

**Montgomery County Commissioner's Meeting
December 4, 2006**

**Chairman – William D. Maness
Vice Chairman – Sally M. Morris
Commissioner – Dolon W. Corbett
Commissioner – Jackie Morris
Commissioner – George H. Knight, Jr.
County Manager – Lance L. Metzler
Finance Officer - Cathy S. Baxter**

**Clerk to the Board – Laura B. Morton
County Attorney – Russell J. Hollers**

The Montgomery County Board of Commissioners met in a regular session on Monday, December 4, 2006 at 6:00 p.m. in the Commissioner's Assembly Room. A full Board was present. *County Manager Lance Metzler called the special organizational meeting to order and the following was heard:*

Invocation

Rev. Harold Pope of Family Worship Ministries gave the invocation.

County Manager Lance Metzler welcomed and congratulated new elected Commissioner Jackie Morris as well as congratulated Commissioner Corbett and Commissioner Knight.

Mr. Metzler (acting as Chair) opened the floor for nominations for the election of the Chairman and Vice Chairman and appointment of the clerk and attorney.

Commissioner Morris said Mr. Manager; I would like to move that we leave the slate of officers as they have been this past year.

Commissioner Knight said Mr. Chairman, as a point of correction, when you open up the floor for nominations and I think we should do it by nominations instead of motions as the Chairman opened up the floor for. Mr. Metzler said okay. Mrs. Morris said okay, I nominate the same people as this year. Mr. Knight said you can only make one nomination at a time. Mr. Metzler said it is the preference of the Board to do it at one time or how do you want to do it? Mrs. Morris said I think we should nominate the group at one time. Mr. Knight said Mr. Chair, I think we probably need to get this year started off right and we need to know what we are doing when we are doing it. You are chairing the meeting and opened up the floor for nominations, and any other gathering I have been in, and the floor was opened for nominations, you nominated your chair and all members have the right as members to give their nominations whomever you so desire and then you vote on those nominations. Mr. Metzler said okay. Mr. Knight said that is the way I have always done it; I don't know how anyone else has done it.

Commissioner Billy Maness said if I could Mr. Chair, since I have been on the Board, the past, this will be the sixth year; I have done it both ways, so it hasn't been a problem in the past. Mr. Metzler said it is up to the pleasure of the Board. Mrs. Morris said well that is my nomination.

Mr. Knight said Mr. Chair are we doing nominations or what? Mr. Metzler said nominations; we will have to hear from the other Board members which they prefer individually or collectively. Commissioners Maness, Jackie Morris, and Dolon Corbett said they had no problem taking them collectively.

Mr. Knight said I would like to make a motion if I may. Mr. Metzler said okay. Mr. Knight said, but before I do, I would like to make a statement before I make the motion. I sat over there in the courthouse today and I listened at that judge go through the swearing in, and myself, Jackie Morris, and Dolon Corbett had to raise our right hand and swear on the Bible before God and man that we would do what we swore to do. I would like to say that it means a lot to me when I swear before God and even before man when I am going to do something and to me it is something I am bound to do. I reflected back to when I went in the military, but that oath said I would give my life, which is the ultimate sacrifice for my country. I knew there was a penalty for breaking that oath and I know there may not be a penalty for breaking this oath or the law in Montgomery County, but as Billy said we have done it like this before and I guess you can do it anyway you want to. I think we should bear in mind that as human beings, you know, I believe in after life, and if I swear before God that I am going to do something I am bound to do it or else I will be penalized or punished for it, and I think we should do this. In making my motion, I want to make a motion based on a fact of being able to do a job for this County. He said I think the Chairman should be able to Chair a board and abide by the laws of the State and the Constitution of the United States and the policies and procedures set forth before the County, because we are responsible for making these things happen. He said I think the Vice Chair should be able to chair a meeting in the absence of the Chairman, the Vice Chair should be able to do that and when we nominate a Vice Chair, we should bear in mind that person is going to have to Chair a meeting in the absence of the Chair. We should not do it because it is my brother, sister, cousin, friend or what have you. We are talking about the business this County. I think we should bear that in mind. Mr. Knight said I know the slate of officers have already been picked, who is going to make the motion, who is going to second, and who is going to vote for it. I know this stuff has already been done. I managed to get my motion in first to see it denied. I would like to make a motion that Billy Maness continue to be our Chair, George Knight as Vice Chair. If we are going to talk about the others now, then I think Mrs. Morton should serve as our secretary and I think that we should search for an attorney. We should search for an attorney and not do anything tonight. We need an attorney that will stick by his oath and try to abide by the law and should serve the whole Board of Commissioners, not just a select few. That attorney should also know a little about County law and not have to tell us as commissioners that I don't know this and I don't know that because the things we need to know that we are to be governed by I think are important. We need an attorney that can advise us in the right thing to do. So my suggestion is and in my motion is not to elect an attorney tonight. Mr. Metzler called for a second to the motion. The motion failed for lack of a second.

