

*Arkansas State Board of Embalmers, Funeral Directors, Cemeteries, and Burial Services
Tri State Crematory Public Hearing Minutes*

Wednesday, September 29, 2021

Texarkana City Hall
Board Room
216 Walnut Street
Texarkana, AR
10:30– 10:41 AM

Chairman Bill Booker, Professional Member called the public hearing to order. Member(s) present: Billy Curl, Professional Member, Commissioner McClain Appointed Designee, Dan Honey, Compliance Attorney, Rausch Hodges, Professional Member, Josephine Perry, Senior Citizens Member.

Members absent: Stephanie Neipling, Consumer Member and Bruce Smithson, Professional Member.

Staff present: Amy Goode, Executive Secretary and Amanda Gibson, Arkansas Insurance Department, Associate Counsel.

1. **Call to Order** – Introduction of Board members and staff.

2. **New Business**

a) **Application for Permit to Construct Crematorium** (*§17-29-313 Crematorium Construction*)

1. Public Hearing - In the matter of Tri State Cremation & Funeral Services Corp. – Crematory Permit Application. To consider the request for a Crematory Construction Permit. The proposed crematory will be located at 3922 Airport Plaza Drive, Texarkana, Arkansas. Gary and Mandy Carter, owners, submitted the required documentation on Monday, August 16, 2021. The Board received written protest to the proposed construction of the crematorium. **A. C. A. §17-29-313 b) (1)** Upon receiving a written protest to an application for the construction of a crematorium, the board shall: **(A)** Schedule a public hearing on the application.

Gary and Mandy Carter were present representing the crematory. Mr. Carter stated he has been a lifelong resident of Texarkana and he believes there is a need for another crematory in the area. Most of the cremations are done out of state currently, for this area. There were no members of the public present at the meeting to speak against the proposed construction of the crematory to be located at 3922 Airport Plaza Drive, Texarkana, Arkansas.

Ms. Gibson stated that staff has received the required information to issue the permit to construct. [A. C. A. §17-29-313](#) requires the board to grant the application, if the board finds that it complies with all state and federal laws concerning environmental and public health; and will serve the public interest.

Motion made by Honey to approve the application for the crematory construction permit for Tri State Cremation & Funeral Services Corp., seconded by Hodges, all in favor.
Motion carried.

3. **Next Meeting Date(s)**
 - a) **Monday, October 18, 2021 (1:00 p.m.) Rules Sub-Committee**
 - b) **Tuesday, October 19, 2021 (9:00 a.m.) Board Meeting and Hearings**

4. **Future Meeting Date(s):**
 - a) **Tuesday, November 16, 2021 (9:00 a.m.) Board Meeting and Hearings**
 - b) **Tuesday, December 7, 2021 (9:00 a.m.) Board Meeting and Hearings**

5. **Comments and Announcements**

6. **Adjournment**

Motion made by Hodges to adjourn the meeting at 9:30 AM, seconded by Curl, all in favor.
Motion carried.