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TOWN OF LIBERTY, MISSISSIPPI

**FINANCIAL STATEMENT AND
SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION
AND
REPORT OF INDEPENDENT
CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS**

SEPTEMBER 30, 2020

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CPAs & Advisors

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

To the Honorable Mayor and Board of Alderpersons of the
Town of Liberty
Liberty, Mississippi

We have audited the accompanying statement of cash receipts and disbursements of the governmental activities, the business-type activities, and each major fund of the Town of Liberty, Mississippi for the year ended September 30, 2020, and the related notes to the financial statement, which collectively comprise the Town's basic financial statement as listed in the table of contents.

Management's Responsibility for the Financial Statement

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of this financial statement in accordance with the cash basis of accounting described in Note 1, this includes determining that the cash basis of accounting is an acceptable basis for the preparation of the financial statement in the circumstances. Management is also responsible for 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 error or fraud.

Auditor's Responsibility

Our responsibility is to express opinions on this financial statement based on our audit. We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statement is free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statement. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgment, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial statement, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the entity's preparation and fair presentation of the financial statement 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 entity'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 statement.

Auditor's Responsibility - continued:

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, the financial statement referred to above presents fairly, in all material respects, the cash receipts and disbursements of the governmental activities, business-type activities and each major fund of the Town of Liberty, Mississippi for the year ended September 30, 2020, in accordance with the cash basis of accounting as described in Note 1.

Basis of Accounting

We draw attention to Note 1 of the financial statement, which describes the basis of accounting. This financial statement is prepared on the cash basis of accounting, which is a basis of accounting other than accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. Our opinions are not modified with respect to that matter.

Other Matters

Other Information

Our audit was conducted for the purpose of forming opinions on the financial statement of the Town of Liberty, Mississippi. The schedules included in the supplementary information section, which are the responsibility of management, are presented for purposes of additional analysis and are not a required part of the financial statement. The schedules included in the supplementary information section have not been subjected to the auditing procedures applied in the audit of the basic financial statement and, accordingly, we do not express an opinion or provide any assurance on them.

Haddox Reed Embree Beth PLLC

Jackson, Mississippi
March 25, 2021

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BUSINESS-TYPE ACTIVITIES		
Water & Sewer Fund	Natural Gas Fund	Total
-	-	-
-	-	-
-	-	-
-	-	-
329,824	-	329,824
-	-	-
197,343	-	197,343
-	199,484	199,484
-	-	-
3,346	2,038	5,384
-	-	-
<u>530,513</u>	<u>201,522</u>	<u>732,035</u>
-	-	-
-	-	-
-	-	-
-	-	-
-	-	-
-	-	-
521,747	-	521,747
-	198,205	198,205
<u>521,747</u>	<u>198,205</u>	<u>719,952</u>
<u>8,766</u>	<u>3,317</u>	<u>12,083</u>

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BUSINESS-TYPE ACTIVITIES		
Water & Sewer Fund	Natural Gas Fund	Total
(1,619)	-	(1,619)
<u>2,275</u>	<u>285</u>	<u>2,560</u>
<u>656</u>	<u>285</u>	<u>941</u>
9,422	3,602	13,024
<u>269,595</u>	<u>291,114</u>	<u>560,709</u>
<u><u>279,017</u></u>	<u><u>294,716</u></u>	<u><u>573,733</u></u>

TOWN OF LIBERTY, MISSISSIPPI
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENT
SEPTEMBER 30, 2020

NOTE 1 - SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The Town of Liberty, Mississippi (the Town) was incorporated in 1809. The Town operates under a Mayor-Board of Alderpersons form of government and provides all of the rights and privileges provided by statute for municipalities.

A. Measurement Focus, Basis of Accounting and Financial Statement Presentation

The financial statement is reported using the cash basis of accounting as permitted by the Mississippi Office of the State Auditor, which is a comprehensive basis of accounting other than accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. The cash basis of accounting differs from GAAP primarily because revenues (cash receipts) are recognized when received rather than when earned and expenditures or expenses (cash disbursements) are recognized when paid rather than when incurred or subject to accrual.

Governmental Activities

The Town reports the following major governmental funds:

The **General Fund** is the government's primary operating fund. It accounts for all the financial resources and the legally authorized activities of the Town except those required to be accounted for in other specialized funds.

The **Debt Service Fund** is used to account for the accumulation of resources for, and the payment of, general long-term debt principal, interest and related costs.

The **Perpetual Care Fund** is used to account for the proceeds legally restricted to expenditures related to cemetery maintenance.

The **Vance Park Fund** is used to account for the proceeds legally restricted to expenditures related to the maintenance of Vance Park.

