

REPORT TO THE BOARD OF MAYOR & ALDERMEN

DATE: July 13, 2026

FROM: Molly Mehner, Town Administrator

SUBJECT: Appointment of Mr. James Lewellen to the MLGW Board of Commissioners

INTRODUCTION:

The purpose of this agenda item is to appoint Mr. James Lewellen to the MLGW Board of Commissioners as a voting member for a three-year term.

BACKGROUND:

Memphis Light, Gas and Water is governed by a Board of Commissioners who up until recently have been nominated by the Mayor of the City of Memphis and confirmed by the Memphis City Council. The MLGW Board has consisted of five voting members and two non-voting Advisory Board members to represent suburban customers. Since 2023, the two non-voting Board seats have been filled by Mr. James Lewellen, former Town Administrator, and Mr. John Butler, President Agricenter International.

The Tennessee General Assembly passed SB2102 last legislative session providing for additional voting members for utilities exceeding a certain customer threshold (130,000+ customers) to be appointed by the two municipalities with the largest utility customer base outside the City of Memphis. In this case, Collierville and Bartlett have the most MLGW customers outside of the City of Memphis and therefore, have the privilege of appointing representation. Mayor Fraser and Mayor Parsons consulted with the other suburban mayors during a recent suburban mayor's meeting and the group generally agreed to support the appointment of Mr. Lewellen and Mr. Butler to continue their MLGW Board service due to their familiarity with MLGW operations, budget, and projects.

Per the legislation, the appointment shall be made by the mayor subject to approval by a majority vote of the governing body.

BUDGET IMPACT:

None.

PROPOSED MOTION:

To appoint Mr. James Lewellen to the MLGW Board of Commissioners for a three-year term beginning July 2026.

Board Action: Motion By _____ Seconded By _____

Vote Total	Hall	Jordan	Robbins	Marshall	Stamps	Fraser
Yes						
No						
Abstain						