. See details of deferred pension outflows in Note 3.F. The second item is related to the OPEB liability reported in the government-wide Statement of Net Position. This represents the effect of the net change in the actual and expected experience. See details of deferred OPEB outflows in Note 3.G. The third item is the deferred charge on refunding, which results from the difference in the carrying value of refunded debt and its reacquisition price. This amount is deferred and amortized over the shorter of the life of the refunded or refunding debt.

In addition to liabilities, the Statement of Net Position will sometimes report a separate section for deferred inflows of resources. This separate financial statement element, deferred inflows of resources, represents an acquisition of net position that applies to a future period(s) and so will not be recognized as an inflow of resources (revenue) until that time. The City has three types of items that qualify for reporting in this category. The first item is related to pension activity reported in the government-wide Statement of Net Position. This amount represents the effect of the net change in the City's proportion of the collective net pension liability and difference during the measurement period between the City's contributions and its proportional share of total contributions to the pension system not included in pension expense. See details of deferred pension inflows in Note 3.F. The second item is related to the OPEB liability reported in the government-wide Statement of Net Position. This represents the net effect of the changes of assumptions or other inputs. See details of deferred OPEB inflows in Note 3.G. The third item is unavailable revenue related to property taxes and is reported in the Balance Sheet – Governmental Funds.

## **12. LONG-TERM OBLIGATIONS**

All long-term liabilities to be repaid from governmental resources are reported as liabilities in the government-wide statements. The long-term liabilities consist primarily of serial bonds payable, installment purchase debt, due to retirement system, workers' compensation, compensated absences, net pension liabilities and total OPEB liability.

Long-term liabilities for governmental funds are not reported as liabilities in the fund financial statements. The debt proceeds are reported as other financing sources and payment of principal, interest and other long-term obligations are reported as expenditures.

## **13. POSTEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS**

In addition to providing pension benefits, the City provides health insurance coverage for certain retired employees as discussed in Note 3.G.

## **14. INTERFUND TRANSFERS**

The operations of the City give rise to certain transactions between funds, including transfers of expenditures and revenues to provide services and construct assets as discussed in Note 3.J.

## **15. FUND BALANCE POLICIES**

Fund balance of governmental funds is reported in various categories based on the nature of any limitations requiring the use of resources for specific purposes. The City itself can establish limitations on the use of resources through either a commitment (committed fund balance) or an assignment (assigned fund balance).

**CITY OF NIAGARA FALLS, NEW YORK**  
**NOTES TO BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

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The committed fund balance classification includes amounts that can be used only for the specific purposes determined by a formal action of the City's highest level of decision-making authority. The City Council is the highest level of decision-making authority for the City that can, by adoption of an ordinance prior to the end of the fiscal year, commit fund balance. Once adopted, the limitation imposed by the ordinance remains in place until a similar action is taken (the adoption of another ordinance) to remove or revise the limitation.

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 committed. The City Council may also assign fund balance as it does when appropriating fund balance to cover a gap between estimated revenue and appropriations in the subsequent year's appropriated budget. Unlike commitments, assignments generally only exist temporarily. In other words, an additional action does not normally have to be taken for the removal of an assignment. Conversely, as discussed above, an additional action is essential to either remove or revise a commitment.

**16. NET POSITION FLOW ASSUMPTION**

Sometimes the City will fund outlays for a particular purpose from both restricted (e.g., restricted bond or grant proceeds) and unrestricted resources. In order to calculate the amounts to report as restricted – net position and unrestricted – net position in the government-wide financial statements, a flow assumption must be made about the order in which the resources are considered to be applied.

It is the City's policy to consider restricted – net position to have been depleted before unrestricted – net position is applied.

**17. FUND BALANCE FLOW ASSUMPTIONS**

Sometimes the City will fund outlays for a particular purpose from both restricted and unrestricted resources (the total of committed, assigned, and unassigned fund balance). In order to calculate the amounts to report as restricted, committed, assigned, and unassigned fund balance in the governmental fund financial statements a flow assumption must be made about the order in which the resources are considered to be applied.

The City Council adopted a formal spending policy under the provisions of GASB Statement No. 54 stating that the City Council will assess the current financial condition of the City and then determine the order of application of expenditures to which fund balance classification will be charged.

**D. REVENUES AND EXPENDITURES/EXPENSES**

**1. PROGRAM REVENUES**

Amounts reported as program revenues include 1) charges to customers or applicants who purchase, use, or directly benefit from goods, services, or privileges provided by a given function or segment and 2) grants and contributions (including special assessments) that are restricted to meeting the operational or capital requirements of a particular function or segment. All taxes, including those dedicated for specific purposes, and other internally dedicated resources are reported as general revenues rather than as program revenues.

**2. PROPERTY TAXES**

The City property taxes are levied in December of each year, based on the assessed valuation as of the preceding July 1. On January 1 of each year, property taxes become a lien on property.

Tax payments are due and payable in equal installments on January 31 and May 31, after which it becomes delinquent and interest and penalties accrue. The City also bills for relieved sewer and water user charges and for unpaid school taxes.

The State Constitution limits the amount that may be raised by the City tax levy on real estate in any fiscal year to two percent (2%) of the last five-year average full valuation of taxable real estate of the City plus (1) the amounts required for principal and interest on all capital indebtedness, and (2) current appropriations for certain capital purposes.

**CITY OF NIAGARA FALLS, NEW YORK**  
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The City is responsible for collection of delinquent City school taxes. In the event that school taxes are not collected from the City's relevy, the City is obligated to remit taxes in full to the school district. A provision for uncollectible taxes is estimated based on historical collection experience.

**3. CASINO REVENUES**

In accordance with State Finance Law Section 99-H (Section 99-H), the City is authorized to receive an allocation of casino revenue directly from New York State. This revenue is restricted for various purposes as determined by law. Amounts are recognized when received in the fund financial statements. Within the government-wide financial statements, revenues are recorded when earned. No allowance has been recorded, as the City is legally authorized to receive the allocation.

**4. COMPENSATED ABSENCES**

The City labor agreements and City Council rules and regulations provide for sick and vacation leave. Upon retirement, certain eligible employees qualify for partially paid medical and dental insurance premiums and/or payment for fractional values of unused sick leave. These payments are budgeted annually without accrual.

Consistent with GASB Statement No. 16, Accounting for Compensated Absences, an accrual for accumulated sick leave is included in compensated absences at year-end. The compensated absences liability is calculated based on the contractually negotiated rates in effect at year-end.

Compensated absences for governmental fund type employees are reported as a fund liability and as an expenditure in the government-wide financial statements. A portion of the compensated absences liability recognized is attributed to the value of sick leave converted to pay the employees' share of postemployment health insurance premiums.

The compensated absences liability for the Governmental funds at the year-end totaled \$15,651,036. A liability for those amounts is reported in the governmental funds only if they have matured, for example, as a result of employee resignations and retirements.

Payment of compensated absences recorded in the government-wide financial statements is dependent upon many factors; therefore timing of future payments are not readily determinable. However, management believes that sufficient resources will be made available for the payment of compensated absences when such payments become due.

**F. USE OF ESTIMATES IN PREPARATION OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

The preparation of financial statements in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets, deferred outflows of resources, liabilities, deferred inflows of resources and disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements and the reported amounts of revenue and expenses/expenditures during the reporting period. Actual results could differ from those estimates.

**G. ACCOUNTING PRONOUNCEMENTS**

During the fiscal year ended December 31, 2019, the City has implemented Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) Statement No. 84, *Fiduciary Activities*. The primary objective of Statement No. 84 is to improve guidance regarding the identification of fiduciary activities for accounting and financial reporting purposes and how these activities should be reported. The City reclassified certain activities, no longer considered fiduciary in nature, to the governmental funds to comply with this Statement in the current year.

The City has evaluated the provisions of GASB Statement No. 83, *Certain Asset Retirement Obligations*, Statement No. 88, *Certain Disclosures Related to Debt, including Direct Borrowing and Direct Placements*, and Statement No. 90, *Majority Equity Interests-an Amendment of GASB Statements No. 14 and 61*, which became effective for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2019, and determined that they have no significant impact on the City's financial statements.

**CITY OF NIAGARA FALLS, NEW YORK**  
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The following are GASB Statements that have been issued recently and are currently being evaluated, by the City, for their potential impact in future years.

- Statement No. 87, *Leases*, which will be effective for the year ending December 31, 2022.
- Statement No. 89, *Accounting for Interest Cost Incurred before the End of a Construction Period*, which will be effective for the year ending December 31, 2021.
- Statement No. 91, *Conduit Debt Obligations*, which will be effective for the year ending December 31, 2022.
- Statement No. 92, *Omnibus 2020*, which will be effective for the year ending December 31, 2022.
- Statement No. 93, *Replacement of Interbank Offered Rates*, which will be effective for the year ending December 31, 2022.
- Statement No. 94, *Public-Private and Public-Public Partnerships and Availability Payment Arrangements*, which will be effective for the year ending December 31, 2023.

On May 8, 2020, the GASB issued Statement No. 95, *Postponement of the Effective Dates of Certain Authoritative Guidance* in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. The effective dates of GASB Statements not yet implemented by the City have been updated above to reflect the impact of this Statement.