Business-Type Activities

The Town reports the following major proprietary funds:

The **Water and Sewer Fund** accounts for the activities of providing water and sewer services to citizens of the Town.

The **Natural Gas Fund** accounts for the activities of providing natural gas services to citizens of the Town.

TOWN OF LIBERTY, MISSISSIPPI
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENT
SEPTEMBER 30, 2020

NOTE 1 - SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES - CONTINUED:

A. Measurement Focus, Basis of Accounting and Financial Statement Presentation - continued:

When both restricted and unrestricted cash is available for use, it is the Town's policy to use restricted cash first, then unrestricted cash as it is needed.

NOTE 2 - CASH AND CERTIFICATES OF DEPOSIT

The collateral for public entities' deposits in financial institutions is held in the name of the State Treasurer under a program established by the Mississippi Legislature and is governed by Section 27-105-5, Mississippi Code Ann. (1972). Under this program, the Town's funds are protected through a collateral pool administered by the State Treasurer. Financial institutions holding deposits of public funds must pledge securities as collateral against those deposits. In the event of a failure of a financial institution, securities pledged by that institution would be liquidated by the State Treasurer to replace the public deposits not covered by the Federal Depository Insurance Corporation.

The composition of the Town's cash and certificates of deposit is as follows at September 30, 2020:

	<u>Unrestricted Cash</u>	<u>Restricted Cash</u>	<u>Unrestricted Certificates of Deposit</u>	<u>Restricted Certificates of Deposit</u>	<u>Total</u>
Governmental activities:					
General Fund	\$ 114,803	28,997	-	-	143,800
Debt Service Fund	-	108,203	-	-	108,203
Perpetual Care Fund	-	545	-	76,058	76,603
Vance Park Fund	-	2,531	-	-	2,531
Total governmental activities	<u>114,803</u>	<u>140,276</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>76,058</u>	<u>331,137</u>
Business-type activities:					
Water and Sewer Fund	185,589	45,728	47,700	-	279,017
Natural Gas Fund	<u>245,247</u>	<u>15,930</u>	<u>33,539</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>294,716</u>
Total business-type activities	<u>430,836</u>	<u>61,658</u>	<u>81,239</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>573,733</u>
Government-wide total	\$ <u>545,639</u>	<u>201,934</u>	<u>81,239</u>	<u>76,058</u>	<u>904,870</u>

TOWN OF LIBERTY, MISSISSIPPI
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENT
SEPTEMBER 30, 2020

NOTE 2 - CASH AND CERTIFICATES OF DEPOSIT - CONTINUED:

Deposits at September 30, 2020 are summarized as follows:

	<u>Reported Amount</u>	<u>Bank Balance</u>
Cash	\$ 747,573	769,127
Certificates of deposit	<u>157,297</u>	<u>157,297</u>
Total deposits	\$ <u>904,870</u>	<u>926,424</u>

The difference of \$21,554 was principally due to outstanding checks. Of the bank balance, \$500,000 was covered by Federal depository insurance.

Custodial Credit Risk-Deposits. Custodial credit risk is defined as the risk that, in the event of a failure of a financial institution, the Town will not be able to recover deposits or collateral securities that are in the possession of an outside party. The Town does not have a formal policy for custodial credit risk. However, the Mississippi State Treasurer manages the risk on behalf of the Town. As of September 30, 2020, \$426,424 of the Town's bank balance of \$926,424 was exposed to custodial credit risk as follows:

Collateralized by the State Public Funds Guaranty Pool	\$ <u>426,424</u>
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Interest Rate Risk. The Town does not have a formal investment policy that limits investment maturities as a means of managing its exposure to fair value losses arising from increasing interest rates.

Credit Risk. State law limits investments to those prescribed in Sections 27-105-33(d) and 27-105-33(e) Miss. Code Ann. (1972). The Town does not have a formal investment policy that would further limit its investment choices or one that addresses credit risk.

Custodial Credit Risk - Investments. Custodial credit risk is defined as the risk that, in the event of the failure of the counterparty, the Town will not be able to recover the value of its investments or collateral securities that are in the possession of an outside party. The Town does not have a formal investment policy that addresses custodial risk. However, the Mississippi State Treasurer manages the risk on behalf of the Town. Deposits above FDIC coverage are collateralized by the pledging financial institutions trust department or agent in the name of the Mississippi State Treasurer on behalf of the Town. The Town had no investments as of September 30, 2020.

