

MARENGO CITY COUNCIL
Executive Session Minutes
City Council Chambers
132 E. Prairie Street
Marengo, IL 60152
May 12, 2025

R

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Michael Proffitt called the Executive Session meeting to order at 7:56PM.

ROLL CALL

Present this evening are Mayor Michael Proffitt; Aldermen Rudsinski, Mortensen, Mobley, DeSerto, and Miller. Alderman Weiss, Keenum and Damisch were absent. Also present was City Attorney David McArdle and Director of HR/Finance Megan Lopez, Director of Public Works [REDACTED] City Administrator Derik Morefield and Chief of Police Nathan Hayes

ITEMS UNDER DISCUSSION

Resident [REDACTED] has expressed ongoing concerns regarding various matters she believes have not been adequately addressed over the past several months. She has contacted the alderman and city staff multiple times and has requested exceptions to standard procedures. Staff have communicated that they are unable to accommodate these requests, which has led to her dissatisfaction. Ms. [REDACTED] has recently indicated the possibility of pursuing legal action. In response, it has been suggested that all future communications between Ms. [REDACTED] and the City be directed through a designated point of contact to ensure consistency and clarity. City Attorney David McArdle is seeking guidance from the Council on how to proceed with managing communications and addressing the residents' concerns moving forward. Alderman DeSerto stated he does speak with resident daily and will continue to speak with her.

On April 30, 2025, a lawsuit was filed against the City of Marengo by a watchdog organization based outside of Illinois. The suit pertains to alleged non-responsiveness to Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request submitted by the *McHenry Times*.

As of this date, the city has not been formally served with summons. The initial FOIA request was emailed to the City Clerk on January 1, 2025. However, it is believed that the email was inadvertently filtered into the City's spam folder. Subsequent follow-up emails were sent to the same address and are also believed to have been directed to spam. Evidence confirms that at least one of these follow-ups was filtered as spam. Due to the City's IT policy, spam emails are automatically deleted after 90 days, which may have resulted in the loss of the original correspondence.

The lawsuit alleges that the city failed to respond to the FOIA request, though it appears the communications were not received due to technical filtering. City Attorney David McArdle has advised that the City review and update its IT policies to prevent similar issues in the future.

MOTION TO RETURN TO OPEN SESSION

Alderman Mobley made a motion at 8:23PM, seconded by Alderman DeSerto, to adjourn the Executive Session.

The aldermen voted as follows:

Aye: DeSerto, Rudsinski, Miller, Mortensen and Mobley

Nay: 0

Absent: Keenum, Damish and Weiss

The motion passed.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Steph Matysiewski', written over a horizontal line.

Stephanie Matysiewski
City Clerk