South Carolina Board of Funeral Service
Board Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, August 27, 2025 at 10:00 am
110 Centerview Dr., Kingstree Building, LowCountry Conference Room
Columbia, South Carolina 29210

1. Meeting Called to Order

Thomas Wright, Vice Chairperson called the meeting of the South Carolina State Board of Funeral Service to order at 10:00 a.m. A quorum noted as present.

Public Notice

Mr. Wright announced that public notice of this meeting was properly posted at the SC 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 Act.

Board Members Present:

Thomas Wright, Vice President
Timothy Cox
Darryl Dickerson
Megan Driggers
R. Douglas Hawkins
Randall Calcutt
Barry Watson
Clyde Rampey
Landis Price, II

SCDLLR Staff Present:

Matalie Mickens - Board Executive
Otis Richardson - Administrative Coordinator
Shamone Breazeale - Administrative Assistant
Brandy Duncan, Esq. - Advice Counsel
Alexis Bell, Esq. – Assistant Disciplinary Counsel, ODC
Robbie Dean – Program Manager, OIE
Renee Young-Lead Investigator, OIE
Byron Ray – Investigator, OIE
Tori Smith – Investigator, OIE

Members of the Public:

Tina Behles - Court Reporter
Chad Cotton
Larry Williams
Rick Miles
Christopher Lee
Rion Rampey-SCFDA
Frederick York
Adam Birr-SC Department of Consumer Affairs
Austin Brown
Makayla Barr
Lajessica Stringfellow, Esq.- Robinson Gray Law Firm

Wayne Ridgeway, Esq.- Burris & Ridgeway Law Firm
Draper Myers
Terri Young
Patrick James
Kiyana James

2. Pledge of Allegiance

All present recited the pledge of allegiance.

3. Approval of Agenda

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

MOTION: Mr. Price made the motion to approve the agenda. Mr. Dickerson seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

4. Board Purpose & Vice President's Remarks

The purpose of the Board of Funeral Service is to protect the public through the regulation of funeral service and cremation licensees. The Board also investigates complaints and conducts application and disciplinary hearings in accordance with State statutes and regulations.

Mr. Wright welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked everyone for attending.

5. Introduction of Board Members and Persons Attending the Meeting

6. Approval of Excused Absences

MOTION: Mr. Hawkins made a motion to excuse the absence of Mr. Bachman. The motion was seconded by Mr. Dickerson, which carried unanimously.

7. Approval of Excused Absences of IRC Members

All Present.

8. Approval of Minutes from the June 18, 2025 and June 19, 2025 meeting

The Board members reviewed the minutes. Mr. Wright called for a motion.

MOTION: Mr. Dickerson made a motion to approve the June 18, 2025 and June 19, 2025 meeting minutes. The motion was seconded by Mr. Hawkins. Board members Mr. Rampey, Mr. Calcutt, and Mr. Watson abstained.

9. Staff Reports

1. Board Executive Report-Matalie Mickens

Ms. Mickens presented the reports of the licensee totals and change of manager report.

Financial Report: The cash balance is -$30,359.66 as of June 31, 2025.

2. Inspection and Citation Report – OIE- Program Manager Robby Dean

Mr. Dean presented the Inspection Report as information only. Mr. Dean presented the Inspection Report for the time between June 15, 2025 to August 25, 2025,104 inspections were performed. A total of 276 inspections were performed January 1, 2025, to August 25, 2025.

3. Office of Investigation and Enforcement (OIE) Report – OIE Lead Investigator Renee Young

Ms. Young presented the OIE report as information only. Complaints received from January 1, 2025 through August 15, 2025 were 65. 46 cases have been closed and 9 cases are still active investigations.

4. Office of Investigation and Enforcement (IRC) Report – OIE- Lead Investigator Renee Young

Mr. Price recused himself.

Ms. Young presented the IRC report for approval. The IRC recommended 4 cases for dismissal, 1 case for formal complaint, and 3 cases for letters of caution.

