

GEORGIA BOARD OF FUNERAL SERVICE
Board Meeting Minutes – November 8, 2022
Professional Licensing Boards Division of the Secretary of State
237 Coliseum Drive, Macon, Georgia 31217

Members Present:

- Bryant Hightower, President
- Jake Futch, Vice President
- Tommy Davis
- Felicia Wimberly
- W.T. Edmondson *
- Nancy Kennedy *

Others Present:

- Brad Coman, Executive Director
- Melanie Foster, Licensing Supervisor
- Kristin Mitchell, Board Support Specialist
- Karen Coates, Licensing Analyst
- Alison Spencer, Senior Assistant Attorney General *
- Tommy McNulty, Assistant Attorney General *
- Bryon Thernes, Assistant Attorney General *

Members Absent:

- Joe Westbury

* *via teleconference*

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

Bryant Hightower, President noted that a quorum was present, called the meeting to order at 10:01 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

Jake Futch moved, Tommy Davis seconded, and the Board voted to approve the November 8, 2022 agenda.

Minutes

Tommy Davis moved, Felicia Wimberly seconded, and the Board voted to approve the October 4, 2022, Open Session minutes and Executive Session minutes.

Ratification List

Licenses Issued 9/29/2022 through 11/2/2022 (Total – 36): Jake Futch moved, Tommy Davis 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	License #	Licensee
EMB005400	Maitavia Brown Heard	FD005807	Lisa Antoinette Goodwin
EMB005401	Jac'Kel Shakur Brown	FD005808	Angeline M Mauro
EMB005402	Faith Ann Francine Plummer	FEST002109	Sylvain Funeral Home and Cremation Services
EMB005403	Mahaly Garrett Grant	FEST002110	Neptune Management Corp dba Neptune Society
EMB005404	Bruce Anthony Johnson	FSA006935	Hannah Marie Davis
EMB005405	Caitlin Belle McCain	FSA006936	Amillion Inez Stallings
EMB005406	Lisa Antoinette Goodwin	FSA006937	Robin J Murphy
EMB005407	Angeline M Mauro	FSA006938	William Taylor White
FD005801	Maitavia Brown Heard	FSA006939	Kimberly Sims Newsome
FD005802	Jac'Kel Shakur Brown	FSA006940	Madison Mays Wood
FD005803	Faith Ann Francine Plummer	FSA006941	Thomas Alden Roper
FD005804	Mahaly Garrett Grant	FSA006942	Orlando Rodriguez Johnson
FD005805	Bruce Anthony Johnson	FSA006943	Linda Marie Weyandt
FD005806	Caitlin Belle McCain	FSA006944	Precious Melton Montgomery

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License #	Licensee	License #	Licensee
FSA006945	Arwyn Elizabeth Hendley	FSA006949	Tracy Yvette Howard
FSA006946	Erin Rachae Lohr	FSA006950	Jordan O. Crabb
FSA006947	Demonta Marquese Smith	FSA006951	Justin Tripp Hardy
FSA006948	Khamori C.H. Lattimore		

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Tommy Davis moved, Jake Futch seconded, and the Board voted to enter Executive Session at 10:02 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, Bryant Hightower, 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 1:48 p.m. No votes were taken during Executive Session.

OPEN SESSION

Jake Futch moved, Tommy Davis seconded, and the motion was carried by the Board to ratify the following recommendations made during the Executive Session:

Appointments

Appearance # 3043277 / 3043281 – H.J. – Embalmer and Funeral Director by Endorsement / Reciprocity – Uphold denial – Lack of qualifications, not eligible for endorsement or reciprocity.

Appearance # 3045891 – Pineridge Cremation Services – Change of FDFCC from Gregory Hancock to Charles Blanchard – Approved pending receipt of Crematory Operator Certification from a course approved by the Board within 60 days.

Appearance # 3053571 – S.F.H. – Change of FDFCC – Table – Pending additional application information.

Appearance # 3052737 – Thompson Strickland Waters Funeral Home – Change of FDFCC from James Strickland to Michael Danis – Approved.

Appearance # 3054847 / 3054850 – SouthCare Cremation and Funeral Society – Change of FDFCC from Melvin Childs to Jacinda Brown – Approved.

Appearance # 3058773 / 3030774 – SouthCare Cremation and Funeral Society / Cremation Society of the South – Change of FDFCC from Jacinda Brown to Caitlin McCain – Approved.

Appearance # 3056740 – Bentley-Montford Mortuary – Change of FDFCC from Marian Thompson to William Lee – Approved.

