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Silvis completes sewer project planning

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By Seth Kabala, seth@sethkabala.com

SILVIS -- A standing-room-only crowd of around 40 people packed into Silvis City Hall council chambers for Monday's public hearing on the proposed sewer extension at Fair Acres.

City Engineer Roger Geiken said the first phase of the project is expected to begin on or about May 1, 2011, with new sewer mains being installed starting at the southwest end of Fair Acres and continuing east to 11th Street. Phase 2 will continue construction east past 11th Street and go to the end of the subdivision. Phase 3 will start at the city hookup point on the east end of the subdivision on 21st Avenue and go west toward 10th Street. All three phases are expected to be completed in about 90 days.

Bid letting is expected in January 2011.

Mr. Geiken estimated the total project cost at \$705,000, \$323,000 of which is coming from a Department of Commerce Economic Opportunity grant. The balance of \$382,000 is to be covered with a special assessment and city contributions.

The city has identified 62 assessable lots in the subdivision, which computes to approximately \$6,160 per household. The city is looking to keep the special assessment per household down to between \$4,000 and \$5,000, which leaves the estimated city contribution from the infrastructure tax between \$2,160 and \$1,160.

If the money goes unused as of September 20, 2011, the city will forfeit all grant funds, Mayor Bill Fox said.

"I don't think we can afford to lose (the grant)," Mayor Fox said.

"We need to move forward with this project," he said, emphasizing the unpredictability of receiving another assistance grant should they lose this one.

The Department of Commerce Economic Opportunity grant includes \$27,000 to assist low to moderate income households with the cost of hooking onto the new system, said Chelsey Waterman of the Bi-State Regional Commission.

As the project progresses, Bi-State will receive guidance from the state agency administering the grant regarding what income level will qualify a household for assistance. A qualifying household will receive \$900.