GEORGIA BOARD OF FUNERAL SERVICE
Board Meeting Minutes – September 8, 2026
Professional Licensing Boards Division of the Secretary of State
3920 Arkwright Rd., Suite 195, Macon, Georgia 31210

Members Present:
- Shanna Jackson Sheats, President
- Bryant Hightower
- Felicia Wimberly
- Bradley Anderson
- Tommy Davis
- Joe Westbury

Others Present:
- Brad Coman, Executive Director
- Melanie Foster, Licensing Supervisor *
- Kristin Mitchell, Board Support Specialist
- Robyn Henley, Licensing Analyst
- Craig Pake, Assistant Attorney General

* *via teleconference*

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

Shanna Jackson Sheats, President, noted that a quorum was present, called the meeting to order at 10:04 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
Joe Westbury moved, Bryant Hightower seconded, and the Board voted to approve the September 8, 2026, meeting agenda as amended.

Minutes
Bryant Hightower moved, Tommy Davis seconded, and the Board voted to approve the August 11, 2026, Open Session and Executive Session meeting minutes.

Ratification List
Licenses Issued 8/6/2026 – 9/2/2026 (Total – 30)**:** Joe Westbury moved, Bryant Hightower 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
FSA007501	Thomas McIver	FSA007511	Laura G McLendon
EMB026762	Ruth Madison-Eaves	FSA007512	Adrian Chester
FD009940	Ruth Madison-Eaves	EMB026763	Jana Elizabeth Hall
FSA007502	Lauren Olivia Wilks	FD009941	Jana Elizabeth Hall
FSA007503	Madison Johnson	FSA007513	Artis Maurice Thomas
FSA007504	Bria Donnette Curney	FSA007515	Madison Lynn Holloway
FSA007505	Juliana Wynne Bird	FSA007514	Jerry Eugene Scarborough
FSA007506	Reed Marcy	FSA007516	Cedric D Patterson
FEST002200	Celebration of Life Funeral Home	FSA007517	Kearstin A Digsby
FEST002199	Ford Funeral Home and Cremation Services	FSA007518	Gabrielle Dozier
FEST002201	Boston's Mortuary	FSA007519	Taylor Madison Way
FSA007507	Sara Elizabeth Cogar	EMB026764	Emily Kathryn Black
FSA007508	Kyzer O Hannah	FD009942	Emily Kathryn Black
FSA007509	Christa A Fields	FSA007520	Jai' W. Parker
FSA007510	Noelle Cherie Owens	FSA007521	Joeshua McBride

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EXECUTIVE SESSION

Joe Westbury moved, Tommy Davis seconded, and the Board voted to enter Executive Session at 10:05 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, Shanna Jackson Sheats, 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 5:33 p.m. No votes were taken during Executive Session.

OPEN SESSION

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

Appointments

Appearance # FUN260203 – Refer to Investigations to obtain signed contracts. Refer to Inspections to perform a routine inspection.

Appearance # FUN260186 – Refer to Attorney General's Office for a public Consent Order for unprofessional conduct to include a $1,000 fine, two years' probation, and completion of a minimum of a four-hour diversity and racial sensitivity course to be approved by the Board.

Appearance # FUN260172 – No show. Reschedule to next meeting.

Appearance # FUN260173 – Table for proof of fine payment and passing reinspection.

Appearance # 4793809 / 4830390 – N.F.H. / M.N.C. – Change of FDFCC – Approve with one grace period for both facilities.

Appearance # 4820468 – Eternal Hills Funeral Home and Cremation Services – Change of FDFCC from Danny Nobles to Ronnie Stewart – Approve.

Appearance # 4839865 – J.S.M. – Change of FDFCC – Approve with a public Consent Order for FDFCC candidate to include a $500 fine for failure to disclose arrest history.

Appearance # 4828331 – Lester Funeral Home – New Funeral Establishment with James Melton as FDFCC – Approve.

Appearance # 4801871 – Cook Brothers Funeral Directors and Cremations LaGrange Chapel – New Funeral Establishment with Shelesceyah McConnell as FDFCC – Approve.

Appearance # 4714686 – J. – New Funeral Establishment – Table for passing inspection. Facility to pay $100 before reinspection can be scheduled.

Appearance # 4861861 – Elliott Sons Crematory – Change of FDFCC – Approve with use of one grace period.

Appearance # 4863253 – Moss-Stovall-Neal Funeral Home Inc – Change of FDFCC from James Neal to Carl Powell – Approve.

Appearance # 4859227 / 4862795 – SouthCare Cremation & Funeral Society / Cremation Society of the South – Change of FDFCC from Nayya McKoy-El to Sarita Martin – Approve.

