

Economic Development Authority Special Meeting and Public Hearing Minutes
Wednesday, August 21, 2019
6:00 p.m. Eyota American Legion, 11 Madison Avenue SW, Eyota, MN

Call to Order/Roll Call: Chair Dale Heintz called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm

Members:	X___ Dale Heintz	A___ Connie Meiners
	X___ Craig Horan	X___ Tony Nelson
	X___ Darcy Higgins	X___ Bryan Cornell
	X___ Tom Aleshire	
Staff:	X___ Cathy Enerson	
Guest:	See Exhibit "A"	

Approve the Agenda: The meeting tonight is specifically to discuss Arbor Gardens and a public hearing to take comments.

Meeting: Heintz explained the public hearing is in reference to the potential sale of Arbor Gardens. It was started in 2003, with the City bonding to finance the construction. Over the years there have been inquiries from outside parties to purchase the facility. There are three interested parties at this time. The League of Minnesota Cities has reviewed proposed contracts for the City. The EDA spends a substantial amount of time overseeing the operations of Arbor Gardens and this is not their specialty or expertise. Cornell confirmed the City has been involved since the beginning, and there have been times it has been a struggle to not lose money. Cornell continued by saying he feels it would be better for the City to have experts in the field and business to come in. Higgins agreed and added it would be better for Arbor Garden residents also.

Motion was made by Aleshire and seconded by Horan to close the regular meeting and open the public hearing. Motion carried, 6/0.

Public Hearing:

Tyrel Clark, citizen, first questioned if they could ask questions now, or just make comments and was asked to please make comments now, questions can be asked later. Clark said he thought it was important for citizens to know how Arbor Gardens is run now, the history of it, debt and revenue projections.

Willa Bierbaum, Arbor Gardens resident, stated she really likes it at Arbor and has been there six years. But her rent has doubled and Arbor is short staffed because kids are going back to school now. Arbor is very nice. Her children are encouraging her to move to Rochester which she does not want to do because this is home to her. She is concerned with past and future rent increases.

Verlie Goetz, Arbor Gardens resident, she has been there since May 1 and it is an amazing place, it is like being at home. She stated she pays \$2,600 which includes utilities and appreciates the \$300 wellness charge in place if she was to need to go to a hospital. She explained (in greater detail) that she is physically well but her mind is not and is glad the memory care unit is available. When she needs memory care she is glad she will be able to just move her furniture down the hall. She does not want to move to another facility and start over with a strange location and building and staff. Verlie noticed one of the Arbor Gardens staff members in audience and praised him, along with the other young staff, how they clean and take care of everyone. Another feature she appreciates is the button she can push at any time to get immediate help. Again, she likes it at Arbor.

Heintz asked for more comments, there were none. It should be noted here in the minutes that no written comments were received.

