

GEORGIA BOARD OF FUNERAL SERVICE
Teleconference Board Meeting Minutes – November 10, 2020
Professional Licensing Boards Division of the Secretary of State
237 Coliseum Drive, Macon, Georgia 31217

Members Present:

- Joe Westbury, President
- William Bowen, Vice President
- Bryant Hightower
- Thomas Lord
- W.T. Edmondson
- Nancy Kennedy
- Darryl Bentley

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

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

W.T. Edmondson moved, Tom Lord seconded, and the Board voted to approve the November 10, 2020 agenda.

Minutes

W.T. Edmondson moved, William Bowen seconded, and the Board voted to approve the October 13, 2020 Open Session minutes and Executive Session minutes.

Ratification List

Licenses Issued 10/9/2020 through 11/5/2020 (Total – 25): 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
EMB005306	Jacquelyn Brooke Hightower
EMB005307	Hunter Bradley Nelson
EMB005308	Omar Rashad Vinson
EMB005309	Blair Marie Carson
EMB005310	Georginna Lanelle Lockett
EMB005311	Karmethia Lashae' Jones
EMB005312	Joshua Thomas Gibbons
FD005706	Jacquelyn Brooke Hightower
FD005707	Hunter Bradley Nelson
FD005708	Omar Rashad Vinson
FD005709	Blair Marie Carson
FD005710	Georginna Lanelle Lockett
FD005711	Karmethia Lashae' Jones

License #	Licensee
FD005712	Joshua Thomas Gibbons
FEST002073	Sardis-Heard Funeral Home & Cremation Services
FEST002074	Flanders Powell Funeral Home & Crematory Inc.
FEST002075	Watkins Funeral Home-McDonough
FSA006634	James Lawrence Mitchum
FSA006635	DeLeon Tatiana Mosely
FSA006636	Lacie Lynne Sullivan
FSA006637	Shameeka Christianna Peterson-Smith
FSA006638	Deron Shane Presgraves
FSA006639	Daylee Marie Thompson
FSA006640	Brian Adam Keith
FSA006641	Nathan Lee Thompson

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EXECUTIVE SESSION

Tom Lord moved, W.T. Edmondson 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 applicant interviews, 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 2:02 p.m. No votes were taken during Executive Session.

OPEN SESSION

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

Appointments

Appearance # 2897210 – C.B.F.D.C. – New establishment and appointment of FDFCC – Approved with Letter of Concern regarding unlicensed practice.

Appearance # 2898469 – Southern Cremations and Funerals at Holly Hill – New establishment – Approved. Appointment of Michele Baum as FDFCC – Approved.

Appearance # 2898472 – Darrell E. Watkins Funeral Home – New establishment – Approved. Appointment of Kristian Ellis as FDFCC – Approved.

Appearance # 2900553 – In Their Honor of Jasper Funerals and Cremations – Change of FDFCC from Dennis Reeves to Bianca Migneault – Approved.

Appearance # 2885815 – N.C.S.C. – Appealing denial of FDFCC – Denial upheld due to criminal probation and failure to disclose arrest history.

Applications

Application # 2870542 / 2870545 – Brandon Roberts – Funeral Director and Embalmer – Approved by Endorsement.

Application # 2901714 – Beggs Funeral Home and Cremations – change of FDFCC from Keith Beggs to Spencer Wood – Approved.

Application # 2900269 – Christopher Young Funeral Home – Change of location – Approved.

Application # 2902847 – Norman Medford-Peden Funeral Home - change of FDFCC from Carl Steiger to Dorsey Thomas – Approved.

Complaints

FUN210044 – Table – Refer to Inspections to obtain statement from FDFCC.

FUN210045 – Table – Refer to Inspections to obtain a statement from the FDFCC.

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FUN210051 – Table – Schedule cognizant interview with respondent.

FUN210052 – Close – No violation.

FUN210029 – Close – Letter of Concern for unsecured facility and absence of personnel.

FUN210035 – Table – Refer to Inspections to obtain statement from FDFCC.

FUN210023 – Close – No violation.

FUN210054 – Table – Refer to Inspections to obtain statement from FDFCC.

FUN210024 – Close – No violation.

FUN210030 – W.T. Edmondson recused. Close – No violation.