**NOTE 2 - STEWARDSHIP, COMPLIANCE, AND ACCOUNTABILITY**

**A. LEGAL COMPLIANCE - BUDGETS**

Budgets and Budgetary Accounting – The City follows these procedures in establishing the budgetary data reflected in the financial statements:

- On October 1<sup>st</sup>, the Mayor submits a complete operating plan of proposed expenditures and estimated revenues for the City to the City Council for the fiscal year commencing the following January 1<sup>st</sup>.
- The City Council has the power to delete, reduce or add expenditure items to the budget except for debt service, other items required by law and an appropriation for a reserve for uncollected taxes, capital equipment and estimated deficit.
- The Mayor has a line item veto power which must be exercised within ten (10) days of City Council action. The Council then has five (5) days to override such vetoes.
- Reallocation of the budget among municipal service categories must be approved by the City Council.
- Appropriations generally expire at the end of the fiscal year except amounts administratively approved for reappropriation. These reappropriations are include in the assigned fund balance for encumbrances in the fund financial statements.
- Expenditures for each department may not legally exceed the total appropriations for that department. During the year, several supplemental appropriations were necessary.

**B. DEFICIT FUND BALANCE**

At December 31, 2019 the Self Insurance Fund, a major fund, had a deficit unassigned fund balance of \$3,602,049. During the current year claims paid and administrative costs exceeded funding for health insurance in the amount of \$2,615,643. The deficit will be primarily eliminated via increases in budgeted amounts to be paid from the City's General Fund. Additionally, the City is looking at ways to potentially reduce costs related to administrative expenses and continuing to take advantage of available discount and rebate programs on both prescription drug and medical claim costs.

The Library Fund reported a deficit fund balance at December 31, 2019 in the amount of \$19,487. The deficit was created in relation to the excess of expenditures over revenues in the current year. The deficit will be eliminated through an increase in interfund transfers from the General Fund in the subsequent fiscal year.

**C. VIOLATIONS OF LEGAL OR CONTRACTUAL PROVISIONS**

The notes to required supplementary information, excess of expenditures over appropriations, describes a budgetary violation that occurred for the year ended December 31, 2019.

**NOTE 3 - DETAIL NOTES ON ALL ACTIVITIES AND FUNDS**

**A. DEPOSITS AND INVESTMENTS**

The City's investment policies are governed by State statutes. In addition, the City has its own written investment policy. City monies must be deposited in FDIC-insured commercial banks or trust companies located within the State. The City Controller is authorized to use interest bearing demand accounts and certificates of deposit. Permissible investments include obligations of the U.S. Treasury and U.S. agencies, repurchase agreements and obligations of the State of New York and its localities.

Collateral is required for demand deposits and certificates of deposits not covered by federal deposit insurance. Obligations that may be pledged as collateral are obligations of the United States and its agencies and obligations of the State and its municipalities and school districts, and obligations issued by other than New York State rated in one of the three highest rating categories by at least one nationally recognized statistical rating organizations.

The City's aggregate bank balances were fully collateralized at December 31, 2019.

Restricted cash and cash equivalents represents amounts where use is limited by legal requirements. These assets represent \$1,491,012 in the General Fund for tourism and trolley reserves, \$493,641 in the Community Development Fund for federal programs, \$1,426,066 in the Special Miscellaneous Revenue Fund for miscellaneous reserves and \$1,096,196 in the Debt Service Fund for debt obligations.

Investment and Deposit Policy

The City follows an investment and deposit policy, the overall objective of which is to adequately safeguard the principal amount of funds invested or deposited; conformance with federal, state and other legal requirements; and provide sufficient liquidity of invested funds in order to meet obligations as they become due. Oversight of investment activity is the responsibility of the City Controller.

Interest Rate Risk

Interest rate risk is the risk that the fair value of investments will be affected by changing interest rates. The City's investment policy does not limit investment maturities as a means of managing its exposure to fair value losses arising from increasing interest rates.

Credit Risk

The City's policy is to minimize the risk of loss due to failure of an issuer or other counterparty to an investment to fulfill its obligations. The City's investment and deposit policy authorizes the reporting entity to purchase the following types of investments:

- Interest bearing demand accounts.
- Certificates of deposit.
- Obligations of the United States Treasury and United States agencies.
- Obligations of New York State and its localities.

Custodial Credit Risk

Custodial credit risk is the risk that in the event of a failure of a depository financial institution, the reporting entity may not recover its deposits. In accordance with the City's investment and deposit policy, all deposits of the City including interest bearing demand accounts and certificates of deposit, in excess of the amount insured under the provisions of the Federal Deposit Insurance Act (FDIC) shall be secured by a pledge of securities with an aggregate value equal to 102% of the aggregate amount of deposits. The City restricts the securities to the following eligible items:

- Obligations issued, fully insured or guaranteed as to the payment of principal and interest, by the United States Treasury and United States agencies.
- Obligations issued or fully insured or guaranteed by New York State and its localities.
- Obligations issued by other than New York State rated in one of the three highest rating categories by at least one nationally recognized statistical rating organizations.

**CITY OF NIAGARA FALLS, NEW YORK  
NOTES TO BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

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**B. RECEIVABLES**

Significant revenues accrued by the City at December 31, 2019 include the following:

General Fund:

Tourism - 4th quarter occupancy tax	\$ 514,009
Grants	5,359
Franchise fees	349,443
Gross utilities taxes	39,284
In-rem property sales	2,286,196
Miscellaneous receivables	1,680,896
Total	<u>4,875,187</u>

Community Development Fund:

Grant receivables	105,707
Miscellaneous	11,087
Total	<u>116,794</u>

Capital Projects Fund:

Miscellaneous	<u>87,959</u>
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Nonmajor Funds:

Train Station - Amtrak - 4th quarter	78,300
Train Station - Underground Railroad - 4th quarter	7,681
Golf Course - Niagara Golf Partners	63,948
Total	<u>149,929</u>
Total receivables	<u>\$ 5,229,869</u>

1. Due from Other Governments - represents amounts due from other governmental entities at December 31, 2019:

General Fund:

Niagara County - sales tax	\$ 1,070,487
Niagara County - miscellaneous	49,716
Niagara Falls Water Board	1,773
Niagara Falls Board of Education - school tax fees	79,816
Miscellaneous receivables	601
Total due from other governments	<u>\$ 1,202,393</u>

2. State and Federal Receivables - represents amounts due primarily from New York State and the federal government at December 31, 2019:

General Fund:

NYS sales tax	\$ 858,223
Medicare Part D	72,726
NYS Power Authority	36,952
NYSERDA	158,411
Miscellaneous receivables	144,792
Total	<u>1,271,104</u>

Community Development Fund:

HUD receivables	259,505
Grant receivables	80,075
Total	<u>339,580</u>

**CITY OF NIAGARA FALLS, NEW YORK**  
**NOTES TO BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

Capital Projects Fund:

DPW Capital Highway Improvement (CHIPS)	388,196
Grant receivables	1,074,497
Buffalo Avenue	43,106
Total	<u>1,505,799</u>
Total state and federal receivables	<u>\$ 3,116,483</u>

**C. LOANS RECEIVABLE**

The loans receivable recorded in the General Fund represent amounts owed to the City relating to the CB – Emmanuel Realty, LLC City Lofts project. The outstanding loan balance as of December 31, 2019 was \$5,000,000.

The loans receivable recorded in the Community Development Fund represent amounts owed to the City relating to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development Community Development loan program. Loans outstanding as of December 31, 2019, were as follows:

Community Development Fund:

Loans receivable - Community Development Block Grant	\$ 818,185
Loans receivable - Miscellaneous	796,520
Loans receivable - HOME	355,840
Total loans receivable	<u>\$ 1,970,545</u>

**D. TAXES RECEIVABLE**

The taxes receivable, net, recorded in the General Fund represents amounts owed to the City relating to real property taxes were as follows at December 31, 2019:

General Fund:

City taxes receivable current	\$ 2,707,042
City taxes receivable overdue	9,694,351
School taxes receivable	<u>7,321,989</u>
Total taxes receivable	19,723,382
Less: allowance for uncollectibles	<u>4,267,558</u>
Total taxes receivable, net	<u>\$ 15,455,824</u>

**E. CAPITAL ASSETS**

Capital asset activity for governmental activities for the year ended December 31, 2019, is as follows:

	Balance 01/01/19	Increases	Decreases	Balance 12/31/19
Capital assets, not being depreciated:				
Land	\$ 2,891,293	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 2,891,293
Land improvement - inexhaustible	1,334,807	-	-	1,334,807
Construction work in progress	44,101,744	6,808,790	7,889,801	43,020,733
Land held for development and sale	1,290,950	-	-	1,290,950
Works of art/historical treasures	17,378	-	-	17,378
Total capital assets, not being depreciated	<u>49,636,172</u>	<u>6,808,790</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>48,555,161</u>



