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Silvis mayor: City needs to move on bike path or lose funds

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SILVIS -- Mayor Bill Fox told city council members Monday that if the city doesn't sign an engineering company to do \$12,000 worth of work necessary for the bike path that will run from the Mississippi River through East Moline, Silvis and Carbon Cliff, the city will lose more than \$200,000 in state transportation grant funds.

The engineering fees, in addition to several thousand the city already has paid, are necessary because the original bike path route had to be scrapped when Carbon Cliff and Silvis each encountered land-acquisition issues, Mayor Fox said.

Silvis' portion of the new bike path route will run from 1st Street at Crosstown Avenue to 18th Street to 10th Ave, he said.

Portions of the route run through TIF districts 1 and 3, and Mayor Fox will investigate the possibility of using money from these districts to erect lighting along eligible portions of the path, he said.

A meeting is scheduled for next Thursday at city hall to further discuss the engineering fees.

In other business:

--City administrator Jim Grafton said an electrician recently finished installing 101 energy-efficient light fixtures in city buildings, which will reduce the city's energy bills. The new fixtures came from a \$7,050 grant from Bi-State, he said.

--As a committee of the whole, aldermen moved approving \$2,000 for electrical repairs to a police car, \$1,500 for a new laptop for the city inspector to use to file all building permits in one database, and \$5,000 for the purchase of two security cameras (one for city hall, one for the public safety building) to full council vote on March 15.