TOWN OF LIBERTY, MISSISSIPPI
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENT
SEPTEMBER 30, 2020

NOTE 2 - CASH AND CERTIFICATES OF DEPOSIT - CONTINUED:

Concentration of Credit Risk. Disclosure of investments by amount and issuer for any issuer that represents five percent or more of total investments is required. This requirement does not apply to investments issued or explicitly guaranteed by the U.S. government, investments in mutual funds and external investment pools, and other pooled investments. As of September 30, 2020, the Town had no investments.

Following is a list of the Town's eligible investments, which in accordance with state statute are limited to the investment of funds in excess of sums required for immediate expenditure or current obligations:

Certificates of deposit with municipal depositories approved annually by the State Treasurer, bonds or direct obligations of the following:

- United States of America
- State of Mississippi
- County or Municipality of Mississippi
- School Districts

State statute allows the investment of funds received from the sale of bonds, notes, or certificates of indebtedness which are not immediately required for disbursement for the purpose issued, in direct obligations issued by or guaranteed in full by the United States of America, or in certificates of deposit with approved municipal depositories.

NOTE 3 - PROPERTY TAX

Property taxes for fiscal year 2020 were levied in September 2019 on the assessed valuation of property located in the Town of Liberty, Mississippi as of the preceding January 1, the lien date. The Town levies property taxes annually based upon assessed valuations. Real property and personal property taxes are collected directly by the Town. Automobile ad valorem taxes and certain road taxes are collected by the Amite County tax collector and disbursed to the Town accordingly. Current cash receipts of taxes for the year ended September 30, 2020 were approximately 95% of the total tax levy.

The tax rate levied by the Town for fiscal year 2020 was set at 27 mills. The Town allocated the property tax per \$100 of assessed value in the amount of \$2.70 for the year entirely to the General Fund.

TOWN OF LIBERTY, MISSISSIPPI

**NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENT
SEPTEMBER 30, 2020**

NOTE 4 - DEFINED BENEFIT PENSION PLAN

General information about the Pension Plan

Plan Description

The Town of Liberty, Mississippi contributes to the Public Employees' Retirement System of Mississippi (PERS), a cost sharing, multiple-employer defined benefit pension plan. PERS provides retirement and disability benefits, annual cost-of-living adjustments, and death benefits to plan members and beneficiaries. Benefit provisions are established by State law and may be amended only by the State of Mississippi Legislature. PERS issues a publicly available financial report that includes financial statements and required supplementary information. That information may be obtained by writing to Public Employees' Retirement System, PERS Building, 429 Mississippi Street, Jackson, MS 39201-1005 or by calling (601) 359-3589 or 1-800-444-PERS, or by visiting online at www.pers.ms.gov.

Benefits Provided

Membership in PERS is a condition of employment granted upon hiring for qualifying employees and officials of the State of Mississippi (the State), state universities, community and junior colleges, and teachers and employees of the public school districts. For those persons employed by political subdivisions and instrumentalities of the State, membership is contingent upon approval of the entity's participation in PERS by the PERS' Board of Trustees. If approved, membership for the entity's employees is a condition of employment and eligibility is granted to those who qualify upon hiring. Members and employers are statutorily required to contribute certain percentages of salaries and wages as specified by the Board of Trustees. A member who terminates employment from all covered employers and who is not eligible to receive monthly retirement benefits may request a full refund of his or her accumulated member contributions plus interest. Upon withdrawal of contributions, a member forfeits service credit represented by those contributions. Participating members who are vested and retire at or after age 60 or those who retire regardless of age with at least 30 years of creditable service (25 years of creditable service for employees who became members of PERS before July 1, 2011), are entitled, upon application, to an annual retirement allowance payable monthly for life in an amount equal to 2.0 percent of their average compensation for each year of creditable service up to and including 30 years (25 years for those who became members of PERS before July 1, 2011), plus 2.5 percent for each additional year of creditable service with an actuarial reduction in the benefit for each year of creditable service below 30 years or the number of years in age that the member is below 65, whichever is less. Average compensation is the average of the employee's earnings during the four highest compensated years of creditable service. A member may elect a reduced retirement allowance payable for life with the provisions that, after death, a beneficiary

TOWN OF LIBERTY, MISSISSIPPI

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENT
SEPTEMBER 30, 2020

NOTE 4 - DEFINED BENEFIT PENSION PLAN - CONTINUED:

General information about the Pension Plan - continued:

Benefits Provided - continued:

receives benefits for life or for a specified number of years. Benefits vest upon completion of eight years of membership service (four years of membership service for those who became members of PERS before July 1, 2007). PERS also provides certain death and disability benefits. In the event of death prior to retirement of any member whose spouse and/or children are not entitled to a retirement allowance, the deceased member's accumulated contributions and interest are paid to the designated beneficiary. A Cost-of-Living Adjustment (COLA) payment is made to eligible retirees and beneficiaries. The COLA is equal to 3.0 percent of the annual retirement allowance for each full fiscal year of retirement up to the year in which the retired member reaches age 60 (55 for those who became members of PERS before July 1, 2011), with 3.0 percent compounded for each fiscal year thereafter.