**CITY OF NIAGARA FALLS, NEW YORK  
NOTES TO BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

	Balance 01/01/19	Increases	Decreases	Balance 12/31/19
Capital assets, being depreciated:				
Infrastructure	158,489,880	7,228,215	-	165,718,095
Land improvements - exhaustible	5,308,228	198,337	-	5,506,565
Buildings and building improvements	47,533,189	-	-	47,533,189
Furniture, office and other equipment	9,428,953	149,517	718	9,577,752
Library/museum resources	9,072,896	-	-	9,072,896
Vehicles	19,958,280	463,249	593,680	19,827,849
Total capital assets, being depreciated	<u>249,791,426</u>	<u>8,039,318</u>	<u>594,398</u>	<u>257,236,346</u>
Less accumulated depreciation:				
Infrastructure	78,244,586	3,877,213	-	82,121,799
Land improvements - exhaustible	2,321,866	194,169	-	2,516,035
Buildings and building improvements	22,918,411	836,954	-	23,755,365
Furniture, office and other equipment	8,749,253	168,555	718	8,917,090
Library/museum resources	9,072,896	-	-	9,072,896
Vehicles	16,075,353	999,911	590,798	16,484,466
Total accumulated depreciation	<u>137,382,365</u>	<u>6,076,802</u>	<u>591,516</u>	<u>142,867,651</u>
Total capital assets being depreciated, net	<u>112,409,061</u>	<u>1,962,516</u>	<u>2,882</u>	<u>114,368,695</u>
Governmental activities capital assets, net	<u>\$ 162,045,233</u>	<u>\$ 8,771,306</u>	<u>\$ 2,882</u>	<u>\$ 162,923,856</u>

Depreciation expense was charged to the functions/programs of the governmental activities as follows:

General government	\$ 106,078
Public safety	605,000
Transportation	4,268,899
Culture and recreation	781,593
Home and community services	315,232
Total depreciation expense - governmental activities	<u>\$ 6,076,802</u>

**F. PENSION OBLIGATIONS**

***New York State and Local Employees' Retirement System (ERS) and the New York State and Local Police and Fire Retirement System (PFRS) (the System)***

Plan Description

The City participates in the New York State and Local Employees' Retirement System (ERS) and the Local Police and Fire Retirement System (PFRS), which are collectively referred to as New York State and Local Retirement System (the System). This is a cost-sharing multiple-employer defined benefit retirement system. The net position of the System is held in the New York State Common Retirement Fund (the Fund), which was established to hold all net assets and record changes in fiduciary net position allocated to the System. The Comptroller of the State of New York serves as the trustee of the Fund and is the administrative head of the System. System benefits are established under the provisions of the New York State Retirement and Social Security Law (NYSRSSL). Once a public employer elects to participate in the System, the election is irrevocable. The New York State Constitution provides that pension membership is a contractual relationship and plan benefits cannot be diminished or impaired. Benefits can be changed for future members only by enactment of a State statute. The City also participates in the Public Employees' Group Life Insurance Plan (GLIP), which provides death benefits in the form of life insurance. The System is included in the State's financial report as a pension trust fund. That report, including information with regard to benefit's provided, may be found at [www.osc.state.ny.us/retire/publications/index.php](http://www.osc.state.ny.us/retire/publications/index.php) or obtained by writing to the New York State and Local Retirement System, 110 State Street, Albany, NY 12244.

**CITY OF NIAGARA FALLS, NEW YORK  
NOTES TO BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

Funding Policy

The System is noncontributory, except for employees who joined the ERS after July 27, 1976 who contribute three percent (3%) of their salary for the first ten years of membership, and employees who joined on or after January 10, 2010 (ERS) or January 9, 2010 (PFRS), who generally contribute three percent (3%) to three and one half percent (3.5%) of their salary for their entire length of service. In addition, employee contribution rates under ERS Tier VI vary based on a sliding salary scale. The Comptroller annually certifies the actuarially determined rates expressly used in computing the employers' contributions based on salaries paid during the System's fiscal year ending March 31<sup>st</sup>.

Pension Liabilities, Pension Expense, and Deferred Outflows of Resources and Deferred Inflows of Resources Related to Pensions

At December 31, 2019, the City reported the following liability for its proportionate share of the net pension liability to the System. The net pension liability was measured as of March 31, 2019, and the total pension liability used to calculate the net pension liability was determined by an actuarial valuation as of April 1, 2018. The City's proportion of the net pension liability was based on a projection of the City's long-term share of contributions to the pension plan relative to the projected contributions of all participating members, actuarially determined. This information was provided by the ERS and PFRS System in reports provided to the City.

	<u>ERS</u>	<u>PFRS</u>
Measurement date	03/31/19	03/31/19
Net pension liability	\$ 3,220,796	\$ 12,618,999
City's portion of the Plan's total net pension liability	0.0454574 %	0.7005245 %
Change in proportion since the prior measurement date	(0.0008072)	(0.1012146)
Pension expense at December 31, 2019	\$ 2,248,593	\$ 7,946,396

At December 31, 2019 the City's reported deferred outflows of resources and deferred inflows of resources related to pensions arose from the following sources:

	<u>Deferred Outflows of Resources</u>		<u>Deferred Inflows of Resources</u>	
	<u>ERS</u>	<u>PFRS</u>	<u>ERS</u>	<u>PFRS</u>
Differences between expected and actual experience	\$ 634,242	\$ 3,065,504	\$ 216,206	\$ 1,347,286
Change of assumptions	809,576	4,584,819	-	-
Net difference between projected and actual earnings on pension plan investments	-	-	826,634	2,527,278
Changes in proportion and differences between the City's contributions and proportionate share of contributions	373,311	521,382	56,077	1,603,072
City's contributions subsequent to the measurement date	<u>1,636,731</u>	<u>4,800,627</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Total	<u>\$ 3,453,860</u>	<u>\$ 12,972,332</u>	<u>\$ 1,098,917</u>	<u>\$ 5,477,636</u>

**CITY OF NIAGARA FALLS, NEW YORK**  
**NOTES TO BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

The City contributions subsequent to the measurement date will be recognized as a reduction of the net pension liability in the year ended December 31, 2020. Other amounts reported as deferred outflows of resources and deferred inflows of resources related to pensions will be recognized in pension expense as follows:

	<u>ERS</u>	<u>PFRS</u>
<u>Year ended March 31:</u>		
2020	\$ 757,190	\$ 2,202,659
2021	(530,464)	(765,969)
2022	25,254	(187,845)
2023	466,232	1,300,569
2024	-	144,655
Thereafter	-	-

Actuarial Assumptions

The total pension liability as of the March 31, 2019 was determined by using an actuarial valuation as of April 1, 2018, with update procedures used to roll forward the total pension liability to March 31, 2019. The actuarial valuation used the following actuarial assumptions:

	<u>ERS</u>	<u>PFRS</u>
Inflation	2.5 %	2.5 %
Salary increases	4.2	5.0
Investment rate of return (net of investment expense, including inflation)	7.0	7.0
Cost of living adjustments	1.3	1.3

Annuitant mortality rates are based on April 1, 2010 – March 31, 2015 System’s experience with adjustments for mortality improvements based on the Society of Actuaries’ Scale MP-2014. The actuarial assumptions used in the April 1, 2018 valuation are based on the results of an actuarial experience study for the period April 1, 2010 – March 31, 2015.

The long-term expected rate of return on pension plan investments was determined using a building-block method in which best-estimate ranges of expected future real rates of return (expected return, net of investment expenses and inflation) are developed for each major asset class. These ranges are combined to produce the long-term expected rate of return by weighting the expected future real rates of return by the target asset allocation percentage and by adding expected inflation.

Best estimates of arithmetic real rates of return for each major asset class included in the target asset allocation as of March 31, 2019 for both ERS and PFRS are summarized below:

	<u>Target Allocation</u>	<u>Long-Term Expected Real Rate of Return</u>
Asset Class:		
Domestic equity	36.0 %	4.6 %
International equity	14.0	6.4
Private equity	10.0	7.5
Real estate	10.0	5.6
Absolute return strategies	2.0	3.8
Opportunistic funds/portfolio	3.0	5.7
Real assets	3.0	5.3
Bonds and mortgages	17.0	1.3
Cash	1.0	-0.3
Inflation-indexed bonds	4.0	1.3
Total	<u>100.0 %</u>	

**CITY OF NIAGARA FALLS, NEW YORK  
NOTES TO BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

Discount Rate

The discount rate used to calculate the total pension liability was 7.0%. The projection of cash flows used to determine the discount rate assumes that contributions from plan members will be made at the current contribution rates and that contributions from employers will be made at statutorily required rates, actuarially determined. Based upon the assumptions, the System’s fiduciary net position was projected to be available to make all projected future benefit payments to 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 Proportionate Share of the Net Pension Liability to the Discount Rate Assumption

The following tables present the City’s proportionate share of the net pension liability calculated using the discount rate of 7.0%, 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 1-percentage point lower (6.0%) or 1-percentage point higher (8.0%) than the current rate:

	1% Decrease (6.0%)	Current Assumption (7.0%)	1% Increase (8.0%)
<u>ERS</u>			
City’s proportionate share of the net pension liability/(asset)	\$ 14,081,834	\$ 3,220,796	\$ (5,903,246)
<u>PFRS</u>			
City’s proportionate share of the net pension liability/(asset)	\$ 45,603,177	\$ 12,618,999	\$ (14,926,618)

Pension Plan Fiduciary Net Position

The components of the current-year net pension liability of the employers as of March 31, 2019 were as follows:

	(Dollars in Thousands)		
	<u>ERS</u>	<u>PFRS</u>	<u>Total</u>
Employers’ total pension liability	\$ 189,803,429	\$ 34,128,100	\$ 223,931,529
Plan net position	182,718,124	32,451,037	215,169,161
Employers’ net pension liability	<u>\$ 7,085,305</u>	<u>\$ 1,677,063</u>	<u>\$ 8,762,368</u>
Ratio of plan net position to the employers’ total pension liability	96.3%	95.1%	96.1%

Prepays to the Pension Plan

For ERS and PFRS, employer contributions are paid annually based on the System’s fiscal year which ends on March 31<sup>st</sup>. Prepaid retirement contributions as of December 31, 2019 represent the employer contribution for the period of January 1, 2020 through March 31, 2020 of the retirement invoice for the Plan year April 1, 2019 through March 31, 2020. Prepaid retirement contributions as of December 31, 2019 amounted to \$545,577 and \$1,600,209 for ERS and PFRS, respectively.

