

Spring 2017

# Currents



## Proposed FY 2018 Budget Offers Focuses on Dredging, Roads, Beach Renourishment, More

North Myrtle Beach City Council members held their FY 2018 Budget Retreat Meeting February 27-28. The City's fiscal year is July 1-June 30. The actual budget ordinance will receive first and second readings before Council in May or June.



L-R, Front: Mayor Pro Tem Terry White, Mayor Marilyn Hatley, Councilwoman Nicole Fontana. L-R, Rear: Councilman Fred Coyne, Councilman Bob Cavanaugh, Councilman J.O. Baldwin, Councilman Hank Thomas.

The proposed \$105.3 million budget is \$11.5 million more than the current budget but does *not* include a property tax increase or other rate increase. The City's millage rate of 41.3 mills is the lowest in Horry County and one of the lowest in the state.

The proposed FY 2018 budget involves 16 separate funds, with significant interrelations and transfers between various funds.

The proposed budget includes funding for the next beach renourishment project, funding for the continuation of the Cherry Grove dredging project, and funding for the next ocean outfall project at 18th Avenue North, the latter to occur over two years.

The budget proposes \$8.8 million in street improvement projects ranging from continuation of the major Crescent Beach, South Ocean Boulevard, and North Ocean Boulevard underground utilities conversion and road widening projects, to the widening of 11th Avenue North, beach access improvements, and more.

Also included in the proposed street improvement projects is \$2 million for resurfacing 12 miles of roads. There are 180 miles of public roads in the city, and the aim is to resurface 12 miles annually, resulting in (Continued on Page 2)



## 18th Avenue North Ocean Outfall Project Planned

The proposed FY 2018 budget includes plans for the next ocean outfall to be located at 18th Avenue North, with construction projected to begin in the Fall of 2018 and occur over two years.

The original SCDOT-installed storm water drainage pipes will be removed from the beach and multiple landward storm water pipes will be directed into one larger pipe that runs under the beach and about 1,200 feet out into the ocean before discharging storm water into the "swimming zone." This helps to significantly reduce bacteria counts in the swimming zone.



The ocean outfall will collect storm water from between 14th and 23 Avenues North. It will also help reduce flooding problems along 11th Avenue (Continued On Page 2)

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## Ocean Outfall - Continued

North, reduce the amount of storm water that enters the marsh off Sea Mountain Highway, and reduce flooding that occurs on Ocean Boulevard between 18th and 20th Avenues North following heavy rains. The same Ocean Boulevard flooding has at times negatively impacted a large condominium property located on the oceanfront.

Since 2002, the City has funded and installed five ocean outfalls at a total cost of \$26.7 million, primarily using revenue from a monthly storm water fee. The State has contributed close to \$6 million toward the projects.

The first four ocean outfalls cost \$15 million total and were constructed under a blanket federal permit.

The fifth ocean outfall at Main Street, the ocean phase of which was completed in 2014 and the inland phase of which was completed in 2015, cost \$11.7 million. With the advent of this project, it was determined that ocean outfalls could no longer be con-

structed under a blanket federal permit but must be individually permitted. SCDHEC was not involved in the permitting of the City's first four ocean outfalls, but joined the permitting process for the fifth outfall and future outfalls. New requirements were added for cleansing storm water, and additional outfall equipment is now required.

After the 18th Avenue North ocean outfall has been constructed, six more ocean outfalls must be constructed at a total estimated cost of \$80 million in today's dollars:

17th Avenue South – Construct Fall 2023 (\$15 million), 3rd/4th Avenues South – Fall 2028 (\$15 million), 29th Avenue South – Fall 2034 (\$20 million), 7th Avenue North – Fall 2040 (\$15 million), 14th Avenue South – Fall 2046 (\$15 million), 12th Avenue North – Fall 2052 (\$15 million).

To date, through its ocean outfall construction program, the City has been able to remove 21 storm water drainage pipes from the beach, and 29 pipes remain.

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**The City of North Myrtle Beach**  
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North Myrtle Beach, SC 29582

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### CITY COUNCIL

*Marilyn Hatley, Mayor*  
*Terry White, Mayor Pro Tem*  
*J.O. Baldwin III*  
*Bob Cavanaugh*  
*Fred Coyne*  
*Nicole Fontana*  
*Hank Thomas*

*Mike Mahaney, City Manager*

## Budget - Continued

the resurfacing of all roads at least once in a 15-year period.

The city will continue to work on accomplishing localized storm water flooding improvements.

In 2016, following a series of historic rain events, Council prioritized localized storm water flooding fixes into five categories, and plans to complete them over a three-year period.

The estimated cost for all of the localized storm water improvements is around \$2 million.



## Beach Renourishment

The proposed FY 2018 Budget positions the City to be able to act quickly to fund its portion of either an emergency beach renourishment project or the next regularly scheduled 2018 federal project. City Council and management have been working closely with federal agencies in an ongoing effort to achieve an emergency renourishment project, while also working in conjunction with other jurisdictions to ensure that federal and state funding are in place for the 2018 federal project.

