

**South Carolina Board of Funeral Service
Board Meeting Minutes**

Wednesday, October 16, 2024 at 10:00 am
110 Centerview Dr., Kingstree Building, Lowcountry Conference Room
Columbia, South Carolina 29210

1. Meeting Called to Order

Gregory Evans, President, called the meeting of the South Carolina State Board of Funeral Service to order at 10:14am.

Public Notice

Public notice of this meeting was properly posted at the S.C. State Board of Funeral Service office, Synergy Business Park, Kingstree Building, Commission website, 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.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

All present recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. Approval of the Agenda

Motion: To approve the agenda. Motion was made by Mr. Price and seconded by Mr. Taylor. The motion passed.

4. Introductions of Board Members and Persons Attending the Meeting:

Board Members Present

Gregory E. Evans, President, of Newberry
Thomas J. Wright, Vice President, of Beaufort
William B. Taylor, of Chesterfield
James P. Hodge, of Anderson
Darryl Dickerson, of Goose Creek
Landis D. Price, II, of Leesville
Stoney W. Bachman, of Norway
Timothy Cox of Williamston
Douglas Hawkins of Florence

SCLLR Staff Present:

Mary League, Office of Advice Counsel
Alexis Bell, Disciplinary Counsel, Office of Disciplinary Counsel
Robert Dean, Lead Investigator, Office of Investigations
Jennifer Stillwell, Lead Inspector, Office of Inspections
Matalie Mickens, Board Executive
Shamone Breazeale, Administrative Assistant
Tori Smith, Investigator

Byron Ray, Investigator
Rosa McKoy, Investigator

Public Present:

Tina Behles, Court Reporter
Preston Altman, Peeples-Rhoden Funeral Home
Elizabeth Christie, Peeples-Rhoden Funeral Home
Adam Birr, SC Dept. of Consumer Affairs
Rion Rampey, SC Funeral Directors Association
Charles Miles, Mayer-Ethridge Funeral Home
Patrick Ethridge, Mayer-Ethridge Funeral Home

5. Approval of Excused Absences

Motion: To approve the absence of Wayne Pratt. Motion was made by Mr. Price and seconded by Mr. Dickerson. The motion passed.

6. Approval of Excused Absences of IRC Members

All IRC members were present at the IRC so no action taken.

7. Approval of Meeting Minutes

- a. August 28, 2024 Board Meeting
- b. August 29, 2024 Board Meeting

Motion: To approve the August 28 & 29, 2024 meeting minutes. Motion was made by Mr. Dickerson and seconded by Mr. Hodge. The motion passed.

8. President's Remarks – Gregory Evans

Mr. Evans welcomed everyone to the meeting.

9. Staff Reports

a. Board Executive Report- Matalie Mickens

Ms. Mickens gave a breakdown of current funeral license totals and applications. She also referenced change of manager information included in the report.

Financial Report: The cash balance is \$51,755.25

b. Office of Inspections Report-Jennifer Stillwell, Chief Inspector

Mrs. Stillwell presented the Inspection Report for informational purposes. Between August 23, 2024, and October 9, 2024, 109 inspections have been completed. Between January 1, 2024 and October 09, 2024, a total of 392 inspections were performed.

c. Office of Investigations and Enforcement (OIE) Report- Robert Dean

Mr. Dean presented the Office of Investigations and Enforcement (OIE) Report for informational purposes only. The total complaints received from January 1, 2024, to October 16, 2024, is 70. There are a total of 24 active investigations, and 45 cases have been closed.

d. Investigative Review Conference (IRC) Report – Robert Dean

Mr. Price recused himself from the IRC Report

Mr. Dean presented IRC Report for the Board’s review. There were 4 cases for dismissal and 1 formal complaint and 3 for letters of caution.

Motion: To approve IRC Report. Motion made by Mr. Hodge and seconded by Mr. Dickerson. The motion passed.

Mr. Price returned.

e. Office of Disciplinary Counsel (ODC)Report-Alexis Bell, Esq.

Ms. Bell presented the Office of Disciplinary report and provided that currently there are 22 open cases, 19 cases pending hearings and agreements, and 7 cases closed since August 22,2024 and 23 total cases closed since January 1, 2024.