**G. TOTAL OTHER POSTEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS (OPEB) LIABILITY**

Plan Description

The City of Niagara Falls, New York (the City) administers the City of Niagara Falls Retiree Medical, Dental and Life Insurance Plan (the Plan) as a single-employer defined benefit Other Post Employment Benefit plan (OPEB). The Plan provides for continuation of medical, dental and life insurance benefits for certain retirees and their spouses and can be amended by action of the City subject to applicable collective bargaining and employment agreements. The Plan does not issue a stand alone financial report since there are no assets legally segregated for the sole purpose of paying benefits under the Plan.

**CITY OF NIAGARA FALLS, NEW YORK**  
**NOTES TO BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

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Funding Policy

The obligations of the plan members and employers are established by action of the City pursuant to applicable collective bargaining and employment agreements. The required contribution rates of the employer and the members varies depending on the applicable agreement. The employer currently contributes enough money to the plan to satisfy current obligations on a pay-as-you-go basis. The costs of administering the plan are paid by the City.

At December 31, 2019, the following employees were covered by the benefit terms:

Inactive employees or beneficiaries currently receiving benefit payments	568
Inactive employees entitled to but not receiving benefit payments	-
Active employees	<u>553</u>
Total	<u><u>1,121</u></u>

The City's total OPEB liability of \$381,334,320 was measured as of January 1, 2019, and was determined by an interim actuarial valuation as of December 31, 2019.

Actuarial Assumptions and Other Inputs

The total OPEB liability in the December 31, 2019 interim actuarial valuation was determined using the following actuarial assumptions and other inputs, applied to all periods included in the measurement, unless otherwise specified:

Inflation	2.25 %
Salary increases	2.00
Discount rate	2.75
Healthcare cost trend rates	3.78
Retirees' share of benefit-related costs	0.00 - 15.00

The discount rate was based on the Fidelity Municipal General Obligation AA 20 year Bond rate as of the measurement date.

Mortality rates for retirees and surviving spouses were based on the Adjusted RPH – 2014 combined mortality, fully generational using Mortality Improvement Scale MP-2019.

Retirement and termination assumptions reflect general published tables based on large-scale retirement plan population data. The plan's estimated termination and retirement experience is then analyzed, and the base table is adjusted accordingly as necessary. No formal experience study is prepared for this plan.

Changes in the Total OPEB Liability:

	<u>Total OPEB Liability</u>
Balance at January 1, 2019	\$ 360,760,270
Changes for the year:	
Service cost	13,507,520
Interest	13,685,909
Changes of benefit terms	-
Differences between expected and actual experience	(57,478,786)
Changes in assumptions or other inputs	61,610,148
Benefit payments	<u>(10,750,741)</u>
Net changes	<u>20,574,050</u>
Balance at December 31, 2019	<u><u>\$ 381,334,320</u></u>

**CITY OF NIAGARA FALLS, NEW YORK**  
**NOTES TO BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

Changes of assumptions and other inputs reflect a change in the discount rate from 3.71 percent in 2018 to 2.75 percent in 2019 updated premium information and changes in the Mortality Improvement Scale from MP-2018 to MP-2019.

Sensitivity of the Total OPEB Liability to Changes in the Discount Rate

The following presents the total OPEB liability of the City, as well as what the City's total OPEB liability would be if it were calculated using a discount rate that is 1 percentage point lower (1.75%) or 1 percentage point higher (3.75%) than the current discount rate.

	<u>1% Decrease (1.75%)</u>	<u>Discount Rate (2.75%)</u>	<u>1% Increase (3.75%)</u>
Total OPEB liability	\$ <u>449,418,107</u>	\$ <u>381,334,320</u>	\$ <u>327,161,503</u>

Sensitivity of the Total OPEB Liability to Changes in the Healthcare Cost Trend Rates

The following presents the total OPEB liability of the City, as well as what the City's total OPEB liability would be if it were calculated using healthcare cost trend rates that are 1 percentage point lower (2.78%) or 1 percentage point higher (4.78%) than the current healthcare cost trend rate:

	<u>1% Decrease (6.00% decreasing to 2.78%)</u>	<u>Healthcare Cost Trend Rates (7.00% decreasing to 3.78%)</u>	<u>1% Increase (8.00% decreasing to 4.78%)</u>
Total OPEB liability	\$ <u>321,001,268</u>	\$ <u>381,334,320</u>	\$ <u>459,312,169</u>

OPEB Expense and Deferred Outflows of Resources and Deferred Inflows of Resources Related to OPEB

For the year ended December 31, 2019, the City recognized OPEB expense of \$19,465,711. At December 31, 2019, the City reported deferred outflows of resources and deferred inflow of resources related to OPEB from the following sources:

	<u>Deferred Outflows of Resources</u>	<u>Deferred Inflows of Resources</u>
Differences between expected and actual experience	\$ -	\$ 48,567,346
Changes of assumptions or other inputs	52,058,187	33,648,713
Contributions subsequent to the measurement date	-	-
Total	\$ <u>52,058,187</u>	\$ <u>82,216,059</u>

Amounts reported as deferred outflows of resources and deferred inflows of resources related to OPEB will be recognized in OPEB expense as follows:

Year ended December 31:

2020	\$ (6,904,033)
2021	(6,904,033)
2022	(6,904,033)
2023	(6,904,033)
2024	(6,904,033)
Thereafter	4,362,293

**CITY OF NIAGARA FALLS, NEW YORK  
NOTES TO BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

**H. LONG-TERM LIABILITIES**

In the government-wide financial statements, long-term debt and other long-term obligations are reported as noncurrent liabilities in the Statement of Net Position.

In the fund financial statements, governmental funds recognize bond premiums and discounts during the current period. The face amount of debt issued is reported as other financing sources. Premiums received on debt issuances are reported as other financing sources, while discounts on debt issuances are reported as other financing uses. Further, the unmatured principal of general long-term debt does not require current appropriations and expenditure of governmental fund financial resources.

The City's outstanding long-term liabilities include serial bonds, installment purchase debt, premium obligation on bond, amortization of obligation due to retirement system, compensated absences, workers' compensation, total OPEB liability, and net pension liability.

A summary of changes in the City's long-term liabilities for the year ended December 31, 2019 are presented as follows:

	Balance 01/01/19	Additions	Reductions	Balance 12/31/19	Due Within One Year
Serial bonds	\$ 54,963,305	\$ -	\$ 3,813,305	\$ 51,150,000	\$ 4,110,000
Installment purchase debt	311,369	-	141,526	169,843	144,706
Bond premium	1,959,954	-	115,292	1,844,662	115,292
Due to retirement system	3,389,593	-	672,440	2,717,153	695,056
Compensated absences*	15,299,685	351,351	-	15,651,036	-
Workers' compensation	11,261,755	3,503,017	2,811,452	11,953,320	-
Total OPEB liability	360,760,270	31,324,791	10,750,741	381,334,320	-
Net pension liability*	9,596,798	6,242,997	-	15,839,795	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 457,542,729</b>	<b>\$ 41,422,156</b>	<b>\$ 18,304,756</b>	<b>\$ 480,660,129</b>	<b>\$ 5,065,054</b>

\*Additions and reductions to net pension liability and compensated absences are presented net.

Long-term debt maturity schedule:

Issue Description	Original Issue Date	Original Borrowing	Interest Rates to Maturity	Final Maturity	Outstanding Balance 12/31/19
<u>General obligation bonds:</u>					
Various - general fund/sewer lines	1994	\$ 10,670,000	5.3-7.5 %	2024	\$ 10,000
Various - general fund	2009	8,190,000	3.0-5.5 %	2024	3,030,000
Various - general fund	2011	7,437,000	3.0-4.0 %	2026	3,830,000
2014 Refunding - general fund	2014	7,355,000	0.5-3.0 %	2024	2,560,000
2016 Refunding bonds	2016	39,490,000	1.75-5.0 %	2037	34,350,000
Various - general fund	2017	8,093,305	3.0-3.625 %	2042	7,370,000
Total general obligation bonds					\$ 51,150,000
<u>Installment purchase debt:</u>					
NYPA loan	2010	1,390,120	0.53 %	2021	\$ 169,843

**CITY OF NIAGARA FALLS, NEW YORK**  
**NOTES TO BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

Summary schedule of maturing debt - The following is a summary of maturing debt service requirements for the City's serial bonds and installment purchase debt:

Year ending December 31,	Serial Bonds			Installment Purchase Debt	
	Principal	Interest	Premium	Principal	Interest
2020	\$ 4,110,000	\$ 1,771,048	\$ 115,292	\$ 144,706	\$ 1,719
2021	3,650,000	1,658,495	115,292	25,137	51
2022	3,785,000	1,520,820	115,292	-	-
2023	3,800,000	1,388,732	115,292	-	-
2024	3,835,000	1,254,091	115,292	-	-
2025-2029	12,755,000	4,498,610	576,458	-	-
2030-2034	11,030,000	2,254,650	576,548	-	-
2035-2039	7,590,000	576,456	115,196	-	-
2040-2042	595,000	52,800	-	-	-
Total	<u>\$ 51,150,000</u>	<u>\$ 14,975,702</u>	<u>\$ 1,844,662</u>	<u>\$ 169,843</u>	<u>\$ 1,770</u>

Constitutional Debt Limit

As of December 31, 2019, the City has exhausted 47.81 percent of its constitutional debt limit with \$51,319,059 of outstanding debt principal of a total \$107,337,705 debt limit.

