

COMMITTEE ON ADMINISTRATION/INFORMATION SYSTEMS

February 17, 2026 at 6:30 PM

Chairman Fajardo called the meeting to order.

The Clerk called the roll.

Present: Aldermen Fajardo, Kantor, Bonilla, Kaw-uh, Sapienza

Messrs: M. Hurley

1. Discussion regarding the Board of Mayor and Aldermen's Rule 3: Public Participation.

Alderman Bonilla: I wanted to make a motion to receive and file and the reason why is because we already have the mechanisms in place to address public comment that is very transparent. For example, during new business. Also, our amazing clerks also take individuals' information who testify so that we're able to follow up with them with any concerns. I do recognize that, you know we want to ensure that all of our constituents, when they do come, feel validated. And that's why following up with the information that our clerks take is also another step. I'm also looking at this committee, I'm the only one in this committee that's been a part of a body that has utilized this rule, and I've witnessed firsthand how it's been used to alter the order of business. So, in the end, I'm going to make the motion to receive and file.

Alderman Kaw-uh: I would second that, but I want discussion if possible. I really appreciate the motivation behind the proposal. And I think it's really important that the aldermen and the mayor do respond to public comment and address people's concerns. With regards to the proposal, I do have a couple concerns, one of them being the possibility for kind of almost like quelling or intimidation, in terms of somebody comes up to speak and if they bring forward a criticism or a concern or a complaint to give the alderman the ability to just immediately step on that rather than letting it go through the normal process. I'd be a little concerned about that. Another thing is if it is regarding an item on the agenda that evening it will come up during that discussion of that agenda item. And then if there is another matter that they need assistance with from either their alderman or the mayor, I think it's important to have that direct conversation, that direct connection, just outside of the meeting time. I appreciate the intent behind this proposal, but I just am concerned that it's not quite the right vehicle to accomplish what it's going for.

Alderman Bonilla moved to receive and file. Alderman Kaw-uh duly seconded the motion. The motion carried with Alderman Kantor and Alderman Sapienza being duly recorded in opposition.

Alderman Fajardo: I really appreciated the detail in the proposed recommendations. But agree. I think I worry about a chilling effect. I think public comment is designed for us to listen, and that's by design.

2. Communication from the Board of Assessors, recommending that Manchester's Disabled Veteran Credit be increased from \$2,000 to \$2,500 effective for the April 1, 2026 tax year.

Alderman Sapienza: I just want to confirm, would that be 100% total disability?

Michael Hurley, Board of Assessors Chair: Yes.

*On motion of **Alderman Kaw-uh**, duly seconded by **Alderman Bonilla**, it was voted to approve.*

*There being no further business, on motion of **Alderman Sapienza**, duly seconded by **Alderman Kaw-uh**, it was voted to adjourn.*

A True Record. Attest.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Matthew Normand". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Clerk of Committee

*Meeting Start Time: 6:30PM
Meeting End Time: 6:35PM
Minutes Prepared By: Tom Hilton*