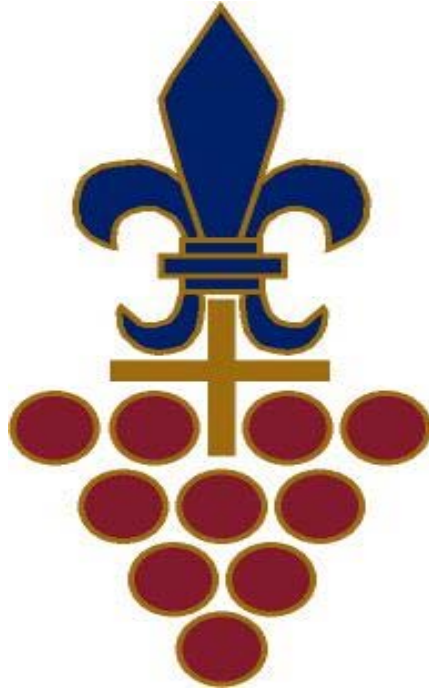


**STELLENBOSCH MUNICIPALITY**



**PETTY CASH  
POLICY**

**2022/2023**



# STELLENBOSCH MUNICIPALITY

## PETTY CASH POLICY

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## **1. INTRODUCTION**

The accounting officer of a municipality is responsible for the management of the expenditure of the municipality in an effective and controlled manner. Therefore the Stellenbosch Municipality adopts the following petty cash policy.

## **2. REGULATORY FRAMEWORK**

- a) The Municipal Finance Management Act (56 of 2003);
- b) Section 15 of the Municipal Supply Chain Regulations;
- c) Treasury regulations in terms of Section 13(1) of the Act;
- d) MFMA Circular 97 (Cost Containment Measures);
- e) Cost Containment Policy;
- f) Municipal Cost Containment Regulations, 2019; and
- g) Any subsequent MFMA Circulars relevant to Petty Cash or Cost Containment in general that may be issued By National Treasury from time to time.

## **3. OBJECTIVES**

Compliance with the regulatory framework in terms of the relevant legislation is required.

## **4. RESPONSIBILITY AND ACCOUNTABILITY**

The key responsibilities in terms of the MFMA (Section 65) are:

Accounting Officer (Municipal Manager)-

- (1) The accounting officer of a municipality is responsible for the management of the expenditure of the municipality.
- (2) The accounting officer must for the purpose of subsection (1) take all reasonable steps to ensure—
  - (a) That the municipality has and maintains an effective system of expenditure control, including procedures for the approval, authorisation, withdrawal and payment of funds;
  - (b) That the municipality has and maintains a management, accounting and information system which—

- (i) recognises expenditure when it is incurred;
  - (ii) accounts for creditors of the municipality; and
  - (iii) accounts for payments made by the municipality;
- (c) that the municipality has and maintains a system of internal control in respect of creditors and payments;
- (d) that payments by the municipality are made—
- (i) directly to the person to whom it is due unless agreed otherwise for reasons as may be prescribed; and
  - (ii) either electronically or by way of non-transferable cheques, provided that cash payments and payments by way of cash cheques may be made for exceptional reasons only, and only up to a prescribed limit;

The Municipal Manager delegates authority to the Chief Financial Officer to ensure compliance and adherence to the principles established by this policy.

## **5. PETTY CASH FRAMEWORK**

### **5.1 General Policy**

- a. The use of petty cash floats is strictly confined to individual cash purchases of:
- i) up to a maximum of R500, where the petty cash floats in other departments are used to make purchases,
  - ii) up to a maximum of R2 000, when claimed from the Financial Services Petty Cash Float.

All Petty Cash expenditure must be in compliance with this Policy, the Municipal Cost Containment Regulations 2019, Cost Containment Policy and MFMA Circular 97 (Cost Containment Measures).

- i) The municipality may not incur catering expenses for meetings that are only attended by persons in the employ of the municipality, unless prior written approval is obtained from the accounting officer.
- ii) Catering expenses may be incurred by the accounting officer for the following, provided they exceed five (5) hours in duration:
  - Hosting of meetings
  - Conferences

- Workshops
  - Courses
  - Forums
  - Recruitment interviews
  - Council proceedings
- iii) Expenses may not be incurred on alcoholic beverages.
- iv) The accounting officer must ensure that expenses are not incurred on social events. This provision is not intended to impede the constitutional obligation of the municipality, therefore the following events are excluded:
- Economic development events
  - Cultural festivals
  - Local tourism festivals
  - Youth, aged, disabled and other vulnerable persons development events
  - Civic honours events
  - Staff recognition or achievement awards and functions
  - Town centennial or other significant municipal commemorating events
  - Opening of facilities and buildings
  - Strategic planning sessions
  - Non-recreational team building events
  - Non-recreational staff wellness functions.
- v) Expenditure may not be incurred on corporate branded items like clotting or goods for personal use by officials, other than uniforms, office supplies and tools of trade, unless the costs thereto are recovered from the affected officials or is an integral part of the business model of a specific project or drive.
- vi) The accounting officer must ensure that any sporting events, and expenditure directly related to sporting events such as travel and accommodation cost, sporting gear and sporting regalia are not financed from the budget of the municipality or by suppliers or sponsors. This provision does not apply to sporting events that are held in terms of the municipality's constitutional function.

