

South Carolina Board of Funeral Service
Board Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, October 22, 2025 at 10:00 am
110 Centerview Dr., Kingstree Building, LowCountry Conference Room
Columbia, South Carolina 29210

1. Meeting Called to Order

Brent Taylor, President, called the meeting of the South Carolina State Board of Funeral Service to order at 10:02 a.m. A quorum noted as present.

Public Notice

Mr. Taylor 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:

Brent Taylor, President
R. Douglas Hawkins, Vice President
Timothy Cox, Secretary
Darryl Dickerson
Barry Watson
Clyde Rampey
Stoney Bachman
Thomas Wright
Randall Calcutt
Herbert Edwards

SCDLLR Staff Present:

Matalie Mickens - Board Executive
Otis Richardson - Administrative Coordinator
Brandy Duncan, Esq. - Advice Counsel
Alexis Bell, Esq. – Disciplinary Counsel, ODC
Renee Young-Lead Investigator, OIE
Byron Ray – Investigator, OIE
Jennifer Stillwell-Deputy Chief Inspector, OIE
April Howe- Program Manager, OIE

Members of the Public:

Tina Behles - Court Reporter
Jerry Deese- Milton Shealy FH
Lauren Harmon- Milton Shealy FH
Rion Rampey- SCFDA
Shawn Landy- Dignity Mortuary and Cremation Services
Jeffrey Congialdi Jr.- SC Dept. of Consumer Affairs
Adam Birr-SC Dept. of Consumer Affairs

2. Pledge of Allegiance

All present recited the pledge of allegiance.

3. Approval of Agenda

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

MOTION: Mr. Dickerson moved to approve the agenda. Mr. Watson 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. Taylor welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked everyone for attending. Mr. Taylor also introduced and welcomed the Board's newest member, Mr. Edwards.

5. Introduction of Board Members and Persons Attending the Meeting

6. Approval of Excused Absences

MOTION: Mr. Watson made a motion excuse the absence of Ms. Driggers. The motion was seconded by Mr. Calcutt, which carried unanimously.

7. Approval of Excused Absences of IRC Members

There were no absences from the IRC.

8. Approval of Minutes from the August 27, 2025 and August 28, 2025 meeting

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

MOTION: Mr. Watson moved to approve the August 27, 2025, and August 28, 2025, meeting minutes. The motion was seconded by Mr. Dickerson, which carried unanimously.

9. Staff Reports

1. Board Executive Report-Matalie Mickens

Ms. Mickens introduced [NAME] to the Board as LLR's newest staff member that would be providing services for the Board.

Ms. Mickens reported that she and some Board members attended the International Conference of Funeral Board Examiners conference. Ms. Mickens reported the conference was well attended and it was very helpful having a South Carolina presence at this conference.

Ms. Mickens reported that the SC Dept. of Consumer Affairs successfully taught their first live CE just prior to the Board meeting today. Ms. Mickens thanked the SC Dept. of Consumer Affairs for their willingness to teach that live CE program.

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

Financial Report: The cash balance is -\$113,399.93 as of September 30, 2025.

2. Inspection and Citation Report – OIE- Program Manager April Howe

Ms. Howe presented the Inspection Report as information only. Ms. Howe presented the Inspection Report for the time between August 25, 2025 to October 13, 2025, 80 inspections were performed. A total of 401 inspections were performed January 1, 2025, to October 13, 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 81. 56 cases have been closed and 11 cases are still active investigations.

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

MOTION: Mr. Taylor moved to go into executive session to receive legal advice. Mr. Watson seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

MOTION: Mr. Wright moved to exit executive session. The motion was seconded by Mr. Dickerson, which carried unanimously. No votes were taken during executive session.

MOTION: Mr. Wright moved to enter closed session to comply with S.C. Code §40-19-190. The motion was seconded by Mr. Dickerson which carried unanimously.

MOTION: Mr. Bachman made a motion to exit closed session. The motion was seconded by Mr. Calcutt, which carried unanimously.

MOTION: Mr. Hawkins made a motion to approve case numbers 2025-28, 2025-39, and 2025-49. The motion was seconded by Mr. Watson, which carried unanimously.

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

Mrs. Bell presented the ODC Report as information only. Since October 13, 2025, ODC has closed 3 cases and 21 cases have closed since the beginning of this year. There are no appeals pending. 23 cases are currently open with 14 cases pending agreements or hearings.

10. Application Hearing-Funeral Establishments

a. New Facility

1. MRC Crematory-Chesterfield-William Taylor

Mr. Taylor recused himself from this case.

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. William Taylor as manager of record.

