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Hiawatha Water Rate Increase Approved

(KNZA)--Water rates will be going up for customers of the city of Hiawatha.

During a special meeting Thursday evening, the Hiawatha City Commission approved an ordinance establishing the new rates which will be effective March 1st.

City Administrator Mike Nichols says the rate increase is necessary due to the city's plans to build a new estimated \$5 million water treatment plant to address the ongoing problem of high nitrate levels in its water supply system. The last rate increase was in 2011.

Nichols says the average customer will see about a \$6 monthly increase, while minimum users will see a \$3 increase. He noted information will be included in next month's water bill about the rate increase.

Mayor Steffen Shamburg says he's excited about being able to move forward in providing customers with a good quality water supply, something that has been a priority of his.

City officials expect the new water treatment plant to be operational in 18 to 24 months.

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