

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

10:00 a.m., December 7, 2022  
Synergy Business Park  
110 Centerview Drive, Kingtree Building Room 108  
Columbia, South Carolina

**Wednesday, December 7, 2022**

**1. Meeting Called to Order**

James P. Hodge, President, of Anderson, called the meeting of the South Carolina State Board of Funeral Service to order on December 7, 2022 at 10:03 a.m.

**Board Members Present:**

James P. Hodge, President, of Anderson  
Thoma L. Williams, Vice-President, of Sumter  
Gregory E. Evans, Secretary/Treasurer, of Newberry  
Kenneth E. Baxter, Sr., of Greenville  
Michele A. Cooper, of Moncks Corner  
Eddie J. Nelson, of Blythewood  
Landis Price, II, of Leesville  
Thomas J. Wright, IV, of Beaufort.

**SCDLLR Staff Present:**

Alexis Bell, Disciplinary Counsel, Office of Disciplinary Counsel  
Megan Flannery, Advice Counsel, Office of Advice Counsel  
Amy Holleman, Administrator  
Norma McAllister, Program Assistant  
Kathy Meadows, Investigator, Office of Investigation and Enforcement  
Michael Smith, Investigator, Office of Investigation and Enforcement  
Xaiver Keitt, Media Resource Technician, Web Development Division

**Members of the Public:**

Leonard J. Hicks  
Linda Smith  
Ra'na Heidari, Attorney, A Business Law Firm, LLC

**A. Public Notice**

Mr. Hodge announced that public notice of this meeting was properly posted at the South Carolina State Board of Funeral Service office, Synergy Business Park, Kingtree 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 Act. Members of the public who wish to attend may do so by live streaming at <https://llr.sc.gov/fs/videos.aspx>.

**B. Pledge of Allegiance**

All present recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

## 2. Approval of Agenda

Mr. Hodge informed the Board that the respondent for disciplinary hearing 5. A1. Case Nos.: 2019-1 and 2019-56 requested and was granted a continuance to appear at a later date. Mr. Hodge called for a motion to approve the agenda with the change.

**MOTION:** Mr. Price made the motion, seconded by Mr. Nelson, to approve the December 7, 2022 agenda. The motion carried unanimously.

## 3. Introduction of Board Members and Staff Attending the Meeting

The board members and staff introduced themselves.

## 4. Approval of Excused Absences

Dr. Michelle DuPre, Mr. Darryl Dickerson, and Mr. William Taylor were not in attendance.

**MOTION:** Ms. Cooper made the motion, seconded by Mr. Price, to approve the absences of Mr. Darryl Dickerson and Mr. William Taylor. The motion carried unanimously.

## Disciplinary Hearings

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

### 5. A. Evidentiary Hearing

#### 1. Case Nos.: 2019-1 and 2019-56

The Board President granted the respondents' request for a continuance.

#### 2. Case Nos.: 2019-64 and 2019-65

Both the State and the Respondents' attorney made opening statements. Ms. Bell, representing the State, then presented the case before the Board. The State presented Kathy Meadows, Investigator for the State and Ms. Linda Smith as witnesses. Ra'na Heideri, Respondent's attorney, cross-examined Ms. Smith. The State redirected, Ms. Smith. Mr. Hicks testified as a witness on his own behalf. Ms. Bell cross-examined Mr. Hicks. The Board questioned all of the witnesses. The Respondents' Attorney and the State gave closing arguments. Mr. Hodge called for a motion to go into executive session to seek legal advice.

### Executive Session

**Motion:** Mr. Nelson 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. Price made a motion that the Board come out of Executive Session. Ms. Williams seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Mr. Hodge noted, for the record, there were no votes taken during Executive Session and called for a disposition in this matter.

**MOTION:** Ms. Cooper made a motion, seconded by Mr. Price, which carried unanimously that the Board finds that the State has substantially proven that Respondent Manager violated S.C. Code Ann. § 40-19-110(14), specifically by violating S.C. Code Ann. Regs. 57-13(A)(5), and that Respondent-Establishment violated S.C. Code Ann. § 40-1-110(1)(f) .

In light of these violations, the Board assessed a \$250.00 fine payable within 60 days of the signed order against each of the Respondents, as well as a public reprimand against each Respondent.

## 7. Adjournment

Mr. Hodge called for a motion to adjourn the December 7, 2022 Funeral Board meeting.

**MOTION:** Mr. Price made a motion and Mr. Nelson seconded to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Hodge, after ensuring there being no further business to discuss, adjourned the December 7, 2022 meeting for the South Carolina State Board of Funeral Service at 1:03 p.m.

The next scheduled Board meeting for the South Carolina State Board of Funeral Service is December 8, 2022, at 10:00 a.m.