Defeasance of Debt

In prior years, the City defeased certain general obligations and other bonds by placing the proceeds of new bonds in an irrevocable trust to provide for all future debt service payments on the old bonds. Accordingly, the trust account assets and the liability for the defeased bonds are not included in the City's financial statements. At December 31, 2019, a total amount of \$1,215,075 of bonds outstanding are considered defeased.

Compensated Absences

As explained in Note 1, the City records the value of governmental type compensated absences. The annual budgets of the respective funds of which the employees' payroll is recorded provide funding for these benefits as they become payable throughout the year. Payments by the City to liquidate compensated absences are typically from the funds in which the individuals are employed. Since the payment of compensated absences is dependent upon many factors, the timing of future payments is not readily determinable.

Net Pension Liability

The City reported a liability of \$15,839,795 for the governmental activities for the year ended December 31, 2019 for its proportionate share of the net pension liability for the New York State and Local Employees' Retirement System and the Policy and Fire Retirement System. Refer to Note 3.E for additional information related to the City's net pension liability. Payments by the City for retirement contributions are typically from funds in which the individuals are employed.

**I. NET POSITION AND FUND BALANCE**

NET POSITION

The government-wide financial statements utilize a net position presentation. Net position is categorized as net investment in capital assets, restricted and unrestricted.

Net investment in capital assets – This category groups all capital assets, including infrastructure, into one component of net assets. Accumulated depreciation and debt used to fund capital asset purchases reduce the balance in this category. The following presents a reconciliation of capital assets (net of accumulated depreciation), to net investment in capital assets:

Capital assets, net of accumulated depreciation	\$ 162,923,856
Deferred outflows - bond refundings	1,708,762
Bonds payable used for capital assets	(52,994,662)
Installment purchase debt payable	(169,843)
Net investment in capital assets	<u>\$ 111,468,113</u>



**CITY OF NIAGARA FALLS, NEW YORK**  
**NOTES TO BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

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Restricted net position – This category presents external restrictions imposed by creditors, grantors, contributors, or laws and regulations of other governments and restrictions imposed by law through constitutional provisions or enabling legislation.

Unrestricted net position – This category represents net position of the City not restricted for any project or other purpose.

**FUND BALANCE**

In the fund financial statements there are five classifications of fund balance:

Nonspendable – represents amounts that cannot be spent because they are either not in spendable form or legally or contractually required to be maintained intact. Nonspendable fund balances maintained by the City at December 31, 2019 include prepaid items related to payments to the retirement system.

Restricted – represents amounts with constraints placed on the use of resources and are either externally imposed by creditors, grantors, contributors or laws or regulations of other governments; or imposed by law through constitutional provisions or enabling legislation.

- *Restricted for debt service* – represents unspent debt proceed funds to be used towards future debt service requirements.
- *Restricted for community development* – represents funds to be used for any future community development projects.
- *Restricted for miscellaneous* – represents tribal revenues allocated from New York State. These funds are restricted for various purposes as determined by law.
- *Restricted for Tourism and Trolley Services* – represents funds set aside to be used for the specific programs.

Committed – represents amounts that are subject to a purpose constraint imposed by a formal action of the City's highest level of decision-making authority. As of December 31, 2019, the City had no committed fund balance.

Assigned – represents amounts that are constrained by the City's intent to be used for the specified purposes noted below, but are neither restricted nor committed.

Unassigned – represents all amounts not included in other spendable classifications. The General Fund is the only fund that would report a positive amount in unassigned fund balance. Residual deficit amounts of governmental funds would also be reported as in this category.

**CITY OF NIAGARA FALLS, NEW YORK  
NOTES TO BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

**DETAIL OF FUND BALANCES**

As of December 31, 2019, the governmental fund's fund balances were classified as follows:

	General	Community Development	Capital Projects	Miscellaneous Special Revenue	Self Insurance	Debt Service	Nonmajor Funds	Total
<b>Nonspendable:</b>								
Prepaid items	\$ 2,145,786	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 95,459	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 2,241,245
<b>Restricted:</b>								
Casino	-	-	-	1,426,066	-	-	-	1,426,066
Debt service	-	-	-	-	-	1,096,196	-	1,096,196
Community development	-	493,641	-	-	-	-	-	493,641
Tourism	615,619	-	-	-	-	-	-	615,619
Trolley	875,393	-	-	-	-	-	-	875,393
<b>Assigned:</b>								
Capital projects	-	-	6,603,145	-	-	-	-	6,603,145
Judgments and claims	-	-	-	-	870,303	-	-	870,303
Dental insurance	-	-	-	-	702,469	-	-	702,469
Workers' compensation	-	-	-	-	300,581	-	-	300,581
<b>Unassigned:</b>								
General Fund	1,191,738	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,191,738
Health insurance	-	-	-	-	(3,602,049)	-	-	(3,602,049)
Library	-	-	-	-	-	-	(19,487)	(19,487)
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 4,828,536</b>	<b>\$ 493,641</b>	<b>\$ 6,603,145</b>	<b>\$ 1,426,066</b>	<b>\$ (1,633,237)</b>	<b>\$ 1,096,196</b>	<b>\$ (19,487)</b>	<b>\$ 12,794,860</b>

**J. INTERFUND ACTIVITIES**

Interfund receivables, payables and transfers as of and for the year ended December 31, 2019, are as follows:

Receivable Fund	Payable Fund	Amount
General	Community Development	\$ 1,690,648
General	Train Station	58,732
General	Golf Course	54,551
General	Self Insurance	2,654,320
General	Stationary	1,468
General	Central Garage	413,741
General	Custodial	193,496
Capital Projects	General	1,450,250
Self Insurance	General	1,511,109
Self Insurance	Custodial	8,636
Custodial	General	1,989,943
Custodial	Community Development	38,580
Custodial	Parking Ramp	15,737
Custodial	Train Station	8,758
Custodial	Public Library	41,882
Custodial	Capital Projects	2,178
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$ 10,134,029</b>

Interfund payables to the General Fund are for payroll expenditures and amounts due to the Self Insurance Fund are for medical insurance. To improve cash management, all City accounts are pooled into a consolidated bank account. The interfund receivables and payables arise due to a reclass of negative pooled cash and are short term in nature and are typically repaid in less than one year. The City also has activity related to interfund revenues see Note 6.

**CITY OF NIAGARA FALLS, NEW YORK**  
**NOTES TO BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

	Transfer in:						Total
	General	Capital Projects	Miscellaneous Special Revenue	Self Insurance	Debt Service	Nonmajor Funds	
Transfer out:							
General	\$ -	\$ 50,000	\$ -	\$ 1,229,333	\$ 5,904,560	\$ 2,024,023	\$ 9,207,916
Capital Projects	25,606	-	122,938		935,879	-	1,084,423
Miscellaneous Special							
Revenue	10,473,581	1,327,671	-	-	-	-	11,801,252
Debt Service	950,000	-	-	-	-	-	950,000
Nonmajor Funds	2,476,126	-	-	-	-	-	2,476,126
Total	\$ <u>13,925,313</u>	\$ <u>1,377,671</u>	\$ <u>122,938</u>	\$ <u>1,229,333</u>	\$ <u>6,840,439</u>	\$ <u>2,024,023</u>	\$ <u>25,519,717</u>

Transfers among funds are provided for as part of the annual budget process. They facilitate annual contributions from the operating budget to other funds. They also include transfers to fund and to close out capital projects for excess cash remaining after the termination of the project.

**NOTE 4 – RESTATEMENT OF NET POSITION**

For the fiscal year ended December 31, 2019, the City implemented GASB Statement No. 84, Fiduciary Activities. The implementation of Statement No. 84 resulted in the reporting of net position in the custodial funds.

Net position - beginning, as previously stated	\$ -
GASB Statement No. 84 implementation	947,075
Net position - beginning of year, as restated	<u>\$ 947,075</u>

For the fiscal year ended December 31, 2019, the City implemented a new policy to record an accrued liability for the amount of health insurance claims paid within 60 days subsequent to year end relating to claims for the preceding fiscal year.

Self Insurance Fund:

Fund balance - beginning, as previously stated	\$ -
Health insurance 60-day lag report at 12/31/18	(890,947)
Fund balance (deficit) - beginning of year, as restated	<u>\$ (890,947)</u>

Governmental Activities:

Net position - beginning, as previously stated	\$ (297,008,700)
Health insurance 60-day lag report at 12/31/18	(890,947)
Net position - beginning of year, as restated	<u>\$ (297,899,647)</u>

**NOTE 5 – COMMITMENTS AND CONTINGENCIES**

**A. LANDFILL CLOSURE COSTS**

The City has been identified by the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) as a responsible party which can be held liable for a portion of the long-term maintenance and operation of a landfill site in Niagara County.