MOTION: Mr. Dickerson made a motion to approve the IRC report as presented. The motion was seconded by Mr. Taylor, which carried unanimously.

Mr. Price returned.

5. Office of Disciplinary Counsel Report (ODC) – Alexis Bell, Esq.

Mrs. Bell presented the ODC Report as information only. Since August 25, 2025, ODC has closed 4 cases and 18 cases have closed since the beginning of this year. There are no appeals pending. 25 cases are currently open with 2 cases pending agreements or hearings and 7 cases pending rescheduling.

10. Application Hearing-Funeral Establishments

a. New Facility

1. CFH Crematory- Scranton- Rick Miles

Ms. Mickens informed the Board that the application is complete and that the request is for the Board to approve the new facility with Mr. Christopher Lee as manager of record.

Mr. Christopher Lee and Mr. Rick Miles were sworn in. Both testified and responded to questions from the Board.

MOTION: Mr. Price made a motion to approve the application of the facility with Mr. Lee as manager of record, pending final inspection. The motion was seconded by Mr. Taylor, which carried unanimously.

2. Mayer Ethridge Funeral Home & Crematory, 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 new facility with Mr. Charles Miles as manager of record

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

MOTION: Mr. Taylor made a motion to approve the application of the facility, with Mr. Miles as manager of record, pending final inspection. The motion was seconded by Mr. Hawkins, which carried unanimously.

3. **James & Sons Funeral Home Ltd. Co.- Sumter- Patrick T. James**
   Ms. Mickens informed the Board that the application is complete and that the request is for the Board to approve the new facility with Mr. Patrick T. James as manager.

   Mr. Patrick James, and Mrs. Kiyana James were sworn in. Both testified and responded to questions from the Board.

   MOTION: Mr. Price made a motion to go into executive session to receive legal advice. The motion was seconded by Mr. Hawkins, which carried unanimously.

   Executive Session

   MOTION: Mr. Price made a motion to exit executive session. The motion was seconded by Mr. Hawkins, which carried unanimously. No votes were taken.

   MOTION: Mr. Hawkins made a motion to approve the application of the facility, with Patrick James as manager on record, pending final inspection. The motion was seconded by Mr. Taylor, which carried unanimously.

b. **Additional Facility**
1. **Draper G. Myers Mortuary, Lake City- Lake City- Draper Myers**
   Mr. Hawkins recused himself

   Ms. Mickens informed the Board that the application is complete and that the request is for the Board to approve an additional facility with Mr. Draper Myers as manager.

   Mr. Draper Myers and Wayne Ridgeway, Esq. were sworn in. Both testified and responded to questions from the Board.

   MOTION: Mr. Dickerson made a motion to approve the application of an additional facility with Mr. Myers as manager of record, pending final inspection. The motion was seconded by Mr. Watson, which carried unanimously.

   BREAK

   Mr. Hawkins returned.

c. **Change of Ownership**
1. **Graham and Godwin Funeral Home, LLC- Lake City- Makayla Barr**
   Ms. Mickens informed the Board that the application is complete and that the request is for the Board to approve change of ownership and change of manager with Ms. Makayla Barr as manager.

   Ms. Barr was sworn in. She testified and responded to questions from the Board.

   MOTION: Mr. Taylor made a motion to go into executive session to receive legal advice. The motion was seconded by Mr. Price, which carried unanimously.

   Executive Session

   MOTION: Mr. Dickerson made a motion to exit executive session. The motion was seconded by Mr. Watson, which carried unanimously. No votes were taken.

<u>MOTION:</u> Mr. Hawkins made a motion to accept the change of manager, pending inspection. The motion was seconded by Ms. Driggers, which carried unanimously.

<u>MOTION:</u> Mr. Price made a motion to deny the change of ownership. The motion was seconded by Mr. Hawkins, which carried unanimously.