For the year ended September 30, 2020, the Town's total payroll for all employees was \$368,077. Total covered payroll was \$366,779. Covered payroll refers to all compensation paid by the Town to active employees covered by the Plan.

Contributions

PERS members are required to contribute 9.00% of their annual covered salary and the Town is required to contribute at an actuarially determined rate. The rate for the year ended September 30, 2020 was 17.40% of annual covered payroll. The contribution requirements of PERS members are established and may be amended only by the State of Mississippi Legislature. The Town's contribution to PERS for years ended September 30, 2020, 2019, and 2018 were \$63,820, \$57,297 and \$58,646, respectively, equal to the required contributions for each year.

NOTE 5 - INTERFUND LOANS AND TRANSFERS

Interfund loans and transfers during the year were as follows:

<u>Type</u>	<u>To</u>	<u>From</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Loan	General Fund	Water & Sewer Fund	\$ 1,802 -
Loan	Debt Service Fund	General Fund	35,000
Loan	Water & Sewer Fund	General Fund	184 -

TOWN OF LIBERTY, MISSISSIPPI
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENT
SEPTEMBER 30, 2020

NOTE 5 - INTERFUND LOANS AND TRANSFERS - CONTINUED:

The above interfund loans and transfers are necessary to move funds collected in one fund to another fund in accordance with the Town's annual budget.

NOTE 6 - CONTINGENCIES

Federal Grants

In the normal course of operations, the Town receives grant funds from various Federal and state agencies. The grant programs are subject to audit by the agents of the granting authority, the purpose of which is to ensure compliance with the conditions precedent to the granting of funds. Any liability for reimbursement which may arise as the result of these audits is not believed to be material.

Impact of Global Pandemic

On March 11, 2020, the World Health Organization declared the outbreak of a novel coronavirus ("COVID-19") as a global pandemic, which continues to spread throughout the world and in the United States. As of March 25, 2021, the Town is aware of changes in both its daily operations and the operation of commercial business located in the Town as a result of COVID-19 but is uncertain of the impacts of these changes on its future financial operations. The ultimate potential impact cannot be estimated at this time.

NOTE 7 - RISK MANAGEMENT

The Town is exposed to various risks of loss related to torts; theft of, damage to and destruction of assets; errors and omissions; injuries to employees; and natural disasters. The Town carries commercial insurance for risks of loss other than workers' compensation and liability. Settled claims resulting from these commercially covered risks have not exceeded commercial coverage in any of the past three fiscal years.

Risk of loss related to workers' compensation for injuries to Town employees is covered through the Mississippi Municipal Workers' Compensation Group, a public entity risk pool. The pool was formed on March 28, 1989, by the Mississippi Nonprofit Corporation Act, pursuant to Section 71-3-75, Mississippi Code Annotated (1972), to provide public entities within the State of Mississippi workers' compensation and employers' liability coverage. The Town pays premiums to the pool quarterly for its workers' compensation insurance coverage based on total payroll. The participation agreement provides that the pool will be

TOWN OF LIBERTY, MISSISSIPPI
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENT
SEPTEMBER 30, 2020

NOTE 7 - RISK MANAGEMENT - CONTINUED:

self-sustaining through member premiums. If total claims during a year were to deplete the trust account, then the pool members would be required to pay for the deficiencies. The Town has not had an additional assessment for losses incurred by the pool.

The Town is a member of the Mississippi Municipal Liability Plan, a public entity risk pool. The Mississippi Municipal Liability Plan covers liability claims against its members and is funded through member contributions. The Town has not had an additional assessment for excess losses.

NOTE 8 - SUBSEQUENT EVENTS

The Town had no subsequent events of a material nature requiring adjustment to or disclosure in the financial statement through March 25, 2021, the date the financial statement was approved by the Town's management and available to be issued.

