



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Contact: Pat Dowling, Public Information Officer (843) 280-5612 – office / (843)241-7480 – cell [pcdowling@nmb.us](mailto:pcdowling@nmb.us)

## CITY COMPLETES TRANSITION FROM FUEL TANKS TO GAS CARDS

*North Myrtle Beach, SC – September 13, 2017* – About a year ago, in an effort to save money and avoid potentially costly environmental risks, the city of North Myrtle Beach began transitioning from maintaining its own fuel supply for police, public works and other public vehicles to using fuel cards for fuel purchases at local stations.

The final part of that transition is now underway as contracted crews remove four underground fuel tanks near the city's vehicle maintenance area on 2nd Avenue South.

There are four underground tanks, each weighing about 9,000 pounds and each capable of holding about 10,000 gallons of fuel-- two for diesel and two for gasoline.



for gasoline.

The tanks will go to a scrap yard. Before removal, a vac-truck empties each of any remaining fuel and then a person wearing a hazmat suit and respirator enters each tank through a hole cut in it to power wash inside. Scrap yard employees can then cut up the tanks for recycling.

It is estimated that the fuel tanks have been in the ground for more than 40 years and they appear to be in good shape. Once the tanks have been removed the SC Department of Health & Environmental Control will determine if any soil remediation is necessary at the site.

The city has also joined an alliance that includes large cities like Charlotte, NC to purchase emergency fuel at a reduced rate for those times when hurricanes, ice storms or other events temporarily knock out electrical power and access to fuel at local stations. A firm provides the city with one above-ground tank for diesel fuel and one for gasoline. Whatever fuel the city does not use from the two above ground emergency tanks each year goes back to the supplier and the city credited for the return of the product.

###