

**MINUTES**  
**South Carolina State Board of Funeral Service**  
**Board Meeting**

10:00 a.m., August 26, 2021  
Via Web/Teleconference  
Columbia, South Carolina

**Thursday, August 26, 2021**

**1. Meeting Called to Order**

Darryl Dickerson, President, of Goose Creek, presiding, called the regular meeting of the South Carolina State Board of Funeral Service to order on August 26, 2021 at 10:02 a.m. Other board members present for the meeting included: Landis Price, II, Vice- President, of Leesville; Kenneth E. Baxter, Sr., Secretary/Treasurer, of Greenville; Gregory Evans, of Newberry; Charvis K. Gray, of Greenville; James P. Hodge of Anderson; William B. Horton, Jr., of Kingstree; and Eddie J. Nelson, of Blythewood.

Staff members present for the meeting included: Kyle Tennis, Advice Counsel, Office of Advice Counsel; Amy Holleman, Administrator; Norma McAllister, Program Assistant; Rodney Pigford, Chief Investigator, Office of Investigations and Enforcement; William Poole, Inspector, Office of Investigations and Enforcement; and Matalie Mickens, Inspector, Office of Investigations and Enforcement.

Members of the public attending the meeting included: Ronald James Boyd, Jr.; Ryan Joseph Essington; Samuel Lance Gray, of Gray Cemetery; Terry Gene Woodall, III, of Davenport Funeral Home and Blue Ridge Crematory; James Wood and Poiette M. Bromell, of Prestige Professional Funeral Home, LLC; Ernest Adams; Rion Rampey, of the South Carolina Funeral Directors' Association; and Adam Birr, of the South Carolina Department of Consumer Affairs.

**A. Public Notice**

Mr. Dickerson announced that public notice of this meeting was properly posted at the South Carolina State Board of Funeral Service office, Synergy Business Park, Kingstree building, and provided to all requesting persons, organizations, and news media in compliance with Section 30-4-80 of the South Carolina Freedom of Information. The meeting will be held via video and teleconference. Members of the public who wish to attend may do so by telephone. For telephone logon information, please email [contact.funeral@lfr.sc.gov](mailto:contact.funeral@lfr.sc.gov).

**2. Approval of the Agenda**

Mr. Dickerson called for a motion to approve the agenda.

**MOTION**

Mr. Price made a motion that the Board approves the agenda for today's Board meeting.

Mr. Baxter seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

**3. Introduction of Board Members and Persons Attending the Meeting**

The board members, staff, and all other persons attending the meeting introduced themselves.

**4. Approval of Excused Absences**

Mr. Stephen L. McMillan, Jr., Dr. Michelle DuPre, and Ms. Michelle Cooper were not in attendance.

**MOTION**

Mr. Horton made a motion to approve Mr. McMillan and Dr. DuPre's absence. Mr. Nelson seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

**MOTION**

Mr. Price made a motion to approve Ms. Cooper's absence. Mr. Baxter seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

**5. Approval of Excused Absences for IRC Members**

Ms. Holleman informed the Board that Mr. Brad Evans was unable to attend the IRC meeting due to a last minute scheduling change for the IRC meeting.

**MOTION**

Mr. Horton made a motion to approve Mr. Crawford's absence. Mr. Gray seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

**6. Approval of Minutes from the June 23 & 24, 2021 meetings**

The Board reviewed the minutes.

**MOTION**

Mr. Baxter made a motion to approve the June 23 & 24, 2021 minutes. Mr. Gray seconded the motion, which carried unanimously

**7. President's Remarks – Darryl Dickerson**

Mr. Dickerson welcomed everyone in attendance. Mr. Dickerson encouraged everyone to take care of his or her families and others while safely serving the public.

**8. Administrator's Remarks – Amy Holleman**

**A. Financial Report**

Ms. Holleman reported that the Board's cash balance at the end of June 30, 2021 was -\$239,510.90.

