

**CITY OF NORTH MYRTLE BEACH, SOUTH CAROLINA
NORTH MYRTLE BEACH CITY HALL
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
Monday, May 19, 2025, 6:00 PM**

Minutes

1. ROLL CALL:

Mayor Hatley called the meeting to order and asked the Clerk to call the roll.

Marilyn Hatley
JO Baldwin
Bubba Collins, Absent
Fred Coyne
Nicole Fontana
Trey Skidmore
Hank Thomas

A quorum was established.

Jay Ortiz, City Chaplain, delivered the invocation.

Mayor Hatley led the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. MINUTES:

The motion to approve the minutes for the City Council Meeting of Monday, May 5, 2025, as presented, was made by Councilwoman Fontana and seconded by Councilman Thomas. The motion to approve passed 6-0.

3. COMMUNICATIONS:

Mayor Hatley read and presented proclamations to the Driftwood, Sea Oats, and Yaupon Garden Clubs, naming June 1 through June 7, 2025, as National Garden Week. Mayor Hatley thanked the groups for their dedication and commitment.

Mayor Hatley read and presented proclamations designating June 1, 2025, as National Cancer Survivor Day and June 6, 2025, as Gun Violence Awareness Day.

Mayor Hatley presented a plaque to Roger Quinn in recognition of his service on the Board of Zoning Appeals. Councilman Skidmore thanked Mr. Quinn for his guidance while serving on the Board with him.

Nicole Elko, Administrator of the South Carolina Beach Advocates, presented Mayor Hatley with the 2025 Legacy Award, recognizing her exceptional leadership and unwavering commitment to beach preservation in South Carolina.

Mayor Hatley stated that Department Monthly Reports were available online.

4. **ANNOUNCEMENTS BY MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL:**

Mayor Hatley stated the Police and Fire Departments had a very busy week, and she thanked them for taking care of the citizens in the City. Councilman Thomas also thanked Public Safety for keeping the City safe.

5. **CONSENT:**

- A. RESOLUTION: To approve an additional Mutual Aid Agreement for the 2025 Memorial Bike Week Event
- B. RESOLUTION: To adopt the revised bylaws for the Recreation Commission
- C. MOTION TO APPOINT: One appointment to the Board of Zoning Appeals
- D. MOTION TO APPOINT: One reappointment to the Planning Commission
- E. MOTION TO APPOINT: One reappointment to the Waccamaw Regional Transportation Authority Board of Directors

Mayor Hatley asked that Items 5A-5E be considered together, and Council agreed. Mayor Hatley read the items by title and called for a motion to approve. Mayor Hatley noted that Melissa Wober would be appointed to the Board of Zoning Appeals, Tom Edwards would be reappointed to the Planning Commission, and Katharine D'Angelo would be reappointed to the Waccamaw Regional Transportation Authority Board of Directors. The motion was made by Councilwoman Fontana and seconded by Councilman Skidmore.

Having no further comment from the Council or public, Mayor Hatley called for a vote. The motion to approve passed 6-0.

6. **UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

- A. ORDINANCE/SECOND READING: The conveyance of 4 small parcels, one at each corner at the intersection of 6th Avenue South and Highway 17, to the South Carolina Department of Transportation. Mayor Hatley read the ordinance by title and called for a motion to approve. The motion was made by Councilwoman Fontana and seconded by Mayor Pro Tempore Baldwin. Mayor Pro Tempore Baldwin stated this was a housekeeping item.

Having no further comment from the Council or public, Mayor Hatley called for a vote. The motion to approve passed 6-0.

- B. ORDINANCE/SECOND READING: Amendment to Chapter 2, Administration, of the Code of Ordinances of North Myrtle Beach, South Carolina, revising the Recreation Commission. Mayor Hatley read the ordinance by title and called for a motion to approve. The motion was made by Mayor Pro Tempore Baldwin and seconded by Councilwoman Fontana. Mayor Pro Tempore Baldwin stated that this would put the commission back in place that had been proactive and helpful in the past.

Having no further comment from the Council or public, Mayor Hatley called for a vote. The motion to approve passed 6-0.

- C. ORDINANCE/SECOND READING: To amend and renew the franchise granted to the South Carolina Public Service Authority. Mayor Hatley read the ordinance by title and called for a motion to approve. The motion was made by Councilwoman Fontana and seconded by Councilman Thomas. Mayor Hatley explained to the public that the South Carolina Public Service Authority owned and operated the electric equipment and facilities that provided electric service to City residents.

Having no further comment from the Council or public, Mayor Hatley called for a vote. The motion to approve passed 6-0.