Appearance # 4830088 – P.C. – Reinstatement of Crematory – Approve with a public Consent Order to include a $2,000 fine and two years' probation for a period of unlicensed practice due to failing to renew license and operating without an FDFCC.

Appearance # 4876159 – Southern Crescent Crematorium – Change of FDFCC from Miranda Bottoms to John Hasty – Approve.

Appearance # 4872568 – Cannon - Cleveland Funeral Directors, Inc. – Change of FDFCC from Justin White to Miranda Bottoms – Approve.

Applications
Application # 4794623 / 47946323 – Hershel Cody Jr. – Funeral Director / Embalmer by Endorsement – Approve.

Application # 4799453 – C.T.F.H. – New Funeral Establishment – Deny – Facility does not appear to be in a sound, safe, acceptable repair condition.

Application # 4832946 – Sterlin Hill Sr – Embalmer by Reciprocity – Approve.

Application # 4833258 – Anderson-Newman Funeral Homes – Change of name from Kennedy Funeral Home LLC to Anderson-Newman Funeral Homes – Approve.

Application # 4850921 – Anderson-Newman Funeral Homes, Cobbtown Chapel – Change of name from Kennedy Funeral Homes to Anderson-Newman Funeral Homes, Cobbtown Chapel – Approve.

Application # 4737635 – S.F.H. – Change of FDFCC – Deny – Application incomplete. Refer to Attorney General's Office for suspension of the facility license until the facility can submit an application for an FDFCC candidate that the Board can approve.

Complaints:
FUN270003 – Table for clarification from South Carolina Board of Funeral Service.

FUN270018 – Close and refer to Secretary of State.

FUN270035 – Close with a Letter of Concern to facility to provide proof of update to advertising to reflect facility name as it's reflected on license within 30 days.

FUN270023 – Refer back to Inspections to reinspect and obtain a statement from owner regarding progress of renovations.

FUN260061 – Close pending receipt of fine payment.

FUN260182 – Refer to Attorney General's Office for a public Consent Order for the facility and for the FDFCC, both to include a $500 fine for unprofessional conduct and failure to file the death certificate in a timely manner.

FUN270034 – Close – Matter resolved.

FUN260204 – Close – No jurisdiction.

FUN270020 – Close – No violation.

FUN260128 – Refer to Inspections for a closing inspection and notify law enforcement, coroner's officer, and vital records that the facility is closed.

Executive Session Other Business

FUN270022 – Deny request to appeal or reduce fine. Fine to be paid within 30 days.

S.F.H. – Schedule cognizant interview with owner/FDFCC.

M.F.H. – Close. No violation.

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.

M.G. – Board authorized Attorney General to reduce fine to $9,000.

S.G.C.S. – Refer to Inspections for preliminary inspection to be performed after 9/15/26, specifically to ensure that the facility has an operable retort.

Continuing Education – Joe Westbury moved, Bryant Hightower 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	Social Media Breathing New life or The Death Sentence of Your Business	1
A.S. Turner and Sons, Inc.	Natural Organic Reduction	3
Wilbert Funeral Services	Beyond the Flame Exploring Non Traditional End of Life Options	1
GFSPA	Elevate Your Calling - The Roadmap to Professional Leadership Designations	1
GFSPA	Power, Protocol and Purpose - Executive Governance	1
GFSPA	Leading Across Generations- Adaptive Leadership to Bridge and Build Legacies	1
GFSPA	Succession Planning for the Next Generation	1
GFSPA	Executive Board Meeting Live Simulation and Coaching Lab	1
NFDA	Survival Skills Not Superpowers Real Life Tools Women Use to Thrive in Funeral Service	1
Master Grave Service Inc.	Burial Vaults and professional Standards	1

OTHER BUSINESS

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

Type	Licensee	License/Application #	Docket #	City
OAFM	Peterson's Funeral Home, LLC	FEST002149	2026-0994	Griffin

Type	Licensee	License/Application #	Docket #	City
OAFM	Sunset Funeral Home	FEST001046	2026-0995	Kingsland
OAFM	Ferguson Mortuary, LLC	FEST002152	2026-0936	Rochelle
OAFM	W D Lemon & Sons Funeral Home Inc	FEST000866	2026-0943	Morrow
OAFM	K.L. Close Funeral Home	FEST002098	2026-0935	Bainbridge
Consent Order	Carl Bullard	FD004116	2026-0915	Morrow
Consent Order	Chavous B Johnson and Reid Funeral Service	FEST001974	2026-0972	Waynesboro
Consent Order	James Lawson	FD003904	2026-0942	Hoschton
Consent Order	Deal Funeral Operations, LLC	4760424	2026-0941	Statesboro
Consent Order	MD Walker Funeral Home	FEST002128	2026-0916	Forest Park
Consent Order	Pruitt Funeral Home Inc	FEST000298 /4757965	2026-0917	Royston
Consent Order	Lane Funeral Home	FEST000634	2026-0934	Adel