**B. Updates – Funeral Establishments**

**Change of Managers**

FE#	Name of Funeral Establishment (FE) – location	Name of Former Manager	Name of New Manager	Effective Date
1041	LEWIS CREMATORY & FUNERAL SERVICES, LLC	BILL GRAY FDE.2384	KELVIN L LEWIS FD.4017	06/30/2021
1042	LEWIS CREMATORY	BILL GRAY FDE.2384	KELVIN L LEWIS FD.4017	06/30/2021
554	PASLEY'S MORTUARY	SAMUEL LAMAR BROWN FDE.3590	RONDIA JANEE BAILEY FD.3822	06/30/2021
1004	DILLARD FUNERAL AND CREMATIONS	ROBERT V PINKSTON JR FDE.1608	MICHELLE NICOLE HELT FDE.3759	0708/2021
1005	PALMETTO CREMATION SERVICE	ROBERT V PINKSTON JR FDE.1608	MICHELLE NICOLE HELT FDE.3759	07/08/2021
946	WALKER'S MORTUARY "CHAPEL OF PEACE" LLC	WILLE E BENTON FD.1780	ANDRE LAMONT LOCKE FD.3890	07/14/2021
1069	DIVINITY MORTUARY LLC	RONDIA JANEE BAILEY FD.3822	SAMUEL LAMAR BROWN FDE.3590	07/16/2021
949	COMMUNITY MORTUARY INC	KEISHA L FLOYD FDE.3709	MARCIA MICHELLE FERGUSON FDE.2137	08/10/2021
950	COMMUNITY MORTUARY INC	KEISHA L FLOYD FDE.3709	MARCIA MICHELLE FERGUSON FDE.2137	08/10/2021
59	FIELDING HOME FOR FUNERALS	BERNARD R FIELDING FD.918	FREDERICK AUGUSTUS FIELDING FDE.2073	08/10/2021
69	FIELDING CHARLESTON HEIGHTS CHAPEL	BERNARD R FIELDING FD.918	FREDERICK AUGUSTUS FIELDING FDE.2073	08/10/2021
516	FIELDING HOME FOR FUNERALS YIC	BERNARD R FIELDING FD.918	FREDERICK AUGUSTUS FIELDING FDE.2073	08/10/2021

**Funeral Establishment New Branch**

FE#	Name of Funeral Establishment (Branch)	Parent Facility	Branch Location	Name of Manager	Effective Date
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1101	MYERS MORTUARY & CREMATION SERVICES LLC	FE.1027 MYERS MORTUARY & CREMATION SERVICES LLC	5716 KOON ROAD COLUMBIA SC	BRIAN WALTER MYERS	FDE.2517	08/12/2021
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Ms. Holleman informed the Board that between June 23, 2021 and August 25, 2021 staff received applications for 18 funeral directors apprentices, 21 dual apprentices, one embalmer student, five funeral director’s licenses, and eight funeral director and embalmer licenses.

## 9. Reports

### A. Inspection Report – William Poole

Mr. Poole informed the Board that he and Ms. Mickens conducted 99 inspections between June 10, 2021 and August 11, 2021.

### B. Investigative Review Committee (IRC) Report

Mr. Rodney Pigford presented the August 12, 2021 IRC recommendations to the Board, which are to dismiss cases 2021-8, 2021-24, 2021-25, 2021-26, 2021-27, and 2021-28; and issue a letter of caution to case 2021-13.

Mr. Dickerson called for a motion in this matter.

#### **MOTION**

Mr. Gray made a motion that the Board approves the IRC recommendations. Mr. Baxter seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

### C. Office of Investigations and Enforcement (OIE) Report

Mr. Pigford stated that the Office of Investigation and Enforcement received 40 complaints between January 1, 2021 and August 16, 2021. There are currently 11 active investigations and 11 closed cases as of August 16, 2021.

### D. Office of Disciplinary Counsel (ODC) Report

Ms. Holleman presented the ODC report in Ms. Baldwin’s absence. Ms. Holleman informed the Board that as of August 9, 2021 the Office of Disciplinary Counsel had 57 open cases; 25 pending hearings and agreements; 1 pending closure; six cases closed since the last report, and 19 cases closed since January 1, 2021.

Mr. Horton, informed the Board of the passing of Mr. Charles W. Powell, Sr, of Florence, SC, a former member/ President of the Funeral Board and the South Carolina Funeral Directors’ Association. Mr. Powell, a retired funeral director and the owner of Waters-Powell Funeral Home, Inc. passed away on July 4, 2020. In recognition of his past service to the Board and the Community, the Board expresses their sincere condolences to Ms. Powell and the family.

Also, the Board would like to express their sincere condolences to one of their own, Ms. Michelle Cooper in the passing of her beloved mother, Ms. Ruth C. Cooper.

## Application Hearings

### 10. Funeral Establishment

These proceedings were recorded by a court reporter in order to produce a verbatim transcript should one be necessary.

#### A. **New Crematory and/or Extension Request**

##### 1. Gray Crematory – Pelzer – Samuel Lance Gray

Mr. Samuel Lance Gray appeared on behalf of Gray Crematory.

