An organizational meeting of the Macon-Bibb County Commission was held on December 31, 2013 in Commission Chambers immediately following the Inaugural Swearing In Ceremony for the Macon-Bibb County Commission.

The Honorable Tillman E. Self, III, Judge, Bibb Superior Court, conducted the Swearing In Ceremony. Those taking the Oath of Office were Robert A. B. Reichert - Mayor; Gary Bechtel - District One; Elaine H. Lucas - District Three; Mallory Jones, III - District Four; Bert Bivins, III - District Five; Ed DeFore - District Six; Scotty Shepherd - District Seven; Virgil Watkins - District Eight; and Al Tillman - District Nine.

A copy of the Swearing In Program is attached hereto.

The agenda consisted of the following items:

I. CONFIRMATION OF MAYOR’S APPOINTMENTS:

For Clerk of Commission, on motion of Commissioner Lucas, seconded by Commissioner Bivins, the Mayor’s nomination of Shelia Thurmond was confirmed by unanimous vote;

For County Attorney, on motion of Commissioner DeFore, seconded by Commissioner Lucas, the Mayor’s nomination of Judd Drake was confirmed by unanimous vote;

For County Manager, on motion of Commissioner Tillman, seconded by Commissioner Shepherd, the Mayor’s nomination of Dale Walker was confirmed by unanimous vote;

For Finance Officer, on motion of Commissioner Shepherd, seconded by Commissioner DeFore, the Mayor’s nomination of Christy Iuliucci was confirmed by unanimous vote;

For Chief of Fire Department, on motion of Commissioner Bivins, seconded by Commissioner Shepherd, the Mayor’s nomination of Marvin Riggins was confirmed by unanimous vote; and
For Municipal Court Judge, on motion of Commissioner Bechtel, seconded by Commissioner DeFore, the Mayor’s nomination of Robert Faulkner was confirmed by unanimous vote.

Note: Each of the aforementioned appointments was approved by separate Resolution.

II. CODE OF ORDINANCES FOR MACON-BIBB COUNTY

On motion of Commissioner Bechtel, seconded by Commissioner Watkins and carried unanimously, the Commission adopted the Inaugural Code of Ordinances for Macon-Bibb County consisting of Volume I (Chapters 1 – 16) and Volume II (Chapters 17 – 29).

III. ADOPTION OF RULES OF PROCEDURE

On motion of Commissioner Shepherd, seconded by Commissioner Lucas and carried unanimously, the Commission adopted the Rules of Procedure Ordinance for the Governmental-decision making process.

IV. ADOPTION OF RULES OF ORDER

Commissioner Lucas rendered comments.

On motion of Commissioner Shepherd, seconded by Commissioner Lucas and carried unanimously, the Commission adopted the Rules of Order Ordinance implementing parliamentary procedures for organizing and conducting meetings of the Commission.

V. ELECTION OF THE MAYOR PRO TEM

Commissioner Jones made a motion to defer the election of the Mayor Pro Tem until the January 21, 2014 meeting in order to allow all Commissioners the opportunity to participate in the process which would include the Commissioner from District Two whose race will be decided on January 14th. Commissioner DeFore seconded the motion.

Mayor Reichert recognized Commissioner Tillman, who stated that the Commission should not delay the election of the Mayor Pro Tem.

Mayor Reichert called for the vote on Commissioner Jones’ motion to defer the election of the Mayor Pro Tem. The motion failed by a vote of 6-2 with Commissioners Jones and DeFore voting to defer.
On motion of Commissioner Tillman, seconded by Commissioner Shepherd and carried unanimously, Commissioner Bert Bivins was nominated for the position of Mayor Pro Tem.

On motion of Commissioner DeFore, seconded by Commissioner Lucas and carried unanimously, the nominations for Mayor Pro Tem were closed.

Mayor Reichert called for the vote on the nomination of Commissioner Bert Bivins as the Mayor Pro Tem. The vote was unanimous.

VI. BUDGET FOR SECOND HALF OF FY 2014 (January – June)

On motion of Commissioner Bechtel, seconded by Commissioner Shepherd and carried unanimously, the Commissioner adopted an Ordinance with respect to a budget and appropriate sums for the operation of the Macon-Bibb County Government for the remainder of Fiscal Year 2014 (January 1 – June 30).

VII. PERSONNEL POLICIES FOR MACON-BIBB COUNTY

Commissioner Lucas rendered comments with respect to department heads being at-will employees of the Mayor without the right to an appeal if terminated. She requested that the matter be revisited at a later date.

DISCUSSION

Commissioner Lucas stated that she was registering concern that department heads have no appeal rights once they are nominated by the Mayor and confirmed by the Commission. She stated that the department heads serve at the pleasure of the Mayor and that the Commission needs to reconsider and take a look at it and that it deserves further discussion. She stated that she hopes the Commission will deal with the matter quickly. She further stated that the Legislative Delegation has to deal with the issue and appeal to them if they receive notice from the Commission saying they have a concern about that particular issue, she hopes they would look at it as they go through making some changes to the Charter.

On motion of Commissioner Jones, seconded by Commissioner Bivins and carried unanimously, the Commission adopted an Ordinance with respect to a Human Resources Policies and Procedures Manual.

VIII. APPROVAL OF NIMS RESOLUTION
On motion of Commissioner Jones, seconded by Commissioner Watkins and carried unanimously, the Commissioner approved a Resolution adopting the National Incident Management System (NIMS).

IX. DESIGNATION OF AUDIT FIRM FOR FY 2014

On motion of Commissioner DeFore, seconded by Commissioner Shepherd and carried unanimously, the Commission approved a Resolution designating Mauldin and Jenkins, LLC, as the Official External Auditor for Macon-Bibb County, Georgia for Fiscal Year 2014.

X. ADOPTION OF FINANCIAL POLICY

On motion of Commissioner Jones, seconded by Commissioner Bivins and carried unanimously, the Commission adopted an Ordinance with respect to financial policies and procedures for Macon-Bibb County

XI. OTHER ESSENTIAL ITEMS

Mayor Reichert made the following announcements:

- Regular Commission Meetings will be held on the first and third Tuesday of each month at 6:00 p.m. in Commission Chambers at the Government Center.

- A Pre-Commission meeting will be held on Tuesday, January 7, 2014 from 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. in the large Conference Room. The Commission will be meeting as a Committee of the Whole.

- Another Pre-Commission meeting will be held on Tuesday, January 7, 2014 at 5:00 p.m. in the large Conference Room. The Commission will be meeting as a Committee of the Whole.

- The first regular meeting of the Macon-Bibb County Commission will be held on Tuesday, January 7, 2014 at 6:00 p.m. in Commission Chambers.

There being no further business and on motion of being duly made and seconded, the meeting was adjourned at 12:02 p.m.

The meeting was followed by an Open House and Refreshments.

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Shelia Thurmond, Clerk of Commission