Facility Changes of Ownership:
The Board reviewed the following changes of ownership:

Facility	License #	Seller	Purchaser	Notification Date
Nobles Funeral Home	FEST001977	Rachel Lynn Nobles	Denny Ray Smith	8/12/2026
Miles-Nobles Crematory	CREM000123	Rachel Lynn Nobles	Denny Ray Smith	8/12/2026

Grace Period Requests:
The Board reviewed a grace period extension request from Cook Brothers Funeral Directors and Cremations (FEST002078) regarding the loss of the Funeral Establishment due to a fire on January 18th. Joe Westbury moved, Bryant Hightower seconded, and the Board voted unanimously to approve a 30-day extension for the facility to provide a contract or letter of intent to purchase another building to move the facility.

Bryant Hightower moved, Tommy Davis seconded, and the Board voted unanimously on the following 2nd 90-day grace period request:

Type	Decision	License / App #	City	Expiration
Terry Family Funeral Home	Approved	FEST001648	Hamilton	11/25/26

Proposed Meeting Dates – Joe Westbury moved, Bryant Hightower seconded, and the Board unanimously voted to approve the following meeting dates for 2027:

- January 12, 2027
- February 9, 2027
- March 9, 2027
- April 13, 2027
- May 11, 2027
- June 8, 2027
- July 13, 2027
- August 10, 2027
- September 14, 2027
- October 12, 2027
- November 9, 2027
- December 14, 2027

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, Shanna Jackson Sheats, President, declared the meeting adjourned at 5:38 p.m.

The next meeting of the Georgia Board of Funeral Service will be held Tuesday, October 13, 2026, at 10:00 a.m. at the Board office at 3920 Arkwright Rd. Suite 195, Macon, Georgia.

Minutes recorded by: Kristin Mitchell, Board Support Specialist
Minutes reviewed and edited by: Brad Coman, Executive Director
Minutes approved on: October 13, 2026.



Shanna Jackson Sheats, President



Brad Coman, Executive Director

STATE OF GEORGIA

COUNTY OF BIBB

AFFIDAVIT SUPPORTING CLOSING OF PUBLIC MEETING

The Georgia Open Meetings Act, O.C.G.A 50-14-1 et seq., requires that all meetings of an entity covered by the statute must be open to the public unless there is some specific statutory exception which permits the closing of the meeting. If such a meeting is to be closed, the law requires that the presiding person execute a sworn affidavit stating that the subject matter of the meeting or the closed portion thereof was devoted to matters within the statutory exceptions and identifying those specified exemptions relied upon. O.C.G. A. 50-14-4(b). A copy of this affidavit must be filed with the minutes of the meetings in question.

Comes Shanna Jackson-Sheats, the Chairman identified below and, before an official duly authorized to administer oaths, makes this affidavit in satisfaction of the statutory requirements outlined above.

1. I am the presiding officer of the Georgia State Board of Funeral Service
2. I am over the age of 18 and in other aspects competent to make this sworn statement. I acknowledge that I am giving this statement under oath and subject to penalty of perjury and that I have read the contents of this affidavit prior to signing it.
3. On September 8, 2026, this entity, which is subject to the Open Meetings Act, met. A majority of the quorum of members present voted to close the meeting or a portion hereof of the following indicated reason(s). I hereby certify that during the closed portion of the meeting, only those subjects indicated below were discussed. I also certify that I have reviewed the exceptions provided under the Open Meetings Act that may permit the closing of a meeting and that, to the best of my knowledge, the reasons I have described in detail below meet the requirements for closing this public meeting.
4. The legal authority for closure of this meeting was: O.C.G.A. 43-1-2(k).
5. The subjects discussed and the underlying facts supporting the closing of this meeting are as follows:

Applications and other personal information submitted by the applicants, information, Favorable or unfavorable, submitted by a reference source concerning an applicant; and Deliberations of the Board with respect to an application, an examination, a complaint, an Investigation, or a disciplinary proceeding.

FURTHER THE AFFIANT SAYETH NOT.

PRESIDING OFFICER

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 8th
Day of September, 2026.

Notary Public
My Commission Expires:

RENEA L. GRAY
Notary Public, Georgia
Houston County
My Commission Expires
June 01, 2027