Ms. Holleman informed the Board that the application is complete and that Mr. Gray is requesting that the Board grant an extension for the opening of Gray Crematory with him as the manager. Mr. Gray,

license number FDE.2143, initially licensed on February 2, 1992, resides 3 miles from the facility, and does not have a criminal background. Ms. Holleman informed the Board that Gray Mortuary, Inc. is the owner.

Ms. Holleman explained that the Board initially approved the crematory application on April 21, 2020 and that Mr. Gray was unable to open the crematory within a year of the application's approval.

The Board questioned Mr. Gray regarding the matter. Mr. Gray informed the Board that supply issues caused by the pandemic delayed construction of the crematory. He stated that the crematory is ready for full operation upon approval by the Board.

**MOTION**

Mr. Horton made the motion that the Board grants the extension through September 30, 2021. Mr. Gray seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

**B. Change of Ownership/New Facility**

1. Davenport Funeral Home – West Union – Terry Woodall III
2. Blue Ridge Crematory – West Union – Terry Woodall III

Ms. Holleman informed the Board that Davenport Funeral Home and Blue Ridge Crematory are under the same ownership. Therefore, Mr. Dickerson called for a motion to hear the applications simultaneously.

**MOTION**

Mr. Price made a motion that with Mr. Woodall's approval that the Board will hear items 10.B1&2 together. Mr. Horton seconded the motion, which carried unanimously. Mr. Woodall verbally agreed.

Mr. Terry Gene Woodall III appeared before the Board on behalf of Davenport Home and Blue Ridge Crematory. He elected to proceed without his attorney, Scott Talley.

Ms. Holleman informed the Board that the application is complete and that Mr. Woodall is requesting that the Board approve the change of ownership with him as the manager. Mr. Woodall, license number FDE.4118, initially licensed on June 30, 2018 resides 5.5 miles from the facility, and does not have a criminal background. Ms. Holleman informed the Board that Southern Funeral Group II LLC is the owner of the facilities with members, Terry G. Woodall, III, Mark Hutto, and Thomas Genoble.

The Board questioned Mr. Woodall regarding this matter.

**MOTION**

Mr. Gray made a motion that the Board approves the change of ownership for Davenport Funeral Home and Blue Ridge Crematory with Terry Woodall III as the manager of record, pending passing the final inspection and a favorable South Carolina Department of Consumer Affairs' letter. Mr. Price seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

3. Prestige Professional Funeral Home LLC – Dillon – Poiette M. Bromell

Ms. Poiette M. Bromell and Mr. James G. Woods appeared before the Board on behalf of Prestige Professional Funeral Home, LLC.

Ms. Holleman informed the Board that the application is complete and that Ms. Bromell is requesting that the Board approve the new facility with her as the manager. Ms. Bromell, license number FDE.2074, initially licensed on October 15, 1990 resides 20 miles from the facility, and does not have a criminal background. Ms. Holleman informed the Board that the owner of the facility is Prestige Professional Funeral Home, LLC with sole member, James G. Woods.

Ms. Holleman informed the Board that the facility would be located at the former site of the House of Thomas Funeral Home. Ms. Holleman further explained that the House of Thomas currently does not

have a physical location. As of July 31, 2021, according to the owner, operations have temporarily ceased until a new location is secured and properly approved.

The Board questioned Ms. Bromell regarding this matter.

### **Executive Session**

#### **MOTION**

Mr. Price made a motion to go into executive session to receive legal advice. Mr. Baxter seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

### **Return to Public Session**

#### **MOTION**

Mr. Horton made a motion to come out of Executive Session. Mr. Baxter seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Mr. Dickerson noted, for the record, there were no votes taken during Executive Session.

Upon returning to the public session, Mr. Dickerson asked that Advice Counsel read the motion.

#### **MOTION**

The motion read by the Advice Counsel, presented by Mr. Nelson stated that the Board approves the new facility with Ms. Bromell as the manager of record, pending the facility passing the final inspection. The Board reminded Ms. Bromell that as the manager she is responsible for the facility. Mr. Baxter seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

### **Executive Session**

#### **MOTION**

Mr. Price made a motion to go into executive session to receive legal advice with Ms. Holleman in attendance. Mr. Horton seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

### **Return to Public Session**

#### **MOTION**

Mr. Nelson made a motion to come out of Executive Session. Mr. Horton seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Mr. Dickerson noted, for the record, there were no votes taken during Executive Session.

## **11. Funeral Director and/or Embalmer**

These proceedings were recorded by a court reporter in order to produce a verbatim transcript should one be necessary.