Lunch

2. **George Funeral Home & Cremation Center LLC-Aiken- Larry Williams**
   Ms. Mickens informed the Board that the application is complete and that the request is for the Board to approve change of ownership and change of manager with Mr. Larry Williams as manager on record.

   Mr. Williams and Ms. Terri Young were sworn in, testified, and responded to questions from the Board.

   <u>MOTION:</u> Mr. Price made a motion to go into executive session to receive legal advice. The motion was seconded by Mr. Hawkins, which carried unanimously.

   Executive Session

   <u>MOTION:</u> Mr. Hawkins made a motion to exit executive session. The motion was seconded by Mr. Watson, which carried unanimously. No votes were taken.

   <u>MOTION:</u> Mr. Price made a motion to deny the application in full. The motion was seconded by Mr. Hawkins, which carried unanimously.

11. Application Hearings-Funeral Director and/ or Embalmer Applications

a. Licensure by Endorsement

1. <u>Frederick York</u>

Ms. Mickens informed the Board that the application is complete. Ms. Mickens informed the Board that Mr. York has not been licensed in the state of North Carolina for 5 years, therefore his application cannot be approved at staff level.

Mr. York was sworn in, testified, and responded to questions from the Board.

<u>MOTION:</u> Mr. Taylor made a motion to approve the application by endorsement upon passing the South Carolina State law exam. The motion was seconded by Mr. Hawkins, which carried unanimously.

2. <u>Chad Cotton</u>

Ms. Mickens informed the Board that the application is complete. Ms. Mickens informed the Board that Mr. Cotton has not been licensed in the state of North Carolina for 5 years therefore his application cannot be approved at staff level.

Mr. Cotton was sworn in, testified, and responded to questions from the Board.

MOTION: Mr. Taylor made a motion to approve the application by endorsement, upon passing the South Carolina State law exam. The motion was seconded by Mr. Calcutt which carried unanimously.

Break

12. Delegation of Authority to Board President to suspend facilities without a manager

MOTION: Mr. Price made a motion to adopt the proposed form order and allow the President of the Board to sign such a form suspension order for facilities without a manager for more than 30 days. This motion included approval for staff to identify facilities that have been without a manager for more than 30 days for the President's review. The motion was seconded by Mr. Taylor, which carried unanimously.

13. Election of Officers

Mr. Price abstained from any votes related to Officer elections.

MOTION: Ms. Driggers made a motion to nominate Mr. Hawkins as president. The nomination was declined by Mr. Hawkins.

MOTION: Mr. Hawkins made a motion to nominate Mr. Taylor as President. The motion was seconded by Ms. Driggers, which carried unanimously.

MOTION: Mr. Dickerson made a motion to nominate Mr. Hawkins as vice president. The motion was seconded by Mr. Calcutt, which carried unanimously.

MOTION: Mr. Dickerson made a motion to nominate Mr. Cox as secretary. The motion was seconded by Mr. Calcutt, which carried unanimously.

13. Approval of 2026 Meeting Dates

MOTION: Mr. Hawkins made a motion to approve the 2026 meeting dates. The motion was seconded by Mr. Taylor, which carried unanimously.

14. Agenda Topics for Future Meetings

a. Issuance of reminder notifications regarding continuing education exemption under S.C. Code §40-19-250
b. Approving interim managers of facilities until a full hearing can take place before the Board on the request
c. Board Meetings Counting as live continuing education
d. Board Member Training

15. Public Comments

Adam Birr from the Department of Consumer Affairs made a comment regarding being available to offer live continuing education before Board meetings.

16. Adjournment

Mr. Wright called for a motion to adjourn the meeting.

MOTION: Mr. Price made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Hawkins seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Mr. Wright, after ensuring there being no further business to discuss, adjourned the **August 27, 2025** meeting of the South Carolina Funeral Board at 3:04 p.m. The next Board meeting will be held **August 28, 2025**.