

## Water Rate Increase Could be Phased In

Tuesday, 12 April 2011 20:53 -

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A water rate hike in La Crosse would take half as big of a bite out of your wallet for now if an agreement reached in the city council sticks this week. The water utility had hoped for the first water rate increase in nine years. One that would add 13 dollars per quarter to the average customer's bill, or, an increase of around thirty percent. But the city council wants to phase that increase in over a couple of years. Possible hitch in the plan: water utility manager Mark Johnson says the state's public Service Commission might turn down the half now, half later plan.