### **A. Licensure by Endorsement/Reciprocity**

#### **1. Ronald James Boyd, Jr.**

Mr. Ronald James Boyd, Jr. appeared on his own behalf.

Ms. Holleman informed the Board that the application is complete and that Mr. Boyd is asking that the Board approve his Funeral Director and Embalmer's licensure by endorsement application.

Ms. Holleman informed the Board that Mr. Boyd initially licensed as a Funeral Director and Embalmer in North Carolina on January 4, 2021 and does not have a criminal background. According to the North Carolina Funeral Service Assistant Director's document, Mr. Boyd recorded a total of 4,924 Funeral Service trainee hours, 102 funeral directing activities, and 46 embalming cases. On December 12, 2020, Fayetteville Technical Community College, Fayetteville, NC awarded Mr. Boyd

an Associate of Applied Science in Funeral Service Education. He passed both the National Board Science and Arts exams.

Mr. Boyd addressed the Board asking the Board to approve his Funeral Director and Embalmer by endorsement application.

### **Executive Session**

#### **MOTION**

Mr. Baxter made a motion to go into executive session to receive legal advice. Mr. Price seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

### **Return to Public Session**

#### **MOTION**

Mr. Baxter made a motion to come out of Executive Session. Mr. Price seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Mr. Dickerson noted, for the record, there were no votes taken during Executive Session.

Upon returning to the public session, Mr. Dickerson asked that Advice Counsel read the motion

#### **MOTION**

The motion read by the Advice Counsel, presented by Mr. Price, stated that the Board conditionally approves the licensure by endorsement application subject to Mr. Boyd taking and passing the SC Funeral law exam. Mr. Nelson seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

### **2. Ryan Joseph Essington**

Mr. Ryan Joseph Essington appeared before the Board on his own behalf.

Ms. Holleman informed the Board that the application is complete and that Mr. Essington is asking the Board to approve his Funeral Director and Embalmer licensure by endorsement application.

Mr. Essington initially licensed as a Funeral Director and Embalmer in Illinois on July 24, 2019 and does not have a criminal background. Mr. Essington's signed supervisory report acknowledge that he completed the required 24 funeral directing and 24 embalming cases for the licensure in Illinois. Worsham College of Mortuary Science, Wheeling, Illinois awarded him an Associate of Applied Science on March 7, 2018. He passed both the National Board Science and Arts exams.

Mr. Essington addressed the Board stating that in addition to the one year apprenticeship, he completed a year as a student intern accumulating 2000 hours assisting with funerals and embalming.

### **Executive Session**

#### **MOTION**

Mr. Price made a motion to go into executive session to receive legal advice. Mr. Gray seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

### **Return to Public Session**

#### **MOTION**

Mr. Price made a motion to come out of Executive Session. Mr. Baxter seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Mr. Dickerson noted, for the record, there were no votes taken during Executive Session.

Upon returning to the public session, Mr. Dickerson asked that the Advice Counsel read the motion

**MOTION**

The motion read by the Advice Counsel, presented by Mr. Price stated that the Board conditionally approves the licensure by endorsement application. The approval is subject to Mr. Essington completing a one year South Carolina Funeral Director and Embalmer apprenticeship that includes completing 26 cases each, funeral directing and embalming in which 25 cases each must satisfy the special requirements identified on the apprentice quarterly report form for a funeral director and embalmer. Mr. Essington is required to take and pass the SC Funeral law exam. Mr. Horton seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

**12. Election of Officers**

Mr. Dickerson called for nominations for the President. Mr. Baxter nominated Mr. Landis Price. Mr. Horton seconded the nomination, which carried unanimously.

Mr. Dickerson called for a motion for Vice-President. Mr. Horton made a motion to nominate Mr. Kenneth Baxter as Vice-President with approval by acclamation. The Board briefly discussed the nomination. Mr. Nelson seconded the nomination, which carried unanimously.

Mr. Baxter nominated Mr. James Hodge as Secretary/Treasurer. Mr. Nelson seconded the nomination, which carried unanimously.

**13. Executive Session for Legal Advice, If Needed**

**14. Public Comments (no votes taken)**

**15. Adjournment**

Mr. Dickerson called for a motion to adjourn.

**MOTION**

Mr. Gray made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Price seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Mr. Dickerson, after ensuring there being no further business to discuss, adjourned the August 26, 2021 meeting for the South Carolina State Board of Funeral Service at 12:30 p.m.

The next scheduled Board meeting for the South Carolina State Board of Funeral Service is October 27-28, 2021, 2021 at 10:00 a.m.