

# Daily World



## City receives another 30 days to provide the documents for state audit

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The city of Helena-West Helena have submitted most of a list of documents to state auditors who in turn gave the city another 30 days to finish compiling the list. Mayor James Valley said that only three documents keep the city from fulfilling the order.

According to Valley, those three documents, an IRS statement, documents from a certified public accountant and bank documents from the city's pension accounts to verify city balances, were ordered from the sources. Valley said the issue would no longer haunt the city and auditors could now begin to perform the 2006 audit.

Auditors were at the West Helena Municipal Water Co. Monday collecting documents for the 2007 audit.

Although Valley said he did not foresee any problems in the 2007 audit similar to those faced by the city, some of the same computer problems persisted in 2007.

Valley said that the city knew the same problems might resurface, but the city learned from the situation last year and backed up all documentation auditors need for the 2007 audit.

"It appears that they're (the city) getting everything in order and we want to commend them for getting it all worked out," J.R. Rodgers, co-chair of the Legislative Auditing Committee commented to the Arkansas Democrat Gazette.

In January, auditors threatened to withhold half of the city's state turn back funds to the city if the documents were not produced.

Since January 2007, auditors have been tackling the 2006 audit of the city and sent a letter to city officials in October explaining the penalty for further noncompliance with the state's auditing laws.

In an interview in January, Valley said the state turn back to be withheld would amount to about \$35,000 a month.