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# newszap.com *Labelle* News & Information

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## Funding process begins

By Patty Brant

Superintendent of Public Works Mike Boyle said the city's new waterplant should go online in 2009-10. The city continues to plan for a 4 million gallon per day (gpd) waterplant, to replace its 40-year-old 1 million gpd plant. Testing should continue for about 18 months, with construction taking 24 months, placing the waterplant's start date in 2010. The modular, reverse osmosis n modular plant is expected to cost some \$35.7 million. The city is currently seeking that funding, in the form of grants and loans. RUS funding will require that the "core city" be serviced first, before any new construction areas. Water customers can expect a rate increase in the foreseeable future as well.

Commissioners voted Dec. 14 to borrow \$2 million from a consortium of local banks to get the project moving. New rates will be identified later. Existing customers will only pay for the portion of the new plant that will benefit them.

The resolution to borrow the initial \$2 million passed 3-1 with Commissioner Hilda Zimmerly voting no and Commissioner Lyons, who sits on the board of one of the banks, abstaining.

### In other business:

- Commissioners approved beer and wine sales for El Tejano Restaurant which is moving into the old Guiseppi's on Main St. South from SR 29. Commissioner Zimmerly voting nay.

- The board waived the fee for the LaBelle Woman's Club to use Barron Park for a pet parade event on January 20. Proceeds will go toward Canine Companions for Independence and animal rescue.

- The next regular city commission meeting will be Thursday, January 11, at 7 p. m. in City Hall.

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