FUN210036 – Table – To December 8, 2020 Board meeting.

FUN210017 – Table – Refer to Inspections to obtain a signed copy of the Statement of Goods and Services Selected, any other supporting documents, and statement from FDFCC.

FUN210014 – Table – Pending case in Attorney Generals’ office.

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.

FUN200090 – Rescind previous motion. Propose Consent Order to include 4 years’ probation, \$5,000 fine, quarterly reports with proof of FDFCC employment, and 30 days to submit a new application, for fraud/misrepresentation.

EXECUTIVE SESSION OTHER BUSINESS

Facility # 888235 – Table – To December 8, 2020 Board meeting. Pending additional information.

Facility # 2889850 – Table – To December 8, 2020 Board meeting. Pending additional information. Cognizant interview conducted with Bryon Thernes and Tom Lord between meetings.

Facility # 2719210 – Table – To December 8, 2020 Board meeting. Pending additional information.

Facility # 2763246 – Close – Matter resolved.

Facility # 2796019 – Table – To December 8, 2020 Board meeting. Pending additional information.

OTHER BUSINESS

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

Provider	Course	Points
ICCFA	ICCFA 2020 Crematory Operator and Cremation Arranger Certification	14
SC Funeral Directors Associations	It's Not "Just a Cremation!" - Why a Business Perspective Matters Now More Than Ever Before	1.5
SC Funeral Directors Associations	Business Ethics-How Ethical Behavior Plays a Vital Role in Funeral Service & Consumer Satisfaction	1.5
SC Funeral Directors Associations	Why I Walked 444 Miles to Make a Memory	1

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SC Funeral Directors Associations	Why Facebook Works for Funeral Homes & Everything Else Doesn't	1
SC Funeral Directors Associations	The Death Registration Process-Updates & Training	1
Regulatory Support Services, Inc.	OSHA- On Target Hitting the Bullseye with OSHA Workplace Safety	2
Regulatory Support Services, Inc.	FTC - FTC Are Changes on the Horizon?	1
Regulatory Support Services, Inc.	Funeral Service in a Pandemic	1
Regulatory Support Services, Inc.	Funeral Service in a Pandemic	1

Docketed Orders – W.T. Edmondson moved, Bryant Hightower seconded, and the Board voted to accept the docketed orders as presented:

Type	Licensee	License #	Docket #	City
Consent Order	Batts & Bridges Funeral Home LLC	FEST001991	2020-1071	Athens
Consent Order	Lenwood Miles, Jr	FD004862/EMB04451	2020-1073	McDonough
Consent Order	Joseph Anderson	FD003823	2020-1072	Washington
Consent Order	Southern Cremations and Funerals at Cheatham Hill	CREM000118	2020-1070	Marietta
Consent Order	Deloris Woods-Smith	FD004547	2020-1096	Newman

Requests to Lift Probation

Board reviewed and approved a request to lift the probation of C A Reid Sr Memorial Crematory (CREM000105). Licensee has complied with all Board requirements. W.T. Edmondson moved, Tom Lord seconded, and the Board unanimously voted to approve the request.

Board reviewed and approved a request to lift the probation of James A Thomas Funeral Home (FEST001643). Licensee has complied with all Board requirements. Bryant Hightower moved, W.T. Edmondson seconded, and the Board unanimously voted to approve the request.

Second 90-Day Grace Period Request

Bryant Hightower moved, W.T. Edmondson seconded, and the Board voted unanimously on the following 2nd 90-day grace period request:

Name	Decision	Licensee #	City	Expiration
James A Thomas Funeral Home	Approved	FEST001643	Lumpkin	February 8, 2021

Rules Review

William Bowen moved, W.T. Edmondson seconded, and the Board voted to table rules review to the December 8, 2020 Board meeting.

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.

There being no further business, Joe Westbury, President, declared the meeting adjourned at 2:06 p.m.


The next meeting of the Georgia Board of Funeral Service will be held Thursday, December 8, 2020, at 10:00 a.m. at 237 Coliseum Drive, Macon, Georgia.

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Minutes recorded by: Alexis Hardy, Board Support Specialist
Minutes reviewed and edited by: Brad Coman, Executive Director
Minutes approved on: December 8 , 2020



Joe Westbury, President



Brad Coman, Executive Director