The City's portion for the long-term maintenance and operation of the landfill has been estimated to be approximately \$630,000. All parties designated as potentially responsible parties by the EPA participated in a Pilot Allocation Program. As a result of the Pilot Allocation Program, the City is required to make annual payments of \$28,000 for the long-term operation and maintenance of the landfill through 2024. Since 2004, the Niagara County Refuse Trust's administration has not requested payment from the City under this program. The liability recorded as Due to Other Governments at December 31, 2019 was \$454,899.

**B. USA NIAGARA DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING**

In 2014, the City entered into a Memorandum of Understanding with USA Niagara Development Corporation (“USAN”) for the City to pay USAN for the operating costs related to the Conference Center on Old Falls Street. USAN delegated Global Spectrum, LP to maintain, manage, and coordinate all activities at the Conference Center on Old Falls Street. The City agreed to pay from its annual share of casino revenues an amount not to exceed \$1,500,000 per year for the years 2014-2018. This is subject to the City reviewing the operating deficits and capital investments in the operating and capital investment budgets. The annual amount is contingent on the City receiving its annual share of the casino revenues.

Due to the ongoing dispute between the Seneca Nation and NYS, the casino revenue sharing payments that are to be paid to NYS and then passed onto the local municipalities in accordance with the law of NYS Section 99h have not been made for the gaming activity incurred during calendar years 2017 through 2019. Therefore the annual payments for both 2017 and 2018 owed to USA Niagara from the City have not been made. Additionally, no new agreement or extension of this MOU, which expired in 2018, has been agreed upon between the City and USA Niagara.

**C. CB – EMMANUEL REALTY, LLC CITY LOFTS PROJECT**

During 2017, the City was the recipient of a \$5,000,000 Restore NY Communities grant from New York State Empire State Development. The grant monies were used by the City to loan funds to CB – Emmanuel Realty, LLC, an unrelated third-party, to be used in construction of the Niagara City Lofts housing project. Per the terms of the loan agreement, repayment of the \$5,000,000 principal balance plus one percent interest annually for a term of 30 years, is due upon completion of the project. However, this is contingent on the annual net cash flows of the project. If the annual net cash flow of the project is not sufficient to make payment in any year, the accrued interest shall be deferred and payable with the final payment.

**D. ASSESSMENTS**

The City is a defendant in various litigation under Article 7 of the Real Property Tax Law of the State of New York to review tax assessments. While the City vigorously defends assessments, the likelihood of success is on a case by case basis, and is dependent upon various factors including market values and appraised amounts. Management believes that the level of potential losses on these cases, if any, would be immaterial and no provisions have been made within the financial statements.

**E. OTHER**

The City is also involved in litigation arising in the ordinary course of its operations. The City believes that its ultimate liability, if any, in connection with these matters will not have a material effect on the City’s financial condition or results of operations.

**NOTE 6 – RISK FINANCING**

The City is exposed to various risks of losses related to torts; theft of, damage to, and destruction of assets; errors and omissions; injuries to employees; and natural disasters. The City has determined that it was not economically justifiable to carry insurance for risks or loss related to torts and other general liability claims except for amounts in excess of \$1,000,000. The City’s insurance provides coverage of up to \$5,000,000 per occurrence and \$15,000,000 in the aggregate. The City is self-insured for unemployment insurance and certain employee health plans and workers’ compensation. Amounts paid for unemployment and general liability claims were not material to the City’s financial statements. Claims settlements over the past four years have not exceeded the available insurance coverage. The City reports all of its risk management activities in its Self-Insurance Fund and records interfund revenues in the Self Insurance Fund for amounts recorded as expenditures in other funds that are provided to fund operations related to the Self Insurance Fund for judgments and claims, workers’ compensation, dental and health insurance. Liabilities are reported when it is probable that a loss has occurred and the amount of the loss can be reasonably estimated.

The City’s Corporation Counsel assesses liability for unpaid claims related to torts or judgments on a case-by-case basis. Resolution of outstanding unpaid claims is not expected to be material to the financial statements.

**CITY OF NIAGARA FALLS, NEW YORK**  
**NOTES TO BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

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Total expenditures for general claims and judgments recorded in the City’s governmental funds for the year ended December 31, 2019 was \$436,513.

The workers’ compensation plan maintains excess insurance, which insures against catastrophic claim losses for amounts over \$500,000, per occurrence, up to the limitations provided under the contract. The plan establishes reserve liabilities based on the estimated cost of individual claims incurred. Those estimates are determined based on many factors, one of the most significant being past experience. Since the reserve liability is an estimate it may not reflect the plan’s ultimate liability.

The City’s estimated claims since December 31, 2017 for the workers’ compensation program are noted below.

	Workers' Compensation
Estimated claims December 31, 2017	\$ 11,390,110
Claims incurred and adjustments during 2018	3,183,028
Payments made during 2018	<u>(3,311,383)</u>
Estimated claims December 31, 2018	11,261,755
Claims incurred and adjustments during 2019	3,503,017
Payments made during 2019	<u>(2,811,452)</u>
Estimated claims December 31, 2019	<u>\$ 11,953,320</u>

The City provides health insurance through various insurance programs to its employees. The claim liability is reported as an accrued liability in the Self Insurance Fund and amounted to \$731,882 at December 31, 2019. Claims are incurred by the employees and are based on invoices received from a third-party administrator. The City maintains stop loss coverage for claims in excess of \$250,000 per occurrence.

The City’s estimated claims since December 31, 2017 for the medical insurance program are noted below.

	Health Insurance
Estimated claims December 31, 2017	\$ 581,666
Claims incurred and adjustments during 2018	17,569,492
Payments made during 2018	<u>(17,260,211)</u>
Estimated claims December 31, 2018	890,947
Claims incurred and adjustments during 2019	18,611,690
Payments made during 2019	<u>(18,770,755)</u>
Estimated claims December 31, 2019	<u>\$ 731,882</u>

**NOTE 7 – TAX ABATEMENTS**

The City has multiple real property tax abatement agreements entered into by the Niagara County Industrial Development Agency (NCIDA) under Article 18-A of the real property tax law. These agreements provide for abatement of real property taxes in exchange for a payment in lieu of taxes (PILOT) and are under one of the following two programs:

**Industrial Real Property Tax Abatement**

To increase economic development and job growth, the NCIDA has PILOT programs for commercial and industrial projects. Projects include a PILOT with real property tax abatement of 10 years for Commercial projects and 15 years for Industrial projects. The total amount of taxes abated under this program was \$8,454,457 for the year ended December 31, 2019.

**Opportunity Zones Program**

To increase investment within the distressed downtown areas of Niagara County, the Opportunity Zones program provides incentives for small retail related companies and commercial businesses to expand or relocate to Niagara County with a 5 year PILOT agreement. The City did not have any tax abatements under this program for the current year.

**NOTE 8 – SUBSEQUENT EVENTS**

On January 30, 2020, the World Health Organization declared the coronavirus outbreak a "Public Health Emergency of International Concern" and on March 10, 2020, declared it to be a pandemic. Actions taken around the world to help mitigate the spread of the coronavirus include restrictions on travel, and quarantines in certain areas, and forced closures for certain types of public places and businesses. The City's management has assessed these events and the impact of these restrictions and closures related to the City's operations. As of the date of these financial statements and as these events continue to unfold management believes there will be a negative impact related to sales tax collected from both the County and from hotels and restaurants at a minimum through the rest of 2020. Additionally, the parking operations fund, which operates primarily in the downtown tourist district, is anticipated to see reductions in revenue throughout 2020. It is also anticipated that occupancy tax revenues collected from local hotels will see a reduction in revenue for 2020.

Management has evaluated subsequent events through July 23, 2020 which is the date the financial statements are available for issuance, and have determined, with the exception of the event noted in the above paragraph, there are no subsequent events that require disclosure under generally accepted accounting principles other than the authorization of debt issuance referred to above.

**REQUIRED SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION**

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**CITY OF NIAGARA FALLS, NEW YORK  
 BUDGETARY COMPARISON SCHEDULE FOR THE GENERAL FUND  
 FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2019**

