



City of Naples

City Council Chamber
735 Eighth Street South
Naples, Florida 34102

Auditor Selection Committee Meeting – March 31, 2026 – 2:00 p.m.

It is noted for the record that all documentation electronically appended hereto is also contained in the file for this meeting with the City Clerk's Office.

3) Swearing in of Members

Prior to Roll Call, Deputy City Clerk Jessica Rosenberg administered an oath to newly appointed Members Ted Blankenship, Daniel Barone, and Joseph Murray.

1) Roll Call

Board Members Present:

Ted Blankenship, Chair

Daniel Barone

Joseph Murray

Staff Members Present:

Stefan Massol, Finance Director

Felix Gomez, Procurement and Contracts Manager

Jessica Rosenberg, Deputy City Clerk

Ali Duran, Executive Assistant

2) Pledge of Allegiance

Chair Blankenship led the Pledge of Allegiance.

4) Opening Remarks from Chairman

Chair Blankenship explained that the committee's purpose on that day was to review the draft Auditor Services Request for Proposals, and ultimately, to select an independent auditor for the City for a three-year term with the possibility of extending it for two additional one-year terms. He noted that the City's current firm, Mauldin Jenkins, had been providing services for 15 consecutive years.

5) Public Comment

None.

6) New Business

6.A) The Committee is asked to review the draft Auditor Services Request for Proposals (RFP) and recommend additions and/or changes, by consensus, desired by the committee. Recommendation: Approve the RFP, with the recommended changes, allowing staff to administer the necessary purchasing procedures consistent with the scheduled dates outlined in the RFP.

Finance Director Stefan Massol provided a historical background on the Auditor Selection Committee, explaining that it was formed pursuant to statutory requirements and recommendations from the Government Finance Officers' Association (GFOA). He noted the Committee's primary objective was to finalize the Request for Proposals (RFP) document for distribution the following day. He explained that Mauldin Jenkins had served as the City's audit firm since fiscal year 2011, and that the City had received the Certificate of Excellence in Financial Reporting for 43 consecutive years.

Procurement and Contracts Manager Felix Gomez utilized an electronic presentation to provide an overview of the information in the packet for the meeting, which included the draft RFP, Section 218.391 of the Florida Statutes, GFOA auditor selection guidance, and various Resolutions. Finance Director Massol described the typical audit process, including inventory verification, financial review and sampling, and compilation of the annual comprehensive financial report.

Finance Director Massol outlined the selection criteria, emphasizing that price cannot be the predominant factor but can be considered. The point breakdown included sections for audit approach, firm expertise, staff expertise, and schedule values (pricing), with a 50-page limit for submissions.

The following modifications were made to the RFP during the Committee's discussion:

1. Correcting a typographical error in the Council Member terms chart, noting that Council Member Penniman's term should end in March rather than February, and Council Member Krol's term should end in February 2030.
2. Adjusting the scoring weights from the original 35 percent audit approach, 25 percent firm expertise, 25 percent staff expertise, and 15 percent schedule values to 35 percent audit approach, 30 percent firm expertise, 25 percent staff expertise, and 10 percent schedule values.
3. Increasing the font size requirement from 10-point to 12-point to improve readability of the documentation.
4. Adding a requirement that the firm, partner, and manager must be licensed as Certified Professional Accountants (CPAs) in the State of Florida.
5. Including a bullet point under audit approach regarding "type and extent of procedures using artificial intelligence," to determine how firms might leverage new technology to improve audit efficiency and quality.
6. Expanding the hourly rate categories for potential additional services to include partner, manager, senior accountant/supervisor, staff accountant, and other categories.

Members further agreed that conducting interviews with the top two or three firms would assist the Committee in making a more confident recommendation to City Council.

MOTION by Barone to APPROVE the draft Auditor Services Request for Proposals (RFP) with the changes discussed; seconded by Blankenship and unanimously carried, all Members present and voting (Barone-yes, Murray-yes, Blankenship-yes).

[Agenda Memorandum](#)  [26-021 Audit Services - RFP Draft](#) 

[26-021 Audit Services - RFP SOV Draft](#)  [Florida Statutes 218.391](#) 

[Auditor Selection Guidance](#) 

[Resolution 2024-15325 First Amendment RFP 21-030 Audit Services](#) 

[Resolution 2026-15802](#)  [2024 Annual Comprehensive Financial Report](#) 

- 7) Set future meeting dates consistent with schedule detailed in the approved RFP: May 7, 2026 (2:00 pm) and May 11, 2026 (2:00 pm, if needed).**

The Committee had no objections to the future meeting dates.

Responding to inquiries about when the application packets would be available, Procurement and Contracts Manager Felix Gomez stated that he would have paper copies available around 3:00 p.m. on May 1, 2026.

8) Correspondence / Announcements / Communications

None.

9) Adjourn

2:54 p.m.