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

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

2. Gilmore Funeral Home- Rock Hill-Henry Gilmore

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. Henry Gilmore as manager of record

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

MOTION: Mr. Dickerson moved to approve the application of the facility, with Mr. Gilmore as manager of record, pending final inspection. The motion was seconded by Mr. Wright, which carried unanimously.

Break

b. Additional Facility

1. Dimery and Rogers Funeral Home- Lake City- Alvin Dimery

Mr. Hawkins and Mr. Calcutt recused themselves from this case.

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. Alvin Dimery as manager. Ms. Mickens further informed the Board that after submission of the application and in the days just prior to this hearing she became aware of some pre-opening advertising that had taken place for this applicant.

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

MOTION: Mr. Wright moved to go into executive session for legal counsel. The motion was seconded by Mr. Watson, which carried unanimously.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

MOTION: Mr. Wright moved to exit executive session. The motion was seconded by Mr. Watson, which carried unanimously. No votes were taken during executive session.

MOTION: Mr. Watson moved to deny the application. The motion was seconded by Mr. Rampey, which carried unanimously.

2. Dignity Mortuary and Cremation Services-Orangeburg- Lashawn Landy

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. Lashawn Landy as manager.

Mr. Lashawn Landy and Montez Haynes were sworn in, testified, and responded to questions from the Board.

MOTION: Mr. Watson moved to go into executive session for legal counsel. The motion was seconded by Mr. Hawkins, which carried unanimously.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

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

MOTION: Mr. Watson made a motion to approve the application and manager, pending correction of the establishment name on the application and final inspection. The motion was seconded by Mr. Dickerson, which carried unanimously.

3. Milton Shealy Funeral Home-Aiken-Jerry Deese

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. Jerry Deese as manager.

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

MOTION: Mr. Calcutt moved to go into executive session for legal counsel. The motion was seconded by Mr. Watson, which carried unanimously.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

MOTION: Mr. Wright moved to exit executive session. The motion was seconded by Mr. Calcutt, which carried unanimously. No votes were taken during executive session.

Mr. Deese answered additional questions from the Board.

MOTION: Mr. Wright moved to approve the application and manager, pending final inspection. The motion was seconded by Mr. Cox, which carried unanimously.

LUNCH

MOTION: Mr. Taylor moved to excuse Mr. Bachman from the remainder of the Board meeting. The motion was seconded by Mr. Watson, which carried unanimously.

11. Discussion- Interim Manager Approval

Ms. Mickens explained the current process for change of manager approval. Current practice is that change of manager may be approved at staff level unless there is a concern with the application for the change of the manager. So, change of manager applications do not normally need to wait for a Board meeting to be approved.

12. Travel Approval- 2026 Annual Meeting: The International Conference of FS Examining Boards

MOTION: Mr. Hawkins moved to approve the travel of two LLR staff members and two Board members to attend the International Conference of Funeral Service Examining Boards conference. The motion was seconded by Mr. Taylor, which carried unanimously.

13. Board Member Training

MOTION: Mr. Hawkins moved to amend the order of the agenda to move the Board Member Training after the public comments. The motion was seconded by Mr. Dickerson which carried unanimously.

14. Agenda Topics for Future Meetings

- a. Clarification about remains being moved from one funeral home to another funeral home.

15. Public Comments

None

16. Board Member Training

MOTION: Mr. Cox moved to go into executive session for board member training during which legal advice will be received throughout. The motion was seconded by Mr. Hawkins, which carried unanimously.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

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

17. Adjournment

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

MOTION: Mr. Dickerson moved to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Hawkins seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Mr. Taylor adjourned the **October 22, 2025** meeting of the South Carolina Funeral Board at 2:56 p.m. The next Board meeting will be held **October 23, 2025**.

STATEMENT OF RECUSAL

In accordance with Section 8-13-700(B), I hereby abstain from all votes, deliberations and other action on the following matter(s):

Item 10.a.1 - Application Hearing for
MRC Crematory

REASONS FOR DISQUALIFICATION:

Applicant

Signature

W. Brent Taylor

Date

10/22/25

STATEMENT OF RECUSAL

In accordance with Section 8-13-700(B), I hereby abstain from all votes, deliberations and other action on the following matter(s):

Item 10.b.1 - Application Hearing for
Dimery & Rogers Funeral Home - Lake City

REASONS FOR DISQUALIFICATION:

Prior Business Relationship

Signature

Douglas Hawkins

Date

10/22/2025

STATEMENT OF RECUSAL

In accordance with Section 8-13-700(B), I hereby abstain from all votes, deliberations and other action on the following matter(s):

Item 10.b.1 - Application Hearing for
Dimery & Rogers Funeral Home - Lake City

REASONS FOR DISQUALIFICATION:

Prior Business Relationship

Signature

Lee Calcutt, Jr.

Date

10/22/15