State of Tennessee

Justin P. Wilson, State Comptroller

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Former Whiteville City Clerk Arrested Following Comptroller's Investigation

Whiteville's former city clerk has been arrested after an investigation by the state Comptroller's Division of Municipal Audit found she had been stealing money from the city.

Tracey Wilson, the former clerk, was arrested earlier this month on charges of Theft Over $1,000 and Official Misconduct. Dennis Dycus, director of the Division of Municipal Audit, outlined a summary of the investigation's conclusions in a letter to Whiteville's mayor and aldermen released today. To view the letter online, go to:
http://www.comptroller1.state.tn.us/repository/MA/Investigative/whiteville.pdf

While working as clerk, Wilson collected payments for traffic citations, utility bills and other city fees and charges. In some cases, she doctored city records to make it appear that she had collected less money than she actually had. In other cases, she failed to deposit receipted collections or manipulated bank deposit records to conceal her thefts.

Dycus informed the mayor and aldermen that Wilson stole at least $2,695 during a period between July 1 and October 31 of last year.

Dycus noted that the city had failed to follow proper safeguards in its accounting system because duties should be separated so no one employee controls financial transactions from start to finish, as Wilson was allowed to do.

"It is always disappointing when cases come to light in which the public trust has been abused," Comptroller Justin P. Wilson said. "However, our auditors are trained to spot this type of illegal activity. And they do an excellent job of that."

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Media contact: Blake Fontenay, Communications Director, (615) 253-2668 or blake.fontenay@tn.gov