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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## **City Meets Procurement Requirements**

On October 17<sup>th</sup>, the City of Hobbs received a letter from the Office of the State Auditor in regards to an inquiry from the State Auditor's Office about the procurement practices of the City of Hobbs.

The City of Hobbs is a "home-rule" municipality, meaning that the City follows its own purchasing policy of Chapter 3.20 of the Hobbs Municipal Code, which states that the City is enabled to "purchase quality materials and services needed at competitive prices." The State Auditor found no direct procurement violation made by the City of Hobbs and that the City of Hobbs was functioning within the established legal limits and authority.

With budgets as large as the budget of the City of Hobbs, it is understandable the need for clarification in order to understand the decisions made. The City of Hobbs will continue work towards transparency. The City of Hobbs has taken great steps in placing the City of Hobbs Financial Transparency Website link on the right-hand rail on the City of Hobbs website. On this Financial Transparency Website, an individual may view the financial decisions made by the City of Hobbs throughout the year. As questions arise and new practices are learned, the City of Hobbs will continue to develop to maintain our level of transparency.

City Manager, J.J. Murphy, stated, "The OSA fact finding resulted in no violation of state laws, promulgation, or local purchasing policy. As a matter of follow up, the letter from OSA indicates areas in which they feel change could be made in an effort to avoid criticism in the future. Specifically, the City's process could be modified in an effort to ensure continued fair pricing while improving competitiveness and transparency. As we are always interested in improving our processes, modifications to the procurement policy will be made and recommended to the City Commission in the near future. This process has inspired areas where improvement can be effectuated. As always, we will continue to function in a manner that will prove us to be good stewards of the taxpayer dollars."

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