10. Disciplinary Hearing

a. Consent Agreement

1. Case Nos: 2021-61 & 2022-79

Ms. Alexis Bell, Disciplinary Counsel, presented the Consent Agreement. Mr. Evans called for a disposition on this matter.

Motion: To approve the Consent Agreement with a public reprimand and \$1,000 fine and \$627.94 in investigative fees. Motion was made by Mr. Hawkins and seconded by Mr. Hodge. The motion passed.

11. Application Hearing- Funeral Establishment

a. Additional Facility

1. Mayer-Ethridge Funeral Home Maryville Chapel – Georgetown- Charles Miles

Ms. Mickens informed the Board that the application is complete and that the request is for the Board to approve the additional facility with Charles Miles as the proposed manager.

Mr. Charles Miles and Mr. Patrick Ethridge were both sworn in. Both spoke and responded to the questions from the Board.

Motion: To go into Executive Session for legal advice. Motion was made by Mr. Price and seconded by Mr. Dickerson. The motion passed.

Motion: To exit Executive Session where legal advice was sought and no votes were taken. Motion was made by Mr. Price and seconded by Mr. Dickerson. The motion passed.

Motion: To approve the application for the additional facility pending final inspection. Motion was made by Mr. Price and seconded by Mr. Taylor. The motion passed.

12. Application Hearing- Funeral Director and/or Embalmer Applications

a. Reinstatement of Lapsed Licensed after 5 years

1. Bryan P. Harrison

Mr. Harrison was not in attendance, there was no hearing.

13. Application Hearing –Acceptance of Apprenticeship

a. Preston M. Altman

Ms. Mickens informed the Board that the application was complete and that is a request for the Board to approve Georgia apprenticeship.

Mr. Altman was sworn in and responded to questions from the Board.

Motion: To go into to Executive Session for legal advice. Motion was made by Mr. Dickerson and seconded by Mr. Wright. The motion carried.

Motion: To exit Executive Session where legal advice was sought and no votes were taken. Motion was made by Mr. Price and seconded by Mr. Taylor. The motion carried.

Motion: To deny apprenticeship from Georgia due to statute and regulations for Funeral Director/Embalmer apprenticeship. Motion made by Mr. Hodge and seconded by Mr. Cox. The motion passed.

Break

14. Registered Crematory Operators- Date of Compliance

Motion: To go into Executive Session for legal advice with Ms. Mickens included. Motion was made by Mr. Dickerson and seconded by Mr. Taylor. The motion passed.

Motion: To exit Executive Session where legal advice was sought and no votes were taken. Motion was made by Mr. Wright and seconded by Mr. Price. The motion passed.

Motion: To approve the Crematory Operators Date of Compliance for December 31, 2024. Motion was made by Mr. Wright and seconded by Mr. Price. The motion passed.

15. Approval of Additional Crematory Operator Courses

Motion: To go into Executive Session for legal advice. Motion was made by Mr. Dickerson and seconded by Mr. Wright. The motion passed.

Motion: To exit Executive Session where legal advice was sought and no votes were taken. Motion was made by Mr. Wright and seconded by Mr. Dickerson. The motion passed.

Motion: To approve B&L Crematory Operator Course. Motion was made by Mr. Price and there was no second. The motion died for lack of a second.

Motion: To deny the B & L Crematory Operator Course as an additional Crematory Operator Course. Motion was made by Mr. Cox and seconded by Mr. Hawkins. The motion passed.

16. Ratification of Revision to Regulations 57-14.1

Motion: To approve the addition of item #9 to Regulation 57-14.1. Item #9 will require that, Registered Crematory Operators who performed the cremation be added to the cremation log. Motion was by Mr. Hodge and seconded by Mr. Hawkins. The motion passed.

17. Approval of Frequently Asked Questions

Motion: To approve the frequently asked questions for crematory operator registration. Motion was made by Mr. Cox and seconded by Mr. Wright. The motion passed.

18. Agenda Topics for Future Meetings

19. Public Comments- There were no public comments.

16. Adjournment

Motion: To adjourn the meeting. Motion was made by Mr. Hodge and seconded by Mr. Taylor. The motion passed.

The next scheduled Board meeting for the South Carolina State Board of Funeral Service is **December 4 & 5, 2024.**