

## **H-23-502 Details Information**

**What state or local organization is involved?**

**Please identify the specific concerns you are hoping the audit will address.**

Mayor Will Finn directly defied a city ordinance months after it was to be implemented regarding water rates. This was a council decision. He neither didn't sign nor veto the ordinance.

**Please provide a detailed description of the assertion or outstanding achievement, including who, when, where, what, how and how much.**

After 6 months in order to attempt to protect the city administrator and the public works director he stated he unilaterally chose to not implement the rate increase requested by the public works director. This was not noted until citizens recognized that the increase had not happen. Rather than admit the mistake, the mayor, as he is outgoing, chose to falsely state he chose this against council directive in his own, though he legally knows he can not do this.

**How did this issue come to your attention?**

Rate increase not showing up on billing. Email and statements made in public and on social media. New ordinance for water and sewer rates on agenda.

**What employee(s), contractors, etc., were involved in the assertion or achievement?**

**Please include employee titles if possible.**

Mayor Will Finn, Peter Boyd, Tracy Coleman

**Please provide the names of any witnesses to the assertion or achievement, if possible.**

All the citizens at the Dec 4, 2023 council meeting. Incoming mayor Todd Dinehart. Former deputy clerk treasurer Mari Ripp

**Please provide any additional details or comments that would help us understand your assertion or achievement.**

Mayor Finn and council also enacted sweetheart deals for department heads before leaving office.

## H-23-502 Referral Information

**Hotline ID:** H-23-502  
**Date of Submission:** 12/5/2023  
**Entity Type:** Local  
**Entity Category Type:** City/Town  
**Entity:** Woodland, City of  
**Sub Entity Name:**  
**Category:** Accounting/Financial Reporting  
**1-2 sentence description of concern:** Mayor Will Finn directly defied a city ordinance months after it was to be implemented regarding water rates. This was a council decision. He neither didn't sign nor veto the ordinance.  
**Report Issued:** No  
**Reporting Type:** Exit Item  
**Report Number:**  
**Investigation Contracted:** No  
**Contract Number:**  
**Contract Name:**  
**Billing Time Code:**  
**Costs:**  
**Public Records Request:** No  
**Flag for Annual Report:** No  
**Substantiated:** No  
**ARRA:** No  
**Action:** Referred to Audit Team - Consider Next Audit  
**Audit Team:** Vancouver  
**Audit Team Contact:** osbornel@sao.wa.gov  
**cc:** #CC1#  
**cc:** #CC2#  
**cc:** #CC3#  
**cc:** #CC4#  
**Referral Date:** 12/5/2023  
**Action Taken:** No  
**Response Date:**  
**Report Date:**  
**Follow Up Date:**  
**Date Closed:** 1/14/2025

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## **H-23-502 Activity Log**

**01/14/2025**

Referral updated by 'JEANA Gillis (gillisj)'.

**01/14/2025**

Referral updated by 'LINDSAY Osborne (osbornel)'.

**01/14/2025**

no significant issues were identified. Exit comment was provided regarding the timing of the rate increase - The City did not implement water utility rates per City Council Ordinance and Resolution. The City delayed an increase in water utility rates originally set to go into effect November 2022 to be implemented in May 2023 instead. However, the City did not implement the planned rates in May then passed Resolution 776 increasing rates in November 2023. We recommend the City strengthen internal controls to ensure utility rates are implemented in accordance with City Council approved Resolutions. --osbornel

**01/14/2025**

Reviewed concern as part of our audit and no issues were identified --osbornel

**12/17/2024**

Referral updated by 'NICHOLAS Hoeft (hoeftn)'.

**12/17/2024**

Called Citizen on 8/21 to discuss concerns, call covered the utility rate change which was not done in accordance with board approved resolutions - we confirmed would be communicated to the client in the audit. Citizen also communicated new concerns over severance deals made to employees - we were aware of these and informed citizen it would be considered in our planning phase. Informed citizen results of audit areas reviewed and any recommendations made at the finding level would be in our audit report. Citizen did not request any additional updates. Closing hotline. --hoeftn

**12/06/2023**

spoke with citizen 12/5. Informed them that we would concern this during the next audit --osbornel

**12/05/2023**

Referral updated by 'JEANA Gillis (gillisj)'.

**12/05/2023**

Task assigned to 'osbornel@sao.wa.gov'. Team notification email sent to: osbornel@sao.wa.gov,katie001950@sao.wa.gov

**12/05/2023**

Referral updated by 'JEANA Gillis (gillisj)'. Action changed from (not set) to Referred to Audit Team - Consider Next Audit.