

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF MANCHESTER, AMENDING MMC 1-111 AND
ADOPTING RULES FOR PUBLIC COMMENTS, PURSUANT TO TENNESSEE CODE
ANNOTATED § 8-44-112

WHEREAS, the State of Tennessee General Assembly previously enacted into law Tennessee Code Annotated § 8-44-112, requiring periods for public comment during local government meetings, with certain exceptions; and

WHEREAS the Tennessee Legislature has further defined citizen's right to speak in Paragraph (a) of said statute and the Board of Mayor and Aldermen believes it in the best interest of the City of Manchester that a certain amendment be made to those procedures in MMC 1-111; and

WHEREAS, Paragraph (b) of the public comment law provides that a governing body may put reasonable restrictions on the period for public comment; and

WHEREAS, this Board has determined that restrictions are appropriate in order to ensure and balance the multiple competing interests of public involvement in local government, the orderly and efficient conduct of local government meetings, and the representation of opposing viewpoints.

BE IT THEREFORE ORDAINED BY THE BOARD OF MAYOR AND ALDERMEN OF THE CITY OF MANCHESTER, TENNESSEE that there be an amendment to MMC 1-111 by deleting it in its entirety and substituting the following:

“1-111. Citizen’s comments. During every board, committee, and commission meeting within city government there shall be reserved a period for public comment to provide the public with the opportunity to comment on matters that are germane to the items on the agenda for the meeting; and on any matter that is germane to the jurisdiction of the governing body, regardless of whether such matter is an item on the agenda for the meeting. The following rules and restrictions shall govern the application of the above:

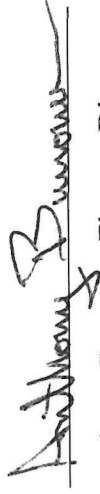
- (1) Any member of the public signing up for comment shall be required to review these restrictions.
- (2) A declaration of the item the comment will address is required at signup.
- (3) The Public Comment segment is limited to an aggregate of **ten (10)** comments on matters germane to the items on the agenda or jurisdiction of the governing body.
- (4) In order to provide for a more diverse pool of comments, priority among those signing up shall be given to members of the public who have not commented during the preceding **two (2)** meetings.

(5) The maximum duration of any comment shall be (5) minutes, unless the body votes to permit more time for speakers and their comments.”

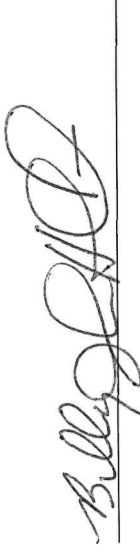
BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED BY THE BOARD OF MAYOR AND ALDERMEN OF THE CITY OF MANCHESTER, TENNESSEE that this ordinance shall take effect on and after its publication and passage, the public welfare of the City of Manchester, Tennessee requiring it.

PASSED FIRST READING: _____ July 7 _____, 2026

PASSED SECOND AND FINAL READING: _____ Aug. 4 _____, 2026



Anthony Burrows, Finance Director



Joey Hobbs, Mayor