

1
ORDINANCE NO.

2
**AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 2-3 (CITY AUDITOR) OF THE CITY
3 CODE RELATING TO THE CITY AUDITOR AND ESTABLISHING A
4 CITYWIDE COMPREHENSIVE EFFICIENCY ASSESSMENT PROGRAM TO
5 BE OVERSEEN BY THE AUSTIN CITY AUDITOR'S OFFICE.**

6
BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF AUSTIN:

7
PART 1. City council makes the following findings:

8
(A) Council seeks to safeguard public confidence, assure operational efficiency,
9 and deliver the best value in City services.

10
(B) Independent, systemic, and continuous evaluation of City operations, service
11 delivery, and resource utilization can enhance efficiency, effectiveness, and
12 innovation, and lead to citywide and departmental improvements that are
13 implementable and sustainable.

14
(C) The most effective assessment requires external independence,
15 accountability, and transparency.

16
(D) Successful implementation of evaluation results and recommendations
17 requires time for review, planning, and execution of new processes.

18
(E) Employees currently supporting City operations are important partners in
19 identifying efficiencies and working to implement recommendations.

20
(F) Public employees are fundamental to providing quality services and
21 systemic efficiency assessments and recommendations can be made with a
22 preference for opportunities that minimize or do not involve reductions in
23 force or outsourcing of government services.

24
PART 2. City Code Chapter 2-3 (*City Auditor*) is amended to add a new Section 2-3-
25 9, to renumber existing Section 2-3-9 as Section 2-3-10, and to renumber the remaining
26 sections accordingly, to read:

27
§ 2-3-9 – COMPREHENSIVE EFFICIENCY ASSESSMENT PROGRAM

28
(A) The city auditor shall initiate and oversee a program of recurring
29 comprehensive efficiency assessments designed to address cost effective
30 performance improvements of all other City departments on a repeating
31 schedule with at least three years between assessment cycles.

32 (B) The city auditor shall establish an ongoing means for employees to submit
33 suggestions for review or operational improvement.

34 (C) The city auditor shall contract with an external consultant with expertise in
35 municipal audits and collaborate with the consultant to perform each
36 comprehensive efficiency assessment.

37 (D) Each comprehensive efficiency assessment shall include:

38 (1) analysis of the efficiency of City operations, management structure,
39 functions, programs, services, and policies, including a cost-benefit
40 analysis where appropriate;

41 (2) analysis of City contracting practices and opportunities for increased
42 efficiency;

43 (3) determination of whether City contractors are meeting uniform
44 standards for performance metrics, documentation of required
45 deliverables, and accounting of expenditures;

46 (4) identification of and recommendations for cost savings and
47 performance enhancements within City departments;

48 (5) analysis of efforts toward continuous improvement and managing
49 organizational change; and

50 (6) efficiency and financial benchmarking with peer cities, where
51 applicable.

52 (E) The city manager, city clerk or municipal court clerk overseeing the
53 department that has been assessed shall provide a response detailing any
54 objections to recommendations that the Council should consider, or a
55 concurrence and timeline for execution of the recommendations.

56 (F) The city manager and all employees shall cooperate with the city auditor and
57 external consultant on all requirements of this section.

58 (G) The city auditor shall report on the status, including progress and any results,
59 of each comprehensive efficiency assessment to the audit and finance
60 committee semi-annually or as requested, and to the council annually or as
61 requested and shall conduct follow-up review of any portion of the
62 comprehensive efficiency assessment as requested by the audit and finance
63 committee.

64 (H) The city auditor shall notify the audit and finance committee if
65 recommendations include significant departmental reorganizations,
66 reductions in force, or outsourcing of City services.

67 (I) The city auditor shall report on any new efficiencies within the Austin City
68 Auditor's Office during any report made under Subsection (E~~G~~).

69 (J) The city auditor shall post the plan and proposed schedule for a
70 comprehensive efficiency assessment as well as related information, results,
71 recommendations, and implementation progress on the City website.

72 (K) No portion of this section is intended to interfere with the consistent and
73 timely delivery of City services or to limit the authority of the city manager
74 to initiate and implement practices that increase efficiency within City
75 departments.

76 (L) Amendments to, or repeal of, this section may only be adopted by the
77 favorable vote of at least ~~eight~~ nine council members, and repeal of this
78 ~~section may only be adopted by the favorable vote of at least nine council~~
79 ~~members.~~

80 **PART 3.** The city auditor shall initiate the comprehensive efficiency assessment
81 program within 12 months of the adoption of this ordinance.

82 **PART 4.** Subsection (C) of City Code Section 2-3-5 (*Powers and Duties*) is amended
83 to read:

84 (C) The City Auditor shall communicate directly with the council audit and
85 finance committee and the council, attend council audit and finance
86 committee meetings, and regularly meet with council members.

94 **PART 45.** This ordinance takes effect on _____, 2026.

95 **PASSED AND APPROVED**

96 _____, 2026

§
§
§ _____

100 Kirk Watson

101 Mayor

102 **APPROVED:** _____

103 Deborah Thomas
104 City Attorney

105 **ATTEST:** _____

Erika Brady
City Clerk