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SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

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SCHEDULE I

TOWN OF LIBERTY, MISSISSIPPI

**SCHEDULE OF INVESTMENTS - ALL FUNDS
AS OF SEPTEMBER 30, 2020**

	<u>Deposit Amount</u>
Certificate of Deposit with Trustmark National Bank, Maturing January 22, 2021, Rate .45%	\$ 35,062
Certificate of Deposit with First Bank, Maturing May 1, 2021, Rate .25%	33,539
Certificate of Deposit with First Bank, Maturing August 9, 2021, Rate .35%	40,996
Certificate of Deposit with First Bank, Maturing May 1, 2021, Rate .35%	<u>47,700</u>
	\$ <u>157,297</u>
Fund Recap:	
Perpetual Care Fund	\$ 76,058
Water and Sewer Fund	47,700
Natural Gas Fund	<u>33,539</u>
	\$ <u>157,297</u>

SCHEDULE II

TOWN OF LIBERTY, MISSISSIPPI

**SCHEDULE OF LONG-TERM DEBT
FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2020**

	Balance Outstanding October 1, 2019	Issued	Redeemed	Balance Outstanding September 30, 2020
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NOTES:

No Long-Term Debt outstanding as of
September 30, 2020.

\$	-	-	-	-
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Total

\$	-	-	-	-
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SCHEDULE III**TOWN OF LIBERTY, MISSISSIPPI****SCHEDULE OF SURETY BONDS FOR MUNICIPAL OFFICIALS
AS OF SEPTEMBER 30, 2020**

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Surety</u>	<u>Bond Amount</u>
J. Walt Gaston	Aldersperson	Scott Insurance	\$10,000
Lenora Morgan	Aldersperson	Scott Insurance	10,000
Robert E. Hayes, Sr.	Aldersperson	Scott Insurance	10,000
Charlie Brister	Aldersperson	Scott Insurance	10,000
Greg T. Walsh	Aldersperson	Scott Insurance	10,000
Pat Talbert	Mayor	Scott Insurance	50,000
Shawn Felder	Town Clerk	Western Surety	50,000
Shawn Felder	Tax Collector	Western Surety	10,000
Sandra Wall	Deputy Clerk	Brierfield	50,000
Micheal S. Reeves	Chief of Police	Western Surety	25,000
Scote Renfro	Police Officer	Brierfield	25,000
Kurt A. Taylor	Police Officer	Western Surety	25,000
Edwin Schwing	Police Officer	Brierfield	25,000
Frank Umberger	Police Officer	Brierfield	25,000
Shawn Umbrello	Police Officer	Brierfield	25,000
John D. Leuthauser	Police Officer	Brierfield	25,000

SCHEDULE IV**TOWN OF LIBERTY, MISSISSIPPI****SCHEDULE OF CAPITAL ASSETS
FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2020**

	<u>Beginning Balance</u>	<u>Additions</u>	<u>Retirements / Reclassifications</u>	<u>Ending Balance</u>
GOVERNMENTAL ACTIVITIES:				
Capital assets:				
Land	\$ 357,527	-	-	357,527
Building and improvements	559,856	-	-	559,856
Vehicles and machinery	807,804	12,569	-	820,373
Infrastructure	<u>487,822</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>487,822</u>
Total governmental activities capital assets	\$ <u>2,213,009</u>	<u>12,569</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>2,225,578</u>
BUSINESS-TYPE ACTIVITIES:				
Capital assets:				
Vehicles and machinery	\$ 344,144	9,241	-	353,385
Water distribution system	1,925,746	346,400	-	2,272,146
Gas distribution system	185,450	-	-	185,450
Construction in progress	<u>33,900</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(33,900)</u>	<u>-</u>
Total business-type activities capital assets	\$ <u>2,489,240</u>	<u>355,641</u>	<u>(33,900)</u>	<u>2,810,981</u>

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STATE COMPLIANCE SECTION

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INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT ON COMPLIANCE
WITH STATE LAWS AND REGULATIONS

To the Honorable Mayor and Board of Alderpersons of the
Town of Liberty
Liberty, Mississippi

We have audited the financial statement of the cash receipts and disbursements of the governmental activities, the business-type activities, and each major fund of the Town of Liberty, Mississippi for the year ended September 30, 2020, and have issued our report thereon dated March 25, 2021. We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America.

As required by the state legal compliance audit program prescribed by the Mississippi Office of the State Auditor, we have also performed procedures to test compliance with certain state laws and regulations. However, providing an opinion on compliance with state laws and regulations was not an objective of our audit and, accordingly, we do not express such an opinion.

The results of those procedures and our audit of the financial statement of the governmental activities, the business-type activities, and each major fund information disclosed no material instances of noncompliance with state laws and regulations.

This report is intended for the information of the Town of Liberty, Mississippi's management, Honorable Mayor and Board of Alderpersons, and the Mississippi Office of the State Auditor and is not intended to be and should not be used by anyone other than these specified parties. However, this report is a matter of public record and its distribution is not limited.

Haddox Reid Eubank Betts PLLC

Jackson, Mississippi
March 25, 2021