South Carolina Board of Funeral Service
Board Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, June 3, 2026 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
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
Sekimer Vinson- Investigator, OIE
April Howe- Program Manager, OIE
Virginia Wetzel- Governmental Affairs
Tyler Livezey- Governmental Affairs

Members of the Public:

Tina Behles- Court Reporter
Kip Kiser- Chesterfield County Coroner’s Office
Carolyn Beasley Shortt- SCMA
Rita Wilson- Avian Paladins Mourn, Funerals, Cremations, and Livery Professionals
P.L. Griffin- Avian Paladins Mourn, Funerals, Cremations, and Livery Professionals
Booker T. Counts- Avian Paladins Mourn, Funerals, Cremations, and Livery Professionals
Adam Birr - SC Dept. of Consumer Affairs
Mack Rice- Mack Rice Funeral Home
Brittany Lawrence-Jeatter- Lawrence-Jeatter Funeral Home, LLC
Jorja President
Walter Bratton

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. Calcutt made a motion to amend the agenda where item 12 is moved after item 8, and public comments are added before the application hearings. Mr. Dickerson seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

4. Board Purpose & 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.

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 Mr. Wright. The motion was seconded by Mr. Hawkins, which carried unanimously.

7. Approval of Excused Absences of IRC Members

MOTION: Mr. Hawkins made a motion to excuse the absence of Mr. Gray and Mr. Crawford. The motion was seconded by Mr. Calcutt, which carried unanimously.

8. Approval of the Meeting Minutes

MOTION: Mr. Watson made a motion to approve the April 15, 2026 meeting minutes. The motion was seconded by Mr. Calcutt, which carried unanimously.

12. Legislative Update

Ms. Wetzel presented updates pertaining to the several pieces of legislation that may impact Funeral Board licensees.

MOTION: Mr. Dickerson made a motion to go into executive session for legal counsel. The motion was Seconded by Mr. Watson, which carried unanimously.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

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

9. Staff Reports

a. 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 -$233,465.74 as of April 30, 2026.

b. 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 April 7, 2026 to May 31, 2026, 82 inspections were performed. A total of 257 inspections were performed January 1, 2026, to May 31, 2026.

c. 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, 2026 through May 29, 2026 were 57. 23 cases have been closed and 27 cases are still active investigations.

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

Ms. Young presented the IRC report for approval.

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

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

Mrs. Bell presented the ODC Report as information only. Since April 8, 2026, ODC has closed 0 cases and 24 cases have closed since the beginning of this year. There is 1 appeal pending. There are 24 open cases, with 19 cases pending hearings or agreements and 10 of those cases already scheduled for hearings.

10. Public Comments

Mr. Kiser from the Chesterfield County Coroner's Office brought awareness to the importance of being prepared for emergencies in small rural areas.

11. Application Hearing-Funeral Establishments

a. New Facility

1. **Avian Paladins Mourn, Funerals, Cremations, and Livery Professionals- Eastover- P.L. Griffin**

   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. P.L. Griffin as manager of record.

   Rita Wilson and P.L. Griffin were sworn in, testified, and responded to questions from the Board.

   MOTION: Mr. Dickerson made a motion to accept the application with PL Griffin as manager of record, pending final inspection. The motion was seconded by Mr. Cox, which carried unanimously.

2. **Mack Rice Funerals and Cremations- Laurens- Mack L. Rice**

   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. Mack L. Rice as manager of record.

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

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

3. **Lawrence-Jeatter Funeral Home, LLC- Charleston- Brittany Lawrence- Jeatter**

   Ms. Mickens informed the Board that the application is complete and that the request is for the Board to approve the new facility with Mrs. Lawrence-Jeatter as manager of record.

   Mrs. Lawrence-Jeatter was sworn in, testified, and responded to questions from the Board.

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

   EXECTUVE SESSION

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

   Mrs. Lawrence-Jeatter answered additional questions from the Board.

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

   EXECUTIVE SESSION

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

   BREAK

   Mrs. Lawrence-Jeatter withdrew the application for a new facility.

   LUNCH

12. Application Hearings- Individuals

a. **Funeral Director and/ or Embalmer Application- Licensure by Endorsement**
   1. **Jorja President**

Ms. Mickens informed the Board that the application is complete and that the hearing was for the Board to determine whether Ms. President's application by endorsement would be approved.

Mrs. President was sworn in, testified, and responded to questions from the Board.

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

EXECUTIVE SESSION

MOTION: Mr. Watson made a motion to exit executive session. The motion was seconded by Mr. Dickerson. No votes were taken during Executive Session.

MOTION: Mr. Hawkins made a motion to deny the application on the basis that the applicant's experience is not substantially similar to South Carolina's requirements at this time. The motion was seconded by Mr. Dickerson, which carried unanimously.

13. Acceptance of Funeral Director Apprenticeship

1. Walter Bratton

Ms. Mickens informed the Board that the application is complete and that the request is for the Board to approve licensure of Mr. Walter Bratton as a funeral director despite questions regarding whether his apprenticeship has been completed.

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

MOTION: Mr. Watson made a motion to go into executive session for legal counsel. The motion was seconded by Mr. Cox, 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.

MOTION: Mr. Watson made a motion to deny the application, and with a requirement that Applicant must complete a new two-year apprenticeship. The motion was seconded by Mr. Hawkins, which carried unanimously.

14. Investigative Review Conference (IRC) Member Selection

MOTION: Mr. Calcutt made a motion to extend the current IRC member terms to run through August 31, 2026. The motion was seconded by Mr. Edwards, which carried unanimously.

15. Agenda Topics for Future Meetings

Ms. Mickens notified the Board members that there is Board member training by The Conference on August 25-26, 2026 in Colorado.

Discussion of IRC Board Member terms and Member selection should be on the next meeting agenda.

Discussion regarding continuing education credit for attending Board meetings.

16. Public Comments

No additional public comments were offered.

17. Adjournment

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

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

Mr. Taylor adjourned the **June 3, 2026** meeting of the South Carolina Funeral Service Board at 3:08 p.m. The next Board meeting will be held **June 4, 2026**.