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**MACON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
DECEMBER 2, 2024
SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES**

Years of Service Awards were presented to county employees before the meeting. A reception for those employees was held in the hallway of the third floor of the Macon County Courthouse immediately following the presentations.

Chairman Shields called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. All Board Members, Interim County Manager Warren Cabe, Deputy Clerk Tammy Keezer, Finance Director Lori Carpenter, and County Attorney Eric Ridenour were present, as were several county employees, media, and citizens.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: None.

APPROVAL OF THE NOVEMBER 12, 2024 REGULAR MEETING

MINUTES: Commissioner Young made a motion, seconded by Commission Shearl, to approve the minutes as presented. The vote was unanimous.

RECOGNITION OF OUTGOING COMMISSIONER PAUL HIGDON: Board members shared personal remarks of appreciation for outgoing Commissioner Higdon, his service to Macon County, his guidance, his leadership, and his mentorship. Mr. Cabe presented Commissioner Higdon with a plaque, gavel, and sound base recognizing the years he served as Chairman of the Board, his nameplate, and other items. Commissioner Higdon said it had been an honor to serve the people of Macon County, that he had tried to be a conservative, that he believes in our conservative Christian principles, and wishes the best to the Board members.

ADMINISTRATION OF THE OATH OF OFFICE FOR COMMISSIONER JOSH YOUNG AND COMMISSIONER-ELECT BARRY BREEDEN: Clerk of Superior Court Shawna Lamb administered the oath of office to Commissioner Young, followed by administration of the oath of office to Commissioner-elect Barry Breedem. A copy of the oaths is filed in the office of the Clerk of Superior Court and the Clerk to the Board of Commissioners.


ELECTION OF BOARD CHAIR: At 6:13 p.m., Mr. Cabe opened the floor for nominations for Board Chair. Commissioner Antoine nominated Commissioner Young. Commissioner Shields seconded the nomination. Commissioner Shearl read a statement about the role and responsibilities of the Chairman and CEO of the Board and said he shared this because of the many discussions about the length of our meetings. He said the Chairman should be one hundred percent in control of the agenda and that he has sat through a lot of meetings with controversial issues which have gone on for five to six hours, and he hopes that moving forward the new chairman will take this role seriously and deal with this issue. Commissioner Young said he agreed one hundred percent with what Commissioner Shearl said. Commissioner Shields called for a vote. The vote was unanimous.


ELECTION OF BOARD VICE-CHAIR: At 6:15 p.m. Commissioner Young opened the floor for nominations for Vice-Chair. He nominated Commissioner Shields and Commissioner Shields said he would be honored to serve. Commissioner Antoine seconded the nomination. The vote was unanimous.

RESOLUTION REGARDING EXAMINATION OF OFFICIAL BONDS FOR PUBLIC OFFICIALS: Ms. Carpenter shared information about the official bonds for public officials and explained the requirements for annual review and approval of the resolution. Commissioner Antoine made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Shearl, to approve the resolution as presented. The vote was unanimous.

AFFIRMATION OF THE 2025 REGULAR MEETING SCHEDULE: Commissioner Young acknowledged the meeting schedule as presented in the agenda packet. Commissioner Shearl said in his mind it is completely unfair for the county employees to come in after hours and stay for three to four hours and said he would like to propose a daytime business meeting which would help the employees be home with their families in the evenings and would also save the taxpayers monies instead of paying overtime. Commissioner Young said he feels like this is needed especially during budget time and asked for the Board to have the first quarter to work on cleaning up the agenda and the length of meetings and then revisit the schedule. Mr. Cabe pointed out that the November 2025 proposed meeting date would fall on Veterans Day and inquired if Board members wanted to adjust that date. Commissioner Shearl proposed Thursday, November 13, 2025, as an alternate date. Commissioner Shields made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Antoine, to approve the proposed schedule as amended with Thursday, November 13, 2025, being the date for the regular scheduled meeting. The vote was unanimous.

ADJOURN: With no other business, at 6:36 p.m., upon a motion from Commissioner Shearl, seconded by Commissioner Antoine, the board voted unanimously to adjourn.


Warren Cabe
Ex Officio Clerk to the Board


Josh Young
Board Chair