

**ARLINGTON CITY COUNCIL
SPECIAL MEETING AGENDA
APRIL 18, 2016 AT 5:15 P.M.
COUNCIL CHAMBERS**

1. Call to Order

DISCUSSION ITEMS

2. Amy Newsom, Sibley County Economic Development
 - A) Update on SEDCO Activities
 - B) DigitalTown
3. Five-Year CIP Plan
4. Discussion
5. Adjournment

**ARLINGTON CITY COUNCIL
SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES
APRIL 18, 2016**

The meeting was called to order at 5:15 p.m., Mayor Nagel presiding.

Members present: Mayor Nagel, Wills, Heiland, Nuesse, Jaszewski and Battcher

Members absent: None

Also present: Amy Newsom (SEDCO), and City Administrator Donabauer.

The following items were discussed in detail and no formal Council action was taken:

1. Amy Newsom, Sibley County Economic Development
 - A) Update on SEDCO Activities
 - B) Digital Town
2. Five-Year CIP Plan.

Amy Newsom, SEDCO, discussed numerous topics related to the information she has gathered from her business retention interviews with 107 businesses throughout Sibley County. She reported on the themes that came out of those discussions. Business owners would rather have economic development efforts be focused on existing businesses in Sibley County (computer and website training, affordable workforce housing, boost availability of employees) versus trying to bring in a large manufacturer/business. She also noted there is a need for daycare services in Sibley County. She discussed that there is a need to promote county-wide efforts (trail, chamber of commerce's and farmers' markets) versus individual city efforts.

Amy Newsom also discussed the recent Sibley County initiative with Digital Town. Digital Town is a total solution website/smart phone app bringing together city administration, chamber and economic development, news, merchants, consumers, and areas of interest in one application. Sibley County and its cities would be part of a five-year pilot program and as a result, would be used as a marketing tool throughout the nation. To those users that subscribe to the app, the app can push out bad weather information, snow emergency and parking restrictions, merchant sales, as well as, upcoming events in neighboring Sibley County communities. Upon the City's approval, Arlington would be absorbed under Sibley County's contract. During the contract period, there are no set-up fees or monthly ongoing fees to the cities other than a requirement to install a sign on the outskirts of town designating the community as a "Digital Town". City staff would need to maintain the City's portion of the site.

Council then reviewed and discussed the five-year Capital Improvement Plan. All acknowledged that the committees and departments worked to make cuts or delays to their 2016-2020 five-year capital expenditures. The Council agreed that the plan is a plan. The Council directed staff to seek more information about the Cty Rd 17 bridge as proposed for construction in 2018 by Sibley County.

Motion by Jaszewski, seconded by Nuesse, and passed by unanimous vote to adjourn the meeting at 6:26 pm.

Liza M. Donabauer, City Administrator

Rich Nagel, Mayor