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NSB KINGS BAY

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NEWSPAPER ARTICLE "RATES: CITY TO DECIDE ON PREFERENTIAL WATER RATES"

NSB KINGS BAY GA

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## City unsure about compensatory rates

Several Crooked River Plantation subdivision homeowners attending Thursday's public meeting again raised the issue of receiving reduced water rates from the city to compensate for the loss of their private wells.

Mayor Jerry Brandon told the audience that city officials have yet to decide if residents will receive reduced rates.

"We are working on the economic standpoint," the mayor said.

While all homes in the subdivision are connected to the city water system, many residents installed private wells for irrigation purposes and to avoid paying what they consider are high water rates.

Brandon added, however, that residents connected to the city water system who do not have private wells use city water to irrigate their lawns. They pay the costs associated

See RATES, page 9A

## Rates: City to decide on preferential water rates

■ continued from page 1A

with city water and have not asked for reduced rates, the mayor said.

"If we start making special cases for situations other than that, we can get into trouble," Brandon said.

City officials also acknowledge that establishing preferential water rates for Crooked River residents with private wells could be a logistical nightmare. City officials would have to decide if all subdivision residents should be eligible or if just those with wells should receive reduced rates.

More than 600 homes are located in the subdivision, and 100 homeowners responded to an earlier questionnaire which asked residents if they had private wells.

Of those 100 who responded, 51 wells were tested and five tested positive for contamination.

Captain Len Scullion of Kings Bay Naval Submarine Base public works department said he sympathized with city leaders who are faced with the decision.

"It's a tough issue," Scullion said. "They need facts about the risks before they decide."