

GEORGIA BOARD OF FUNERAL SERVICE
Teleconference Board Meeting Minutes – June 11, 2020
Professional Licensing Boards Division of the Secretary of State
237 Coliseum Drive, Macon, Georgia 31217

Members Present:

- Joe Westbury, President
- Thomas Lord
- Bryant Hightower
- Darryl Bentley
- W.T. Edmondson

Others Present:

- Brad Coman, Executive Director
- Melanie Foster, Licensing Analyst
- Carla Murray, Licensing Supervisor
- Alexis Hardy, Board Support Specialist
- Bryon Thernes, Senior Assistant Attorney General
- Tommy McNulty, Assistant Attorney General

Member Absent:

- William Bowen, Vice President
- Nancy Kennedy

Note: Visitors are excused during Executive Session unless scheduled for a personal appearance.

Joe Westbury, President, noted that a quorum was present, called the meeting to order at 10:02 a.m., and declared the meeting to be “open” pursuant to the Open and Public Meeting Act, O.C.G.A. §§50-14-1 et seq.

OPEN SESSION

Agenda

Bryant Hightower moved, Tom Lord seconded, and the Board voted to approve the June 11, 2020 agenda.

Minutes

Tom Lord moved, W.T. Edmondson seconded, and the Board voted to approve the May 12, 2020 Open Session minutes and Executive Session minutes.

Ratification List

Licenses Issued 5/7/2020 through 6/3/2020 (Total – 12): W.T. Edmondson moved, Tom Lord seconded, and the Board voted to ratify the licenses issued between meetings by application and reinstatement in accordance with Board Rules and Policies.

License #	Licensee
EMB005285	Tony A Austin
EMB005286	Demarien Jermaine Hawk
EMB005287	Canaan E Elkins
FD005684	Tony A Austin
FD005685	Demarien Jermaine Hawk
FD005686	Canaan E Elkins
FEST002063	Snow's Memorial Chapel

License #	Licensee
FEST002064	Edwards Small Mortuary
FSA006580	Megan Elizabeth Atkins
FSA006581	Tyrone Keith Williams, Jr
FSA006582	Elisha Kennerly Harrell
FSA006583	Benez La-Tish Holmes

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Tom Lord moved, Bryant Hightower seconded, and the Board voted to enter into Executive Session at 10:04 a.m. in accordance with O.C.G.A. §§ 43-1-19(h) and 43-18, for the purpose of conducting an applicant interview, discussing and reviewing applications and complaints, and to hear the Attorney General’s report.

At the conclusion of Executive Session, Joe Westbury, President, declared the meeting to be “open” pursuant to the Open and Public Meeting Act, O.C.G.A. §§ 50-14-1 et seq., at 12:51 p.m. No votes were taken during Executive Session.

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OPEN SESSION

Bryant Hightower moved, Tom Lord seconded, and the motion was carried unanimously by the Board to ratify the following recommendations made during Executive Session:

Appointment

Appearance # 2871490 – S.F.H. – Reinstatement – Approved with Letter of Concern for unlicensed practice and failure to renew.

Applications

Application # 2868932 / 2868928 – SouthCare Cremation and Funeral Society / Cremation Society of the South – Change of FDFCC from Darren Brown to Ashely McRay – Approved.

Application # 2871131 – J.C.F.H.C. – Reinstatement – Approved with Letter of Concern for unlicensed practice and failure to renew.

Application # 2869452 – Freeman Harris Funeral Home – Change of FDFCC – Approved, pending receipt of 90-day grace period request.

Application # 2871919 – A.E.C.F.H. – Reinstatement – Approved with Letter of Concern for unlicensed practice and failure to renew.

Application # 2871926 / 2871927 – M.F.H.C. / C.S.S. – Reinstatement – Approved with Letter of Concern for unlicensed practice and failure to renew.

Application # 2871488 – H.M.F.H.C. – Reinstatement – Approved with Letter of Concern for unlicensed practice and failure to renew.

Application # 2873128 – R.F.H. – Reinstatement – Approved with Letter of Concern for unlicensed practice and failure to renew.

Application # 2873129 – B.F.H. – Tom Lord recused – Reinstatement – Approved with Letter of Concern for unlicensed practice and failure to renew. Letter of Concern to FDFCC for failure to disclose.