Appearance # 3054239 – Evans-Skipper Funeral Home – Change of FDFCC from Samuel Brown to Joshua Burke – Approved.

Applications

Application # 3037156 / 3037157 – Michelle Nelson — Embalmer and Funeral Director by Reciprocity – Approved.

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Complaints

FUN230039 – Table – Refer to Attorney General’s Office for a Cease and Desist Order. W.T. Edmondson recused.

FUN230040 – Table to December 13, 2022, meeting.

FUN230031 – Table – Refer to Inspections to obtain a statement from FDFCC, copy of contract, and copy of the general price list.

FUN220161 – Close – Refer to Attorney General’s Office and law enforcement pursuant to O.C.G.A. § 43-18-10, for potential violations of O.C.G.A. § 10-4-17.

FUN230018 – Close – Letter of Concern regarding best practices for labeling cremated remains.

FUN230043 – Close – Refer to Cemetery board.

FUN230046 – Close – No violation.

FUN230032 – Table – Refer to Inspections to conduct a routine inspection and obtain statement and burial transit permits from respondent.

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.

FUN230009 – Close – Letter of Concern regarding best practices for identifying deceased and checking for personal properties.

Executive Session Other Business

Facility # 976293 – Close with Letter of Concern regarding failure to maintain facility in a clean, sound, safe and acceptable repair condition to prevent the comingling of cremains.

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

Provider	Course	Points
Continuing Vision	The Funeral Rule	1
Continuing Vision	Youth & Funerals	1
Continuing Vision	Bloodborne Pathogens – OSHA	1
Continuing Vision	Cultural Competency: Black Hair and Skin Care for Death Care Professionals	1
Continuing Vision	Explaining Embalming to Everyone	1
Continuing Vision	Jeopardy of Jaundice	1
MKG Marketing	November 2022 MKG Marketing Summit	15

OTHER BUSINESS

Docketed Orders – Tommy Davis moved, Felicia Wimberly seconded, and the Board voted to accept the docketed orders as presented:

Type	Licensee	License #	Docket #	City
OAFM	Hicks & Sons Mortuary Inc	FEST001116	2022-1639	Macon
OAFM	W D Lemon & Sons Funeral Home	FEST000866	2022-1553	Morrow

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Consent Order	Todd Hunter	EMB003382/FD003813	2022-1539	Jakin
Consent Order	Bobby Don Rogers	EMB003378/FD003812	2022-1540	Rome
Consent Order	Rinehart and Sons Funeral Home	FEST001215	2022-1636	Jesup
Consent Order	George William Rinehart	FD004097	2022-1635	Jesup
Cease & Desist Order	Leslie Rinehart Miller	n/a	2022-1638	Jesup
Cease & Desist Order	Linda Rinehart Williamson	n/a	2022-1637	Jesup

Request To Lift Probation

The Board reviewed a request to lift probation of White Funeral Home (FEST002072). Licensee has complied with all Board requirements. Tommy Davis moved, Jake Futch seconded, and the Board voted unanimously to approve the request.

90-Day Grace Period Request

The Board reviewed a request for an additional 90-day grace period from Vincent R Drummer Funeral Home, Inc. (FEST002003) due to the loss of the funeral home as the result of a fire on March 13, 2022. Tommy Davis moved, Jake Futch seconded, and the Board voted to approve an additional 90-day grace period to the facility to use a Board approved temporary location while moving and reconstructing the previous location.

Approval of Rule Amendment Appeal

The Board reviewed the certificate of active supervision from the Governor’s office, dated October 25, 2022, approving the amendment to Rule 250-6-.07.

Rules Review Closing Inspections

The Board discussed promulgating rules regarding facility closing inspection requirements. The Board unanimously voted to table discussion until the December 13, 2022 meeting.

Correspondence

The Board reviewed correspondence with questions related to pay for FDFCCs and other establishment staff. Tommy Davis moved, Jake Futch seconded, and the Board voted unanimously that the Board is not able to provide business or legal advice or interpret laws or rules, but the Board noted that it does not have jurisdiction over how employees are paid, so long as the FDFCC is able to fulfill the duties and responsibilities of their role.

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, Bryant Hightower, President, declared the meeting adjourned at 2:32 p.m. The next meeting of the Georgia Board of Funeral Service will be held Tuesday, December 13, 2022, at 10:00 a.m. at 237 Coliseum Drive, Macon, Georgia.

Minutes recorded by: Kristin Mitchell, Board Support Specialist
Minutes reviewed and edited by: Brad Coman, Executive Director
Minutes approved on: December 13, 2022


Bryant Hightower, President


Brad Coman, Executive Director