



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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RESULTS: May 7 North Myrtle Beach City Council Meeting

North Myrtle Beach, SC – May 7, 2018 – During their May 7 meeting, the members of the North Myrtle Beach City Council passed second (final) reading of an ordinance setting the City’s FY 2019 property tax levy at 43.3 mils on each \$100 of assessed value. The rate includes two parts. The first part is 6.2 mils for the annual debt service on the \$15 Million Park Improvement Bonds for the land purchase and construction of the 162-acre North Myrtle Beach Park & Sports Complex and the second part is 37.1 mils for operating expenditures for the General Fund. The 43.3 mils property tax levy for FY 2019 represents an increase of two mils over FY 2018. The City's property tax rate remains the lowest in Horry County and among the lowest in the state.



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

City Council passed second reading of an ordinance adopting the FY 2019 Budget. The city’s fiscal year is July 1-June 30. The FY 2019 budget involves 16 separate funds with significant interrelations and transfers between the various funds. The budget is \$96.2 million, about \$8 million less than the FY 2018 budget.

The adopted budget addresses key funding needs that include:

- A variety of capital improvement projects
- A state retirement system-mandated \$260,000 funding increase in the City’s contribution for police and fire retirement for FY 2019
- Increased health insurance costs

- Imbalances in police, fire and other employee pay categories as compared to other cities of similar makeup
- An imbalance in the Sewer Fund
- A pass-through increase from the Horry County Solid Waste Authority for the solid waste fee
- The start of replacement of decade-old roll-out containers
- Adjustments to the business license fee rate structure

In the adopted budget, funding for these needs includes:

- A property tax increase of two mils. On a \$350,000 home (the median home price in North Myrtle Beach) two mils amounts to a property tax increase of \$28 annually.
- A sewer fee adjustment. For about 12,660 of the city's sewer customers the base rate on a 3/4-inch meter increases from \$6.32 to \$8.00 and a 7-cents-per-gallon increase for 10,000 gallons. The total increase is about \$2.38 for the first 10,000 gallons. Larger meter sizes will realize larger increases.
- A sanitation fee adjustment for single-family residential customers. The fee increases by \$3.00, from \$19.00 per month to \$22.00 per month. \$2.00 of the increase is a pass-through increase from the Horry County Solid Waste Authority, and \$1.00 goes toward replacement of aging roll-out garbage containers. Containers are over 10 years old and replacement will occur over time.
- An increase in business license fees that will generate a total of about \$700,000. Previously, the City adjusted its business license fees in 1986.

City Council passed second reading of an ordinance amending Chapter 23, Zoning Ordinance, regarding temporary display tents at businesses. The amended ordinance allows tent permits to have either a seven-day permit length or a 14-day permit length, with associated gaps between permit periods of 10 or 30 days. This allows seasonal businesses to utilize the 28-day yearly allotment within their two busiest calendar quarters.

City Council denied first reading of a proposed ordinance to rezone two lots containing about 0.56 acres located on the Atlantic Intracoastal Waterway from R-1 (Single-Family Residential Low-Density) to HC (Highway Commercial). The lots are located adjacent to Dock Holidays near the corner of 13th Avenue North and Waterway Drive.

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