Commissioner Sally Morris said I would like to put my motion back on the table to leave the slate of officers as we have had in the last year including the clerk and the attorney. Commissioner Maness said I second the motion. Mr. Metzler called for discussion.

Commissioner Knight said we have had a vice chair that could not chair a meeting when the chair was out and we are going to have that same vice chair again this year. Something is wrong here. Do we pick a vice chair just to be picking a vice chair are we going to pick somebody that can carry out the duties of the chair when he is not here. I know I am out voted. I didn't get a second because like I said it was done before we got here, nobody called me and talked to me, but I am quite sure everyone else knew. I think it is a shame

that we as County commissioners, the highest elected officials in this County, listen to this pastor pray and say amen to his prayer and still do things that are not right, it is terrible. I know I have to serve the next two years with these same people, but you are going to hear my mouth for the next two years. Anytime you do something wrong, I am going to say it because I want it in the minutes and it is going to come back and haunt someone. Thank you.

Mr. Metzler asked if there was any further discussion.

Commissioner Maness said I know this isn't up for debate, but I don't remember when the Vice Chair had to Chair the meeting, I may have been late, but totally been out of the meeting. Commissioner Knight said we had a meeting last month. Commissioner Maness said that wasn't a scheduled meeting.

Mr. Metzler asked for further comments and called for the vote.

The motion to keep the same slate of officers carried 4-1. (Voting against: Commissioner Knight).

2007 Slate of Officers

Chairman – Billy Maness

Vice Chairman – Sally Morris

Clerk to the Board – Laura B. Morton

Attorney – Russ Hollers

Mr. Metzler then turned the meeting over to newly elected Chairman Billy Maness.

Chairman Maness said thank you.

Commissioner Knight said I would like to make a correction, Mr. Manager, we were supposed to only elect a new chair under your leadership and the rest under the new chair.

Chairman Maness said moving on to number seven . . . Commissioner Knight said that is the proper way to do it . . . Chairman Maness said we took it all at one time. Mr. Knight said we don't have to do things the right way I guess. Chairman Maness said three votes. . . Commissioner Knight said three votes wins whether it is right or wrong. Chairman Maness said you have your opinion and I have mine. Mr. Knight said that is not an opinion that is right. Chairman Maness said three votes win. Mr. Knight said that is not my opinion where it is right or wrong it says here the County manager will be the chair until the chair was elected. Mr. Metzler said that is the way it reads. Mr. Knight said why we can't follow a simple line of instruction.

Chairman Maness said moving on to number seven, this is the first time we have approved the bonds for the Sheriff, Coroner, Register of Deeds, and County Finance Officer. . . Commissioner Knight asked Chairman Maness if he could be excused. Chairman Maness said yes. Commissioner Knight said I don't want any part of this mess tonight if you are not going to do things. . . Chairman Maness said if you are going to leave go ahead and leave. . . Mr. Knight said you have it written down, you made out the agenda and we are supposed to follow the agenda. Chairman Maness said we are going by what a majority of the Commissioners decided to do George. Commissioner Knight said you decided before you got here. Chairman Maness said no, we are going by what we said in here tonight and if you

can't get along with that, then that is fine. Commissioner Knight said all I want to do is go by the agenda. Chairman Maness said George we are going by exactly what the majority of the Commissioners have said to do. Chairman Maness hit the gavel and said we are going on with number seven the approval of the bonds of the Sheriff, County Coroner, Register of Deeds, and County Finance Officer. (Commissioner Knight left the meeting). Chairman Maness called for a motion.

Commissioner Corbett asked for an explanation of this. Mr. Metzler said this is the liability bonds. Commissioner Corbett asked how much it is. Mr. Metzler said I don't have that figure in front on me. Commissioner Corbett said that is fine, have we done this in the past. Mr. Metzler said we were supposed to do it and it hasn't been done. Commissioner Corbett said okay, thank you that is all I wanted to know.

In a motion made by Commissioner Corbett, seconded by Commissioner Sally Morris, and so the motion carried unanimously (4-0) to approve the bonds for the Sheriff, County Coroner, Register of Deeds, and County Finance Officer.

In a motion made by Commissioner Corbett, seconded by Commissioner Sally Morris, and so the motion carried unanimously (4-0) to only meet one time per month in 2007, which would be on the third Tuesday at 6 p.m.

County Manager Metzler said we will probably need to have several more work sessions dealing with planning issues. Commissioner Jackie Morris said Mr. Chairman, as a point of discussion, I would like to say I agree, the only reason I went with one meeting is that we can call all the work session necessary.

Chairman Maness said we just need to make sure we allow 48 hours before the meeting. Mr. Metzler said there will be plenty of time. Chairman Maness reminded the Board that there can be no votes in a work session.

Commissioner Sally Morris mentioned to the clerk that the minutes will need to specify which Commissioner Morris is which since there are two now.

There being no further business Chairman Maness adjourned the meeting.

William D. Maness, Chairman

Laura B. Morton, Clerk to the Board