

STATE OF TENNESSEE



DAVID H. LILLARD, JR.  
STATE TREASURER

TREASURY DEPARTMENT

STATE CAPITOL  
NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE 37243-0225

615.741.2956  
David.Lillard@tn.gov

Sender's telephone: 615.741.0228  
Sender's email: [Justin.Ruffin@tn.gov](mailto:Justin.Ruffin@tn.gov)

November 20, 2019

Mike Keith  
Finance Director  
815 North Jackson Street  
Athens, TN 37303

Re: City of Athens, Tennessee Pension Plan

Dear Mike Keith:

A review as of the fiscal year ended June 30, 2018 has been performed of the City of Athens' compliance with the Public Employee Defined Benefit Financial Security Act of 2014 (the "Act"), which is codified in Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 9 Chapter 3, Part 5. We evaluated the City of Athens' pension funding policy for compliance with minimum requirements established in Tenn. Code Ann. §9-3-504(c). We also performed a review of the most recent funding policy, actuarial valuation and financial statements to determine whether the methodologies used to calculate the City of Athens' Actuarially Determined Contribution (ADC) were in compliance with statutory requirements currently in effect, and whether compliance could be impacted when several additional methodologies become effective at a future date.

Based on our review, the adopted pension funding policy meets the minimum requirements established in Tenn. Code Ann. §9-3-504(c).

Additional methodologies are also contained in the Act for the calculation of a political subdivision's ADC. While the following methodologies and assumptions are not required by law to be included in the pension funding policy, applicable law provides that these methodologies shall be used by a political subdivision's actuary in calculating the ADC in accordance with accepted Actuarial Standards of Practice. Accordingly, it would be a best practice for the City of Athens to incorporate sufficient detail in the policy in order to provide clear direction and expectations for the actuary to follow and for interested parties to understand.

- The level dollar amortization method for unfunded accrued liabilities to be used no later than plan fiscal year beginning after June 15, 2020 as established in Tenn. Code Ann. §9-3-504(e)(3). The amortization method for unfunded accrued liabilities was not addressed in the policy.

- The use of mortality assumptions, which includes expected improvement in life expectancy. This requirement must be utilized for fiscal years beginning after June 15, 2024 in accordance with Tenn. Code Ann. §9-3-504(e)(4). The funding policy did not address mortality assumptions.

Please use this reminder to make any necessary revisions and update your funding policy accordingly. Amended funding policies must be submitted to the Tennessee Comptroller of the Treasury within thirty (30) days after adoption. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at 615.741.0228 or Justin.Ruffin@tn.gov.

Sincerely,



Justin Ruffin  
Senior Accounting Business Analyst  
Financial Strategies and Analysis  
Tennessee Department of Treasury

**CC:**

Jerry Durham, CPA, CGFM, CFE  
Assistant Director  
Comptroller of the Treasury  
Division of Local Government Audit  
Cordell Hull Building  
425 Fifth Avenue North  
Nashville, TN 37243-3400  
615.401.7951

Sandi Thompson  
Director  
Comptroller of the Treasury  
Office of State and Local Finance  
Cordell Hull Building  
425 Fifth Avenue North  
Nashville, TN 37243-3400  
615.747.5369

Sheila Reed  
Assistant Director  
Comptroller of the Treasury  
Office of State and Local Finance  
Cordell Hull Building  
425 Fifth Avenue North  
Nashville, TN 37243-3400  
615.401.7906