

MANCHESTER WATER AND SEWER COMMISSION
JANUARY 8, 2026

The Manchester Water and Sewer Commission met on Thursday, January 8, 2026 for a regular meeting.

Alderman Crosslin made an announcement that this meeting will be live streaming.

Chairman/Commissioner Anderson called the regular meeting to order at 6:00 PM.

Roll taken by Director Lonnie Foley and present were: Mayor Joey Hobbs, Chairman Mike Anderson, Vice-Chairman Nelson Watson, Secretary Gary Hunt, Commissioner Terrance Hillsman, Alderman Thomas Crosslin, Vice-Mayor Mark Messick, Alderman Donny Parsley and Director Lonnie Foley. A meeting quorum had been established.

Absent: None

Late Arrival: None

1) The agenda of the regular meeting on January 8, 2026, was approved upon a motion by Vice-Chairman Watson, second by Commissioner Hillsman. 7-0

2) **Citizen Comments:**

None to report

3) **Review of Previous minutes**

Alderman Parsley made a motion to dispense with the reading of the minutes, seconded by Alderman Hillsman. After a vote was taken, the motion passed. 7-0

The minutes of the regular meeting on November 6, 2025 were approved upon a motion by Alderman Parsley second by Alderman Crosslin. After a vote was taken, the motion passed. 7-0

4) **Mayor's Report:**

None to report

5) **Director's Report:**

Report attached to minutes. Alderman Crosslin asked Director Foley how it was going with the new hires. Director Foley reported that they were coming along and the majority of them had a background in this work already.

6) **Budget Review:**

None to report. The budget attached to the agenda was not complete. Mayor Hobbs will have a corrected budget sent.

7) **New Business:**

None to report.

8) **Commissioners Comments:**

- a. Chairman Anderson gave a reminder that all who attended training last year need to get their statements into Director Foley showing training and numbers of hours.
- b. Chairman Anderson commented on the rate increase stating that the rate increase was passed unanimously by the commission back in April. BOMA approved the new budget in July with the rate increases incorporated. The budget started in July though the rate increase was not approved by BOMA until September 5th. There was discussion as to why the rate was not put into effect until the January 2026 billing

losing 3 months of rate increases. He expressed disappointment that the Mayor, Director and himself had not followed up until December.

- c. Chairman Anderson expressed disappointment in BOMA's action at Tuesday's BOMA meeting. After he informed all the Aldermen and the Mayor of our city code regarding appointment of the water and sewer director, they unilaterally appointed Lonnie Foley without input from the commission. Discussion took place regarding ordinances where Chairman Anderson stated that BOMA does not have the authority to appoint a director. They only have the authority to say yes or no to whomever the commission designates. He declared the appointment null and void until the legal question is resolved.

Mayor Hobbs and Alderman Crosslin disagreed saying that directors work at the will of BOMA. Discussion continued regarding the code citing manager vs director. Chairman Anderson stated that he and Mayor Howard interviewed Director Perry and another gentleman when he was hired. Chairman Anderson says the job has to be posted and Mayor Hobbs disagrees.

Alderman Parsley asked City Attorney who was in attendance to explain. He shared that per Section 4-209, the mayor has authorization to appoint any person to any position as an interim person. In the same code section, BOMA may extend that period. It doesn't say how long. 4-210 if read in conjunction with everything else, says the first thing you're supposed to do if there is a vacancy is look to promote somebody within that department and that is subject to the department head and Mayor deeming it in the best interest. Promotion should be on a competitive basis but if you're going to promote from within the department, you don't post the job. Per Section 4-204 if there is a vacancy in the position the code requires you to post but there was no vacancy because the mayor appointed an interim director. BOMA extended that appointment and put no end date on it, therefore there is no vacancy.

- d. Further discussion between Chairman Anderson and the city attorney regarding the number of members on the commission. Code requires 7 and though the MTAS requires 5 there was a question regarding water and sewer departments that existed before 1934 being exempt from MTAS code which would be the case. If the commission wants to have 5 it will need to be changed in the city code.

Chairman Anderson declared the meeting adjourned.

Gary Hunt, Chairman

Ben Peiffer, Recording Secretary

LIVE STREAMING <https://www.youtube.com/@CityOfManchesterTennessee>

kp/01/30/26

**WATER & BOARD COMMISSION MEETING
ATTENDANCE**

2.5.2026

Present

Mayor Hobbs

✓

Secretary, Commissioner Gary Hunt

✓

Commissioner Terrance Hillsman

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Alderman Thomas Crosslin

✓

Vice-Mayor Mark Messick

✓

Alderman Donny Parsley

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Commissioner Zak Mohyuddin

✓

Commissioner Benjamin Peiffer

✓

Director Lonnie Foley

✓

Billing Office Coordinator, Jamie Harden

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