	<u>Original Budget</u>	<u>Final Budget</u>	<u>Actual Amounts (Budgetary Basis)</u>	<u>Variance With Final Budget</u>
<b>REVENUES</b>				
Real property taxes	\$ 30,265,801	\$ 30,265,801	\$ 30,987,999	\$ 722,198
Real property tax items	5,012,204	5,012,204	6,455,216	1,443,012
Non-property tax items	18,900,000	18,900,000	19,766,724	866,724
Departmental income	567,009	567,009	699,278	132,269
Intergovernmental charges	1,281,337	1,281,337	1,291,628	10,291
Use of money and property	528,352	528,352	568,407	40,055
Licenses and permits	876,260	876,260	759,618	(116,642)
Fines and forfeitures	648,500	648,500	601,181	(47,319)
Sale of property and compensation for loss	37,750	37,750	43,885	6,135
Miscellaneous local sources	307,500	309,400	301,543	(7,857)
Interfund revenues	200,000	200,000	105,020	(94,980)
State sources	19,136,326	19,136,326	18,664,925	(471,401)
	<u>77,761,039</u>	<u>77,762,939</u>	<u>80,245,424</u>	<u>2,482,485</u>
<b>EXPENDITURES</b>				
Current:				
General government	10,245,859	10,001,665	10,135,037	(133,372)
Public safety	39,080,126	39,127,763	41,463,538	(2,335,775)
Transportation	4,340,670	4,374,264	4,019,254	355,010
Economic assistance and opportunity	458,000	484,834	484,477	357
Culture and recreation	2,901,281	2,986,180	2,929,613	56,567
Home and community services	5,788,607	5,826,871	6,080,808	(253,937)
Employee benefits	19,612,599	19,612,604	19,068,864	543,740
	<u>82,427,142</u>	<u>82,414,181</u>	<u>84,181,591</u>	<u>(1,767,410)</u>
Excess (deficit) of revenues over expenditures	(4,666,103)	(4,651,242)	(3,936,167)	715,075
<b>OTHER FINANCING SOURCES (USES)</b>				
Interfund transfers in	13,492,195	13,568,701	14,127,795	559,094
Interfund transfers out	(8,826,092)	(8,854,012)	(8,578,583)	275,429
	<u>4,666,103</u>	<u>4,714,689</u>	<u>5,549,212</u>	<u>834,523</u>
Net change in fund balance **	-	63,447	1,613,045	1,549,598
Fund balance - beginning	<u>3,623,040</u>	<u>3,623,040</u>	<u>3,623,040</u>	<u>-</u>
Fund balance - ending	<u>\$ 3,623,040</u>	<u>\$ 3,686,487</u>	<u>\$ 5,236,085</u>	<u>\$ 1,549,598</u>

\*\* The net change in fund balance is included in the budget as an appropriation (i.e spenddown) of fund balance and re-appropriation of prior year encumbrances.

**CITY OF NIAGARA FALLS, NEW YORK  
SCHEDULE OF THE CITY'S PROPORTIONATE SHARE OF THE NET PENSION LIABILITY  
LAST FIVE FISCAL YEARS\***

**EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT SYSTEM**

	<b>Year Ended December 31,</b>				
	<b>2015</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2019</b>
Measurement date	March 31, 2015	March 31, 2016	March 31, 2017	March 31, 2018	March 31, 2019
City's proportion of the net pension liability	0.0453898%	0.0443032%	0.0439208%	0.0462646%	0.0454574%
City's proportionate share of the net pension liability	\$ <u>1,533,380</u>	\$ <u>7,110,780</u>	\$ <u>4,126,895</u>	\$ <u>1,493,165</u>	\$ <u>3,220,796</u>
City's covered payroll	\$ 11,848,000	\$ 12,172,000	\$ 13,443,401	\$ 13,934,155	\$ 13,443,735
City's proportionate share of the net pension liability as a percentage of its covered payroll	12.9%	58.4%	30.7%	10.7%	24.0%
Plan fiduciary net position as a percentage of the total pension liability	97.9%	90.7%	94.7%	98.2%	96.3%

**POLICE AND FIRE RETIREMENT SYSTEM**

	<b>Year Ended December 31,</b>				
	<b>2015</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2019</b>
Measurement date	March 31, 2015	March 31, 2016	March 31, 2017	March 31, 2018	March 31, 2019
City's proportion of the net pension liability	0.7631545%	0.7162741%	0.7073095%	0.8017391%	0.7005245%
City's proportionate share of the net pension liability	\$ <u>2,100,656</u>	\$ <u>21,207,352</u>	\$ <u>14,660,064</u>	\$ <u>8,103,633</u>	\$ <u>12,618,999</u>
City's covered payroll	\$ 22,813,000	\$ 28,390,000	\$ 26,915,367	\$ 26,615,984	\$ 25,804,158
City's proportionate share of the net pension liability as a percentage of its covered payroll	9.2%	74.7%	54.5%	30.4%	48.9%
Plan fiduciary net position as a percentage of the total pension liability	98.5%	90.2%	93.5%	96.9%	95.1%

\*Pension Schedules in the Required Supplemental Information are intended to show information for ten years, additional years' information will be displayed as it becomes available.

The notes to the required supplementary information are an integral part of this schedule.

**CITY OF NIAGARA FALLS, NEW YORK  
SCHEDULE OF THE CITY'S PENSION CONTRIBUTIONS  
LAST FIVE FISCAL YEARS\***

**EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT SYSTEM**

	<b>Year Ended December 31,</b>				
	<b>2015</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2019</b>
Contractually required contribution	\$ 2,202,000	\$ 1,882,000	\$ 2,268,227	\$ 2,285,069	\$ 2,209,402
Contributions in relation to the contractually required contribution	<u>2,202,000</u>	<u>1,882,000</u>	<u>2,268,227</u>	<u>2,285,069</u>	<u>2,209,402</u>
Contribution deficiency (excess)	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>
City's covered payroll	\$ 11,776,043	\$ 12,319,663	\$ 14,420,796	\$ 13,486,712	\$ 13,727,683
Contributions as a percentage of covered payroll	18.7%	15.3%	15.7%	16.9%	16.1%

**POLICE AND FIRE RETIREMENT SYSTEM**

	<b>Year Ended December 31,</b>				
	<b>2015</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2019</b>
Contractually required contribution	\$ 5,909,000	\$ 5,960,000	\$ 6,818,083	\$ 6,617,724	\$ 6,438,361
Contributions in relation to the contractually required contribution	<u>5,909,000</u>	<u>5,960,000</u>	<u>6,818,083</u>	<u>6,617,724</u>	<u>6,438,361</u>
Contribution deficiency (excess)	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>
City's covered payroll	\$ 22,836,686	\$ 26,328,810	\$ 28,072,144	\$ 27,244,427	\$ 27,272,856
Contributions as a percentage of covered payroll	25.9%	22.6%	24.3%	24.3%	23.6%

\*Pension Schedules in the Required Supplemental Information are intended to show information for ten years, additional years' information will be displayed as it becomes available.

**CITY OF NIAGARA FALLS, NEW YORK  
SCHEDULE OF CHANGES IN THE CITY'S TOTAL OPEB LIABILITY AND RELATED RATIOS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, \***

<b><u>Total OPEB Liability</u></b>	<b><u>2018</u></b>	<b><u>2019</u></b>
Service cost	\$ 16,064,796	\$ 13,507,520
Interest	13,279,140	13,685,909
Changes of benefit terms	-	-
Differences between expected and actual experience	-	(57,478,786)
Changes of assumptions or other inputs	(48,737,821)	61,610,148
Benefit payments	<u>(9,927,056)</u>	<u>(10,750,741)</u>
<b>Net change in total OPEB liability</b>	<b>(29,320,941)</b>	<b>20,574,050</b>
<b>Total OPEB liability - beginning</b>	<b><u>390,081,211</u></b>	<b><u>360,760,270</u></b>
<b>Total OPEB liability - ending</b>	<b><u>\$ 360,760,270</u></b>	<b><u>\$ 381,334,320</u></b>
<b>Covered-employee payroll</b>	<b>\$ 42,163,658</b>	<b>\$ 41,991,359</b>
<b>Total OPEB liability as a percentage of covered-employee payroll</b>	<b>855.62%</b>	<b>908.13%</b>

\* This Schedule is intended to show information for ten years. Additional years will be included as they become available.

**CITY OF NIAGARA FALLS, NEW YORK**  
**NOTES TO REQUIRE SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION**

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**NOTE 1 - BUDGETARY BASIS OF ACCOUNTING**

Annual budgets are adopted on a basis consistent with generally accepted accounting principles for the general fund. The budgetary schedule for the general fund does not include the tourism fund or grant fund which do not have legally adopted budgets. The capital projects fund is appropriated on a project-length basis. Other special revenue funds do not have appropriated budgets since other means control the use of these resources (e.g., grant awards and endowment requirements) and sometimes span a period of more than one fiscal year.

Capital Projects Fund appropriations are not included in the City's annual budget. Instead appropriations are approved through a City Council resolution at the project's inception and lapse upon termination of the project.

Appropriations in all budgeted funds lapse at the end of the fiscal year even if they have related encumbrances. Encumbrances are commitments related to unperformed (executory) contracts for goods or services (i.e., purchase orders, contracts, and commitments). Encumbrance accounting is utilized to the extent necessary to assure effective budgetary control and accountability and to facilitate effective cash planning and control. While all appropriations and encumbrances lapse at year end, valid outstanding encumbrances (those for which performance under the executory contract is expected in the next year) are re-appropriated and become part of the subsequent year's budget pursuant to state regulations.

**NOTE 2 - EXCESS OF EXPENDITURES OVER APPROPRIATIONS**

For the year ended December 31, 2019, expenditures exceeded appropriations in the general government, public safety and home and community services functions (the legal level of budgetary control) within the General Fund by \$133,372, \$2,335,775 and \$253,937, respectively. Additionally, total expenditures exceeded total appropriations by \$1,767,410.

**NOTE 3 - FACTORS AFFECTING TRENDS IN PENSIONS**

The City's proportionate share of the net pension liability of the pension systems is significantly dependent on the performance of the stock market and the funds that the retirement system invests in. In addition to this factor the discount factor has varied from 7.5% to 7.0% over the past four years.

