

**APPROVED**

2/23/15

**Marengo City Council  
Special Meeting Minutes  
City Council Chambers  
132 E. Prairie St.  
Marengo, IL 60152  
February 12 2015**

**CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor Donald B. Lockhart called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Mayor Lockhart led everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**ROLL CALL**

Present this evening are Mayor Donald B. Lockhart, Aldermen Matt Keenum, Nicole DeBoer, Dennis Hammortree, Gretchen Samuelson, Todd Hall and Steve Mortensen. Also present are City Administrator Gary Boden and Chief of Police Joseph Hallman. Absent this evening are Aldermen Carole Bartman and Michael Smith.

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

Chief Bob Bradbury, with the Marengo Fire Department and Rescue Squad, stated that he was impressed with the public works department on their work during the snowstorm recently, keeping the main arteries clear of snow.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

- a. **List of Bills**
- b. **Authorization to Execute Agreement with HR Green for GIS Maintenance Services**

Alderman Hammortree questioned the engineering bill that was submitted, and Administrator Boden explained the reasoning behind the City paying this particular bill. Alderman Hall spoke on previous action taken by the City on annexations and his understanding of how those would be handled.

Alderman Nicole DeBoer made a motion, seconded by Alderman Todd Hall, to approve the Consent Agenda items. The aldermen voted as follows:

Ayes: Keenum, Mortensen, DeBoer, Hall and Samuelson  
Nays: Hammortree  
Abstain: 0

The motion passed.

**MAYOR'S STATEMENTS AND REPORTS**  
**DEPARTMENT HEAD AND STAFF REPORTS**

Mayor Lockhart requested consent from the Council to waive these items and proceed with adjournment of the meeting.

**REPORTS AND STATEMENTS FROM CITY COUNCIL**

Alderman Hammortree stated "On Monday February 9<sup>th</sup>, 2015, I voted no to approve the bills that included \$855 in legal fees for the annexation of the Meyers properties because the property owners that approached the City to annex their property should have an escrow funds on deposit for the payment of legal and engineering fees, and these fees should not be paid by the tax payers. The Mayor has stated that the bills are not been paid because I voted no and that I am an obstructionist, but this is not the whole story. There was another option that would have allowed the payment of the bills. As was done on the 9-18-2014 meeting, when an alderman requested one of the bills on the list, and the discussion took place on that bill, the Mayor (as the chairman) made the following three statements: 'What's your pleasure' 'Do you want to hold it back, and do you wish to pull that one check back', and 'is there a motion to approve the list of bills excluding the check from Jack Doheny for \$5,000.' The same course of action could have been taken on February 9, 2015. The administration called a special meeting so that we could get the bills paid and avoid a reputation of being a deadbeat to our creditors. I would like to make three points about the necessity of a special meeting. It has been only for the past couple of years that we have approved bills for payment twice a month. Before that, we always approved once a month and did not have a deadbeat reputation then. There would have been only two bills that would have been paid late if we would have waited and approved the bills at the next regular meeting on February 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2015. The late fees would have totaled \$70. This is, in fact, exactly what happened in December 2014, when we changed the meeting to a later date of 12-15-2014, and the check was received after the due date. I asked staff how much it cost, in personnel and expenses, to put out another packet for the special meeting and the extra cost was approximately \$68. So, we maybe saved \$2 by calling a special meeting. I was elected by the citizens and I have a duty to represent them and their best interests. I cannot and will not in good conscience approve the payment of bills by the taxpayers that should rightfully be paid by a property owner or developer. I thank you very much."

**ADJOURNMENT**

Alderman Steve Mortensen made a motion, seconded by Alderman Nicole DeBoer to adjourn the Special Meeting. The motion passed with a voice vote. The meeting adjourned at 6:18 PM.

  
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Constance J. Boxleitner  
City Clerk

The City Council approved these minutes on February 23, 2015.