

Purpose – To provide guidelines to the issuance of debt.

Policy Limits – The City will use debt only for capital improvement or projects that have a life of more than 4 years. The City will avoid using debt for cash flow borrowing, operations or repairs.

When possible, the City will not use debt to finance equipment purchases when it is possible to purchase the equipment on a pay-as-you-go basis with equipment replacement program or capital goods replacement plan reserves.

The City shall use its bonding authority to facilitate private development only when the development merits special consideration.

The City's capital outlay plan shall contain debt assumptions which match this policy and requires a commitment to long-range financial planning which looks at multiple years of capital and debt needs.

Legal Limits – Minnesota Statutes, Section 475 prescribes the statutory debt limit that outstanding principal of debt cannot exceed 3% of estimated market value. This limitation applies only to debt that is wholly tax-supported. The type of debt included is either general obligation debt of any size bond issue (G.O.) or lease revenue bond issues that were over \$1,000,000 at the time of issuance. However, there are also several other types of debt that do not count against the limit. G.O. tax increment, G.O. special assessment, G.O. utility revenue, G.O. recreational facility revenue, and HRA-issued debt are considered to have a separate revenue source other than just taxes and are excluded from the legal debt limit calculation. Local ordinances do not limit the City's ability to issue debt.

Issuance Practices - The City will utilize the sales method that is most advantageous after considering a variety of factors, including but not limited to, structure, size, term, market conditions, applicable regulations, etc.

The City will determine the sales method after consulting with the City's Municipal Advisor and / or other appropriate parties.

Debt Structuring – The City's collective debt shall amortize at least 50% of its principal within 15 years. In all cases, the maturity shall not exceed the life of the related assets.

Conduit Debt – The City may participate in conduit debt financings. Development proposals are reviewed to determine if they meet program objectives and whether the proposals are financially feasible.

It is the practice of the City to charge fees that range from 0.25% to 2.00% of the bond offering to cover the City's cost.

Refunding – Current refunding bonds may be utilized when the projected savings, after factoring in all costs, yields enough savings to warrant moving forward. Council will determine on a case-by-case basis if sufficient savings have been attained.

Advance refunding bonds may be utilized when statutory savings are met (present value savings is at least 3% of refunded debt service).

Adopted by City Council September 08, 2008

Revisions Adopted by City Council October 25, 2021

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