The accounting officer may incur expenditure not exceeding the limits of this Policy for one transaction usage, to host farewell functions in recognition of officials who retire after serving the municipality for ten or more years or retire due to ill health.

Under no circumstances may Petty Cash be abused for purposes of avoiding Supply Chain Management procedures. It is not acceptable for one receipt or a number of receipts, in respect of the same event, which have been obtained by the same person, to be split over multiple cash purchase claims.

- d. The Directorate making use of Petty Cash for smaller purchases is responsible for ensuring that sufficient budget is available on the relevant votes.
- e. A petty cash float is not to be used for any of the following:
  - i) the cashing of cheques;
  - ii) loans to any person whatsoever;
  - iii) payment of personal remuneration to any employee whatsoever, whether for fees, salaries, wages, travel allowance as part of remuneration, honorarium or other reason; or
  - iv) Purchase of capital items.
  - v) Any item or service that does not fall within the ambit of the Cost Containment Policy and –Regulations.
- f. Examples of permissible Petty Cash Expenditure may include, but is not limited to:
  - i) Toll Fees
  - ii) Parking Fees
  - iii) Postage
  - iv) PDP and Licence fees
  - v) Keys
  - vi) Car Wash
  - vii) Fire Arm Licencing
- g. Should there be any uncertainty, the relevant Director may exercise discretion and approve a requisition for Petty Cash, or in the case of an own Petty Cash Float, approve such expenditure provided that all such approvals remain within the confines of the Cost Containment Policy and –Regulations..

Other cash floats may also be established for the purpose of providing change, for a cash register, or any other purpose approved by the Chief Financial Officer. Use of such floats is restricted to the purpose for which they were established.
- i. The Chief Financial Officer may approve the use of petty cash for specific use, based on practical reasons or cost-benefit reasons. Such an authority will be done on a case by case basis for the purposes of considering merit.
- j. The CFO may determine and approve the maximum amount to be held in any individual petty cash float.

## **5.2 Purchases through Petty Cash Float – Supply Chain Management Office**

- a. Purchases from SCM database suppliers shall be allowed in the following instance, provided that a monthly submission are made to the CFO of all purchases and the respective director confirming the enforcement of rotation of suppliers:
  - i) When the amount of the individual purchase / event is less than R250.00, irrespective of it being an emergency or not.
- b. Purchases from SCM database suppliers are NOT allowed for capital items or fuel.
- c. Petty claims will be dealt with on a first come, first serve basis and it is subject to the monetary limit of the petty cash.

## **5.3 Establishing and Operating a Petty Cash Float**

- a. To establish a new petty cash float or increase an existing advance, a written application is to be made to the Chief Financial Officer by the relevant Department, motivating the need for such petty cash float.
- b. The total value of the advance requested will be an amount which would normally necessitate reimbursement approximately once a fortnight. This level of advances keeps to a minimum the overall cash in the buildings on municipal property and ensures regular inclusion of information regarding expenditure in financial reports and for budget control purposes.
- c. A request for the establishment of an advance will indicate the name and status of senior administrative or clerical staff to be held responsible for the operation of the petty cash float. The staff member's specimen signature must also be submitted by the Department to the Chief Financial Officer, together with the application documentation.
- d. The application will indicate the security arrangement in place to ensure safe custody of funds in the office. The minimal security arrangement that will be acceptable is that the float will be kept in a locked box which will be kept in a locked filing cabinet or safe. If an advance is approved, the Assistant Accountant: Creditors will advise the Department accordingly and request that the responsible staff member collect the advance. This establishing advance will be charged to a "Petty Cash Advances - ...Name/Dept..." in the General Ledger and not against any expenditure votes. A register of advances is thus maintained per Ledger Account for the purpose of accounting for all petty cash floats.

#### **5.4 Security of Petty Cash Floats**

- a. The cash on hand and used petty cash vouchers are to be kept in a locked box for which there should be two keys. One key is to be retained by the officer (on their person) normally responsible for the petty cash and the other to be kept in a sealed envelope in the office safe or other secure place, to be used only in an emergency.
- b. The locked petty cash box must be kept in a secure place when not in use and should be removed and returned by the responsible staff member only. At no stage should staff other than the responsible administrative/clerical staff member have access to the storage place of the petty cash box.
- c. Under no circumstance are keys to be left in the lock to the petty cash box, cabinet or safe.
- d. If the responsible officer is either going on leave or is leaving the Municipality's employment, the petty cash float is to be reconciled and signed by the departing- as well as replacement staff members, to indicate their agreement as to its balance. The replacement staff specimen signature must also be submitted to the Chief Financial Officer.