Application # 2873488 – M.F.H. – Reinstatement – Approved with Letter of Concern for unlicensed practice and failure to renew.

Application # 2873489 – A.F.H. – Reinstatement – Approved with Letter of Concern for unlicensed practice and failure to renew.

Application # 2870029 – P.F.H. – Reinstatement – Approved with Letter of Concern for unlicensed practice and failure to renew.

Application # 2873485 – M.F.H. – Reinstatement – Approved with Letter of Concern for unlicensed practice and failure to renew.

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Complaints

FUN200090 – Table – Refer to Attorney General’s office for summary suspension and revocation of license for unlicensed practice/lack of FDFCC and forgery/misrepresentation.

FUN200087 – Darryl Bentley recused – Close – Matter resolved.

FUN200101 – Close – No violation.

FUN200102 – Table – Refer to Inspections to obtain statement from FDFCC and owner.

FUN200104 – Close – No violation.

FUN200108 – Close – No violation.

FUN200109 – Table – Refer to Inspections to obtain statement from respondent and signed copies of Statement of Goods and Services.

FUN200117 – Table – Refer to Inspections to obtain statement from respondent.

FUN200077 – Close – No violation.

FUN200105 – Table – Refer to Inspections to obtain statement from FDFCC.

FUN200092 – Table – Schedule cognizant interview with owner and FDFCC.

FUN200047 – Table – To July 14, 2020 Board meeting.

Attorney General’s Report

The Board reviewed and accepted the Attorney General’s report, which included information on any cases referred for action and requests for advice.

OTHER BUSINESS

Continuing Education – Bryant Hightower moved, Darryl Bentley seconded, and the motion carried unanimously by the Board to accept the Continuing Education Committee’s recommendations to approve the following continuing education course as presented:

Provider	Course	Points
GFDA	Thriving in Today’s Changing Market	1
GFDA	Funeral... FUNeral... Moving Families from Grieving to Remembrance	1
GFDA	Decoding the Generations	1
GFDA	The Sky’s the Limit: Getting Creative with Cremation Families	1
GFDA	Navigating through Conflict	1
International Order of the Golden Rule	Shift Happens: Leading your way into a new future, Day 1	2
International Order of the Golden Rule	Shift Happens: Leading your way into a new future, Day 2	2
International Order of the Golden Rule	Shift Happens: Leading your way into a new future, Day 3	2
International Order of the Golden Rule	Shift Happens: Leading your way into a new future, Day 4	2

Docketed Orders – Tom Lord moved, Bryant Hightower seconded, and the Board voted to accept the docketed orders as presented:

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Type	Licensee	License #	Docket #	City
OAFM	Alfsono Dawson Mortuary	FEST001571	2020-0668	Atlanta
Consent Agreement	Timothy Hank Pinson	FD005252 / EMB004845	2020-0607	Dawsonville
Consent Order	Dominique Courtney Rankine	FD004762 / EMB004353	2020-0641	Atlanta
Consent Order	Merritt Funeral Home	FEST001464	2020-0667	Colquitt

Correspondence

The Board reviewed a request from an establishment regarding using a cargo van as an alternative hearse. The Board noted that a cargo van could not count as a hearse, and would not be acceptable in an inspection by the Board. O.C.G.A. § 43-18-70(b)(4) requires that each funeral establishment have at least one operable motor hearse. Bryant Hightower moved, Tom Lord seconded, and the motion carried.

ABFSE COA Actions May 2020

For informational purposes only.

Executive Director's Report

The Board reviewed the Executive Director's report, which provided the Board with statistical data relevant to the processing of applications and complaints/compliance matters.

The next meeting of the Georgia Board of Funeral Service will be held Thursday, July 14, 2020, at 10:00 a.m. at 237 Coliseum Drive, Macon, Georgia.

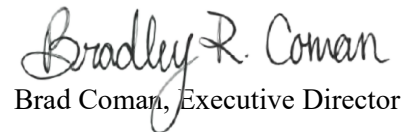
There being no further business, Joe Westbury, President, declared the meeting adjourned at 1:05 p.m.

Minutes recorded by: Alexis Hardy, Board Support Specialist

Minutes reviewed and edited by: Brad Coman, Executive Director

Minutes approved on: June 11, 2020


Joe Westbury, President


Brad Coman, Executive Director