

ORDINANCE NO. 2025-__

**AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE CODE OF THE UNIFIED GOVERNMENT OF
CUSSETA-CHATTAHOOCHEE COUNTY, GEORGIA
TO REGULATE PUBLIC CEMETERIES; TO REPEAL CONFLICTING
ORDINANCES; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.**

WHEREAS, [description of cemeteries owned by the County]; and

WHEREAS, the UGOCCC desires to provide for the orderly operation, management, maintenance, and use of the [Name] Public Cemetery, to protect the health, safety, and welfare of the public, and to preserve the dignity of the cemetery as a place of reverence and remembrance;

NOW, THEREFORE, the UGOCCC Board of Commissioners hereby ordains:

1.

Chapter 20 of the Code of Ordinances shall be amended to include the language attached hereto as “Exhibit A” under “Article III – CEMETERIES.”

2.

The County Manager and the UGOCCC Code Enforcement Department, shall have authority to enforce this Ordinance, in addition to any other such person authorized to prosecute violations of Code pursuant to the Code or the Official Code of Georgia Annotated.

3.

This Ordinance shall take effect immediately upon its adoption unless specified otherwise herein.

4.

All previous ordinances or parts of ordinances in conflict herewith are hereby expressly repealed; provided that this Ordinance shall not affect Article II of Chapter 20 of the Code concerning Public Conduct in Parks.

5.

If any portion of this Ordinance is held invalid, the remaining provisions shall continue in full force and effect.

[*SIGNATURES ON FOLLOWING PAGE*]

DRAFT

The foregoing Ordinance is adopted by the Commission of the Unified Government of Cusseta-Chattahoochee County, Georgia this ____ day of _____, 2025.

BOARD OF COMMISSION OF THE UNIFIED
GOVERNMENT OF CUSSETA-
CHATTAHOOCHEE COUNTY

Charles Coffey, Chairman voting _____

Tim Biddle, Vice Chairman voting _____

Gerald Douglas voting _____

Damon Hoyte voting _____

Jason Frost voting _____

First Reading ____ / ____ /2025

Second Reading ____ / ____ /2025

Public Hearing ____ / ____ /2025

Attest:

Clerk, Unified Government of
Cusseta-Chattahoochee County, Georgia

THE CODE OF THE UNIFIED GOVERNMENT OF CUSSETA-CHATTAHOOCHEE COUNTY, GEORGIA
DRAFT CHANGES TO THE ZONING ORDINANCE OF CUSSETA-CHATTAHOOCHEE COUNTY, GEORGIA

CHAPTER 20 – ARTILE III – CEMETERIES

Sec. 20-31 – Definitions.

County: The Unified Government of Cusseta-Chattahoochee County.

Cemetery: The [Cusseta-Chattahoochee County Public Cemetery], owned and operated by the County.

Plot or Lot: A specific grave site designated for burial.

Interment: The act of placing human remains in a grave, either by burial or entombment.

Decoration: Any flower, ornament, flag, marker, or other object placed on a grave site.

Perpetual Care: Ongoing maintenance and care funded through County resources or designated funds.

Sec. 20-32 – Superintendent of cemeteries, Powers and Duties.

The [Director of Public Works / County Manager] shall serve as the superintendent of cemeteries. The superintendent of cemeteries shall be responsible for the care, management, and control of all cemeteries which are owned by the County. The superintendent shall direct the improvement and embellishment of the walks, drives, avenues and grounds in such cemeteries and shall provide for the protection of all property, public and private, therein and for the maintenance of order therein.

Sec. 20-33 – Records.

A record of ownership, interments, and related documents for all lots in the Cemetery shall be maintained at the office of the County Board of Commissioners. The superintendent of cemeteries shall not allow any corpse to be buried on a private lot without written authority of the owner of such lot.

Sec. 20-34 – Sale and Ownership of Lots

Fees for the purchase of cemetery lots and interment services shall be established by resolution of the County Board of Commissioners and reviewed annually.

The sale of lots is for burial purposes only and conveys no title to land, but only the right of interment.

Transfer of lot ownership must be approved by the County and properly recorded.

No cemetery lots shall be reserved in any section of the cemetery. No lots shall be sold in any section that has not been opened by the County.

Sec. 20-35 – Internments, Disinternments.

No interment shall be made in the Cemetery without prior approval from the County and presentation of a burial permit issued in accordance with Georgia law.

All interments must be scheduled with the County at least 48 hours in advance.

Only human remains may be interred in the Cemetery.

All graves must be excavated and closed by licensed professionals or County-authorized personnel.

Disinternments shall comply with state and local laws and require County approval.

Sec. 20-36 – Maintenance.

a) *Markers and Monuments.* The County may regulate the size and placement of monuments to maintain uniformity and safety. All markers and monuments must be made of durable stone or metal and must be approved by the County prior to placement. Temporary markers must be replaced with permanent markers within 12 months of interment.

b) *Maintenance.* The County shall provide routine maintenance of common areas and access roads. Individual lot maintenance and decoration is the responsibility of the lot owner or family. The County may regulate the decoration of lots. The County reserves the right to remove any decoration deemed unsafe, unsightly, or in violation of this ordinance.

Sec. 20-37 – Violations, Penalties.

Violations of this ordinance may result in fines of up to \$500 per offense and a civil enforcement action.

Each day a violation continues constitutes a separate offense.

The County reserves the right to deny future burial services for repeat or egregious violations.

Article II – Public Conduct in Parks of the Code applies to the Cemetery, and violations thereof may also be punished as provided in Section 20-19.

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