

**ARLINGTON CITY COUNCIL &
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
SPECIAL JOINT MEETING AGENDA
OCTOBER 26, 2016 @ 5:00 P.M.
COUNCIL CHAMBERS**

1. Call to Order
2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. Approval of Agenda

DISCUSSION ITEMS

4. Sibley County Support for Economic Development – Sib. Cty. Adm. Roxy Traxler
5. Adjourn

**SPECIAL ARLINGTON CITY COUNCIL &
JOINT EDA COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
OCTOBER 26, 2016**

The Special Council Meeting was called to order at 5:00 p.m., Mayor Nagel presiding.

Council Members present: Battcher, Heiland, Jaszewski, Mayor Nagel, Nuesse

Council Members absent: Wills

EDA Members present: Bergersen, Hatlestad, President Thomes, Councilmember Battcher,
Councilmember Nuesse

EDA Members absent: Kloeckl, Sorenson

Also present: City Administrator Donabauer, EDA Dir. Smith-Strack, County Adm. Roxy Traxler

Motion by Jaszewski, seconded by Battcher and passed by unanimous vote to approve the agenda as presented.

County Adm. Roxy Traxler talked about economic development within the county and what the County's goals should be. She explained that the County wants to work collaboratively with the cities (pool resources). Nuesse asked about SEDCO and what it was currently doing. She felt that some efforts might be duplicated between the City and County; they should be communicating between each other better. Thomes expressed what he thought were some benefits to having a county position; but did not want to lose the knowledge and/or expertise that the City currently had through Consultant Smith-Strack. Adm. Donabauer commented on the 'branding' or marketing of Sibley County; getting people to want to come here. Comments were made about getting assistance with grants. Traxler commented on what grants the County has available. Smith-Strack commented that if the County had grants available to help the Cities with making shovel ready lots, development and/or infrastructure costs, the County would also benefit.

Discussion was held on perceived housing needs within the county. Traxler and Thomes explained that surveys had been sent out to businesses, as well as random residential and rural addresses. The overall result from the surveys was the perception that additional housing was not needed or wanted. This contradicts what the larger industries are saying, which is housing is needed.

The group discussed concerns relating to contracting a County EDA position to the City. Traxler talked about how things could be handled both at the city and county level. She wants to improve the collaborative efforts between the city and county. Thomes commented that wherever you see a big business in a community, it got started by a local connection. Traxler commented that focus needs to be on retaining and/or expansion of jobs. The County, through their entrepreneur and leadership courses, have been providing technical assistance to the smaller businesses (getting them using computers and online). Considerable discussion was held about sharing a contracted EDA position, including a salary range and job description/responsibilities.

Motion by Heiland seconded by Jaszewski, and passed by unanimous vote to adjourn the Council portion of the special joint meeting at 5:55 pm.

EDA:

COUNCIL:

EDA Dir., Cynthia Smith-Strack

City Administrator, Liza M. Donabauer

EDA President, Richard Thomes

Mayor, Richard Nagel