**NOTE 4 - FACTORS AFFECTING TRENDS IN RETIREE HEALTH PLAN (OPEB)**

The City's retiree health plans most significant factors and assumptions affecting the total OPEB liability are as follows:

<u>Year Ended December 31:</u>	<u>Long-Term Bond Rate</u>	<u>Salary Scale</u>	<u>Single Discount Rate</u>	<u>Ultimate Healthcare Cost Trend Rate</u>
2019	2.75%	2.00%	2.75%	3.78%
2018	3.71%	2.00%	3.71%	3.78%

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## **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION**

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**CITY OF NIAGARA FALLS, NEW YORK  
 COMBINING BALANCE SHEET – NONMAJOR GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS  
 DECEMBER 31, 2019**

	<u>Train Station</u>	<u>Golf Course</u>	<u>Public Library</u>	<u>Parking Ramp</u>	<u>Total Nonmajor Governmental Funds</u>
<b>ASSETS</b>					
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 70,579	\$ 46,746	\$ 117,325
Receivables	85,982	63,947	-	-	149,929
Total assets	<u>\$ 85,982</u>	<u>\$ 63,947</u>	<u>\$ 70,579</u>	<u>\$ 46,746</u>	<u>\$ 267,254</u>
<b>LIABILITIES</b>					
Accounts payable	\$ 18,492	\$ 9,396	\$ 48,184	\$ 29,899	\$ 105,971
Accrued liabilities	-	-	-	1,110	1,110
Due to other funds	67,490	54,551	41,882	15,737	179,660
Total liabilities	<u>85,982</u>	<u>63,947</u>	<u>90,066</u>	<u>46,746</u>	<u>286,741</u>
<b>FUND BALANCES (DEFICIT)</b>					
Unassigned (deficit)	-	-	(19,487)	-	(19,487)
Total fund balances (deficit)	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(19,487)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(19,487)</u>
Total liabilities and fund balances (deficit)	<u>\$ 85,982</u>	<u>\$ 63,947</u>	<u>\$ 70,579</u>	<u>\$ 46,746</u>	<u>\$ 267,254</u>

**CITY OF NIAGARA FALLS, NEW YORK  
 COMBINING STATE OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCES –  
 NONMAJOR GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS  
 FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2019**

	<u>Train Station</u>	<u>Golf Course</u>	<u>Public Library</u>	<u>Parking Ramp</u>	<u>Total Nonmajor Governmental Funds</u>
<b>REVENUES</b>					
Departmental income	\$ 268,731	\$ 66,384	\$ -	\$ 3,120,450	\$ 3,455,565
Total revenues	<u>268,731</u>	<u>66,384</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>3,120,450</u>	<u>3,455,565</u>
<b>EXPENDITURES</b>					
Current:					
General government	318,597	-	-	577,236	895,833
Culture and recreation	-	121,474	1,167,804	-	1,289,278
Employee benefits	89,357	16,102	684,382	67,088	856,929
Total expenditures	<u>407,954</u>	<u>137,576</u>	<u>1,852,186</u>	<u>644,324</u>	<u>3,042,040</u>
Excess (deficit) of revenues over expenditures	<u>(139,223)</u>	<u>(71,192)</u>	<u>(1,852,186)</u>	<u>2,476,126</u>	<u>413,525</u>
<b>OTHER FINANCING SOURCES (USES)</b>					
Interfund transfers in	139,223	71,192	1,813,608	-	2,024,023
Interfund transfers out	-	-	-	<u>(2,476,126)</u>	<u>(2,476,126)</u>
Total other financing sources (uses)	<u>139,223</u>	<u>71,192</u>	<u>1,813,608</u>	<u>(2,476,126)</u>	<u>(452,103)</u>
Net change in fund balances	-	-	(38,578)	-	(38,578)
Fund balances - beginning	-	-	19,091	-	19,091
Fund balances (deficit) - ending	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ (19,487)</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ (19,487)</u>

**CITY OF NIAGARA FALLS, NEW YORK**  
**COMBINING BALANCE SHEET – PROPRIETARY FUNDS – INTERNAL SERVICE FUNDS**  
**DECEMBER 31, 2019**

	<u>Postage</u>	<u>Stationary</u>	<u>Telephone</u>	<u>Central Garage</u>	<u>Copier Lease</u>	<u>Total</u>
<b>ASSETS</b>						
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 3,532	\$ -	\$ 3,010	\$ -	\$ 2,857	\$ 9,399
Prepaid items	-	-	-	335	-	335
Inventory	2,864	4,159	-	730,398	-	737,421
Total assets	<u>6,396</u>	<u>4,159</u>	<u>3,010</u>	<u>730,733</u>	<u>2,857</u>	<u>747,155</u>
<b>LIABILITIES</b>						
Accounts payable	5,000	2,541	-	73,147	2,857	83,545
Due to other funds	-	1,468	-	413,741	-	415,209
Total liabilities	<u>5,000</u>	<u>4,009</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>486,888</u>	<u>2,857</u>	<u>498,754</u>
<b>NET POSITION</b>						
Unrestricted	1,396	150	3,010	243,845	-	248,401
Total net position	<u>\$ 1,396</u>	<u>\$ 150</u>	<u>\$ 3,010</u>	<u>\$ 243,845</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>248,401</u>

**CITY OF NIAGARA FALLS, NEW YORK  
 COMBINING STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCE –  
 PROPRIETARY FUNDS – INTERNAL SERVICE FUNDS  
 FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2019**

	<u>Postage</u>	<u>Stationary</u>	<u>Telephone</u>	<u>Central Garage</u>	<u>Copier Lease</u>	<u>Total</u>
<b>REVENUES</b>						
Charges for services	\$ 47,848	\$ 1,902	\$ 58,202	\$ 611,213	\$ 23,399	\$ 742,564
Total revenues	<u>47,848</u>	<u>1,902</u>	<u>58,202</u>	<u>611,213</u>	<u>23,399</u>	<u>742,564</u>
<b>EXPENDITURES</b>						
Contractual expenses	47,848	1,902	58,202	802,273	23,399	933,624
Total expenses	<u>47,848</u>	<u>1,902</u>	<u>58,202</u>	<u>802,273</u>	<u>23,399</u>	<u>933,624</u>
Operating loss	-	-	-	(191,060)	-	(191,060)
Change in net position	-	-	-	(191,060)	-	(191,060)
Net position - beginning	1,396	150	3,010	434,905	-	439,461
Net position - ending	<u>\$ 1,396</u>	<u>\$ 150</u>	<u>\$ 3,010</u>	<u>\$ 243,845</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ 248,401</u>

**CITY OF NIAGARA FALLS, NEW YORK  
COMBINING STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS – PROPRIETARY FUNDS – INTERNAL SERVICE FUNDS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2019**

	<u>Postage</u>	<u>Stationary</u>	<u>Telephone</u>	<u>Central Garage</u>	<u>Copier Lease</u>	<u>Total</u>
<b>CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES</b>						
Cash received from providing services	\$ 47,848	\$ 1,902	\$ 58,202	\$ 611,213	\$ 23,399	\$ 742,564
Cash payments for contractual expenses	<u>(45,000)</u>	<u>(1,902)</u>	<u>(58,202)</u>	<u>(611,213)</u>	<u>(22,383)</u>	<u>(738,700)</u>
Net cash provided by operating activities	<u>2,848</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,016</u>	<u>3,864</u>
Net increase in cash and cash equivalents	2,848	-	-	-	1,016	3,864
Cash and cash equivalents - beginning	<u>684</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>3,010</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,841</u>	<u>5,535</u>
Cash and cash equivalents - ending	<u><u>\$ 3,532</u></u>	<u><u>\$ -</u></u>	<u><u>\$ 3,010</u></u>	<u><u>\$ -</u></u>	<u><u>\$ 2,857</u></u>	<u><u>\$ 9,399</u></u>
<b>Reconciliation of operating loss to net cash provided by operating activities:</b>						
Operating loss	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ (191,060)	\$ -	\$ (191,060)
Adjustments to reconcile operating loss to net cash provided by operating activities:						
Decrease in prepaid items	-	-	-	1,882	-	1,882
Increase in inventory	(2,152)	(1,693)	-	(20,167)	-	(24,012)
Increase in accounts payable	5,000	2,541	-	3,668	1,016	12,225
Increase (decrease) in due to other funds	<u>-</u>	<u>(848)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>205,677</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>204,829</u>
Net cash provided by operating activities	<u><u>\$ 2,848</u></u>	<u><u>\$ -</u></u>	<u><u>\$ -</u></u>	<u><u>\$ -</u></u>	<u><u>\$ 1,016</u></u>	<u><u>\$ 3,864</u></u>

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## **INTERNAL CONTROL AND COMPLIANCE**

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

**INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT**

The Honorable Members of City Council  
City of Niagara Falls, New York

We have audited, in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards* issued by the Comptroller General of the United States, the financial statements of the governmental activities, business-type activities, the aggregate discretely presented component units, each major fund, and the aggregate remaining fund information of the City of Niagara Falls, New York (the City), as of and for the year ended December 31, 2019, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise the City's basic financial statements, and have issued our report thereon dated July 23, 2020.

**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) to determine the audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances for the purpose of expressing our opinions on the financial statements, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the City'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. Given these limitations, during our audit we did not identify any deficiencies in internal control that we consider to be material weaknesses. However, material weaknesses may exist that have not been identified.

**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 determination of financial statement amounts. However, providing an opinion on compliance with those provisions was not an objective of our audit, and accordingly, we do not express such an opinion. The results of our tests disclosed no instances of noncompliance or other matters that are required to be reported under *Government Auditing Standards*.

## **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.

*Freed Maxick CPAs, P.C.*

Buffalo, New York  
July 23, 2020

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