



Staff photo by Brad Meyer

Precinct 1 Justice of the Peace Lanny Moriarty, left, administers the oath of office to Montgomery's new mayor Travis Mabry as Mabry's wife Traci and daughter Tatum, 3, look on. Mabry took the oath on a nearly 160-year-old Bible owned by his ancestor, Nathaniel Hart Davis, who was the first mayor of Montgomery in 1848.

New Montgomery mayor, council members sworn in

By Brad Meyer
Courier staff

MONTGOMERY - A direct descendant of Montgomery's first mayor was sworn in as the town's leader Tuesday, 160 years after his ancestor first took on the job.

Position 1 City Councilman Travis Mabry, the great-great-great grandson of Nathaniel Hart Davis, who was the first mayor of Montgomery when it was incorporated in 1848, was sworn in at ceremonies held during the regularly scheduled city council meeting.

"This is a great honor," Mabry, who took the oath of office on the Davis family Bible that dates back to 1851, said. "The city of Montgomery has always held special meaning for my family."

Mabry takes over the city's reins from former Mayor Edith Moore, who is retiring from public life after leading the city from 2004 to 2008.

"It's time for someone else to step up to the plate and take responsibility," Moore said. "Some people stay on past when they should leave. That won't happen with me."

Moore's father, James Monroe Askew, was

officially disbanded when railroad officials chose Conroe instead of Montgomery as the site for a regional railhead, according to Moore.

Also sworn in by Precinct 1 Justice of the Peace Lanny Moriarty were returning Position 2 City Councilman Timothy McWashington and newly elected Position 4 City Councilwoman Gwendolyn Shoemaker, who ran unopposed in the May 10 election.

"I'm looking forward to the opportunity," Shoemaker said of her first elected office. "My goal is to help the town and the people prosper."

Mike Newman, a Montgomery resident since 2003, was selected from three applicants seeking to complete the final year of the Position 1 council seat vacated by Mabry. Kirk Jones, Position 3, and Thomas Knight, Position 5, maintain their city council positions.

Brant Gary, city administrator, presented Moore with a plaque and honorary gavel as a gift from city officials and support staff.

"You've always been rather handy with a gavel," he joked. "We hope you can make good use of this at home."