- D. **ORDINANCE/SECOND READING:** Amendment to Chapter 23, Zoning, of the Code of Ordinances of North Myrtle Beach, South Carolina, addressing telecommunication tower height. Mayor Hatley read the ordinance by title and called for a motion to approve. The motion was made by Councilwoman Fontana and seconded by Councilman Thomas. Councilman Skidmore asked if the 300 feet from a structure requirement that Council requested had been added to the ordinance, and Mayor Hatley confirmed that it had been added.

Having no further comment from the Council or public, Mayor Hatley called for a vote. The motion to approve passed 6-0.

- E. **ORDINANCE/SECOND READING:** Zoning Overlay Request for ±0.34 acres on 21st Avenue North where it intersects Paul Street. Councilman Skidmore recused himself from the discussion and vote and left the Chambers. Mayor Hatley read the ordinance by title and called for a motion to approve. The motion was made by Councilman Coyne and seconded by Councilwoman Fontana. Mayor Hatley stated this was the right thing to do and that the parcel fell in line with the surrounding lots on the map. Councilman Coyne stated this made the lot consistent, and Councilman Thomas added that the lots were originally platted this way.

Having no further comment from the Council or public, Mayor Hatley called for a vote. The motion to approve passed 5-0.

7. **NEW BUSINESS:**

ORDINANCE/FIRST READING: Amendment to Chapter 20, Land Development Regulations, of the Code of Ordinances of North Myrtle Beach, South Carolina, addressing street and rights-of-way standards in Planned Development Districts (PDD). Mayor Hatley read the ordinance by title and called for a motion to approve. The motion was made by Councilwoman Fontana and seconded by Councilman Coyne. Councilman Coyne stated this action was overdue and would have eliminated past controversy. Jim Wood, Planning and Development Director, explained that, in the past, everything was negotiable in a Planned Development District as long as there was a higher design standard. Director Wood stated that this amendment allowed a developer to propose a different street design, but the proposal required approval from staff and the Planning Commission and then be added to the Street Planning Manual before it could be added to the PDD.

Having no further comment from the Council or public, Mayor Hatley called for a vote. The motion to approve passed 6-0.

8. **PUBLIC COMMENT:**

Warren Simmons, 407 15th Avenue South, North Myrtle Beach, stated he had been a resident since 2005. He presented a petition signed by 16 residents concerning 405 15th Avenue South. He stated the dwelling had caught on fire 8 years previously, and nothing had been done. He stated that the owner parked an inoperable truck under the building for six years. Mr. Simmons stated that he had talked to City staff, who advised that the owner had been given 90 days to bring the dwelling up to code. He stated he was also told that only meant boarding the structure up. Mr. Simmons asked Council if anything could be done. He stated the owner lived in Martha's Vineyard, and her son was using the structure as a construction dump site. Mayor Hatley asked Interim City Manager Fabbri to look into helping Mr. Simmons. Interim City Manager Fabbri stated this was just brought to his attention earlier in the day, and he would research it and get back with Mr. Simmons.

Mayor Hatley stated she felt that rule and ordinance changes may need to be made concerning property cleanup. She added that boarding up a home did not fix the problem. Mr. Simmons stated he was fearful the house would catch on fire again. Mayor Pro Tempore Baldwin stated this house had been brought before Council before, and it was time to do something. He added that he agreed with Mayor Hatley that city code may need to be changed in order to address situations like this.

Jolene Puffer, 3506 Turner Avenue, North Myrtle Beach, stated there was a property on 33rd Avenue South with a collapsed roof and asked what the process was and who to talk to about properties like this. She stated the property had not been inhabited in over 7 years, but she was told there was nothing the City could do about it. Mayor Hatley stated she did not know why the City could not do something about a property that was a danger or hazard to the community. Interim City Manager Fabbri stated that he was not familiar with the property Ms. Puffer referred to, but if it was deemed to be a public safety issue by the building inspectors, the City would have the authority to act. Mayor Hatley asked Ms. Puffer to send the address to Interim City Manager Fabbri to look into.

Dana Brown, 2314 Vera Way, Longs, thanked the Mayor and Council for being amenable to doing something about property issues. She encouraged Council to look into the Code and tighten things up.

Mayor Hatley advised Ms. Brown that the United States Post Office had denied the City's request to change Ms. Brown's zip code to North Myrtle Beach. Mayor Hatley stated the City would appeal the decision, but advised that after the appeal, the City could not bring this back up for 10 years.

9. **ADJOURNMENT:**

Mayor Hatley called for a motion to adjourn. The motion to adjourn was made by Councilwoman Fontana and seconded by Mayor Pro Tempore Baldwin. The motion passed 6-0. The meeting adjourned at 6:48 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Angela C. Westmoreland, Assistant City Clerk

MARILYN HATLEY, MAYOR

Minutes approved and adopted this 16th day of June 2025