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Silvis votes to install security cameras at public buildings

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By Seth Kabala, seth@sethkabala.com

SILVIS -- Silvis aldermen on Tuesday approved the purchase of six security cameras to be installed in the public safety building and city hall at a cost not to exceed \$5,000.

The measure passed 7-1, with Ald. Barb Fox, 2nd Ward, casting the lone no vote. She said when the council passed the current budget, they decided there was no room for security cameras, and so she didn't feel comfortable voting yes.

Ald. Bob Cervantes, chairman of the Parks, Buildings, and Grounds committee who oversaw the discussions regarding the cameras, said he started investigating the possibility of increasing security in the public safety building and city hall after the attempted assassination of Arizona Congresswoman Gabrielle Giffords.

Money for the cameras that will go in the public safety building will come from Tax Increment Finance District 1, and while money for the cameras slated for installation in city hall has not yet been appropriated, it can be, he said. "I just want to make sure we're protected," he said.

There was some discussion regarding whether the cameras would act as a deterrent or merely a record of crime after the fact, and not really do anything to stop potential violence.

Police chief Bill Brasche said this was a valid point, but said it didn't change the fact that evidence of crime is better than none, and the council needed to decide how important that was to them.

In other business:

-- Mayor Bill Fox told council members that the city will contract with McClure Engineering for the \$12,000 of engineering work that needs to be done on the city's portion of the planned bike path that will run from East Moline, through Silvis and out to Carbon Cliff. The \$12,000 will come from the public benefit fund, he said.

-- City engineer Roger Geiken said the city still needs to secure eight or nine easements for property along the 10th street widening project, so the planned bid-opening date in March will be pushed back to April 12 at 2 p.m. Council approved this item for consideration on the April 5 agenda.