#### **5.5 Completing a Cash Purchase Claim Form**

- a. Petty cash stationery is available from the Expenditure Section (Financial Services). The form consists of two parts:
  - (i) Cash Purchase Claim page
  - (ii) Cash Purchase Record page
  - (iii) Receipt for cash advance (Only when appropriate, refer paragraph on Advances).
- b. All details entered on the Cash Purchase Claim appear on the Cash Purchase record page.
- c. The Cash Purchase Claim must be completed as follows:
  - (i) description and cost of the goods/services purchased
  - (ii) purchaser's signature
  - (iii) vote number to be charged
  - (iv) Signature of the Officer in Charge of Petty Cash.



- d. Original receipts or other valid documentation as required must be attached as proof of payment, with the signature of an appropriate financial delegate on this documentation. A financial delegate cannot authorise a cash purchase claim where she or he is the purchaser.

## **5.6 Sub-Advances to staff members**

- a. If it is necessary to make an initial sub-advance to a staff member for various needs, a receipt for cash advance must be completed. The receipt for Cash Advance Form must be completed as follows:
  - (i) description and *estimated* cost of the goods/services purchased
  - (ii) purchaser's signature
  - (iii) vote number to be charged
  - (iv) Signature of the Officer in Charge of Petty Cash.
- b. On completion of the purchase, the recording-, documentation- and authorization requirements will be as stated in the above paragraph: Completing a Cash Purchase Claim Form.

All such sub-advances will be accounted for within 24 hours, by submitting original receipts and other applicable documentation required, attached as proof of payment (with the approval signature on the documentation). Where this cannot be achieved, the buyer will be liable to pay back the advance without any delay or the money will be deducted on his/her next salary irrespective of consent being given or noted. Not more than one advance will be made to any one person at a time.

## **5.7 Out-of-Pocket Payments**

- a. Where a staff member has made purchases from their own funds and now seeks reimbursement from the petty cash, supporting documentation must be provided to substantiate the claim.
- b. The supporting documentation is to be attached to the Claim.
- c. The recording-, documentation- and authorization requirements will be as stated in the above paragraph (**Completing a Cash Purchase Claim Form**).

## **5.8 Reimbursement of Petty Cash Floats**

- a. A petty cash float is operated on the basis that expenditure from the float is periodically reimbursed. Such reimbursement-
  - (i) returns the cash level of the petty cash float to its original level and
  - (ii) Charges the expenditure which has been made, to the correct expenditure vote.
- b. Accordingly, at any point of time, the sum of the cash on hand, i.e. remaining unspent, plus the cash advances for un-finalised purchases, plus the completed cash purchase claim forms, will equal the level of the petty cash advanced to the Department.
- c. Completed Cash Purchase Claim forms, with attached cash register slips, etc., must be taken by the officer in charge of the Petty Cash in a Directorate/Department, to the Assistant Accountant: Accounts Payable for reimbursement, after the Summary Claim Cover Page and attached documentation have been authorised by a financial delegate at least once in 14 days. Reimbursement of claims where supporting documentation is missing will not be entertained.
- d. The prescribed Summary Cash Purchase Claim form as well as other relevant forms attached to it must be completed in full.
- e. The most recently completed Cash Purchase Claim form must record the reconciliation of the petty cash float. The Assistant Accountant: Accounts Payable will refuse reimbursement of claims where this is not supplied.
- f. A petty cash float must never be reimbursed with funds derived from any other source whatsoever.

## **5.9 Shortages**

- a. Any shortages in respect of a petty cash float must be paid in immediately.
- b. Where a petty cash float is stolen the incident must be reported promptly to the Chief Financial Officer in the required format, after which same needs to be reported to the South African Police Services and a case number provided to the Assistant Accountant: Accounts Payable.

#### **5.10 Procedure applicable when a Petty Cash Float is repaid/cancelled**

When an advance is no longer required, a statement in a form of a memorandum is to be completed and signed by the Head of the relevant Department and submitted to the Assistant Accountant: Accounts Payable, with the balance of cash on hand and completed and authorized Cash Purchase Claim forms. The most recently completed Cash Purchase Claim form will record the reconciliation of the petty cash float, where after a cheque will be issued to the relevant person to effect completion of the transaction..

The Cashier will issue a receipt to the affected department.

#### **5.11 Financial year-end procedures**

Reconciled petty cash registers (cash slips attached), accompanied with the cash balance must be returned to the Senior Accountant: Expenditure a week before the financial year end.