

REQUEST FOR CITY COUNCIL CONSIDERATION

Meeting Date: March 16, 2026

Agenda Item: 7D	Prepared by: Chris Noury, City Attorney
Agenda Section: New Business: Ordinance. First Reading	Date: March 12, 2026
Subject: Amendments to Chapter 22, Vehicles for Hire, of the Code of Ordinances of North Myrtle Beach, South Carolina, regarding towing from private property	Division: Legal

Background:

Annually, the South Carolina Department of Public Safety (the Department) establishes the fees for consensual tows, and the City has adopted the Department’s fee schedule for consensual tows as published by the Department.

The proposed amendment to the ordinance regarding non-consensual tows amends Section 22-45(d) of the Towing Ordinance to authorize the fees for non-consensual tows to be the same as the fees for consensual tows as established by the Department.

The proposed amendment **does not** rescind the section of the ordinance that sets the limit for a “No tow” fee at forty dollar (\$40) per call. (A “No Tow” occurs when a towing operator has attached a vehicle to a tow truck for removal, but the owner or authorized operator of the vehicle arrives at the scene before the vehicle is removed from the property and is able to take possession of the vehicle and drive it away without the vehicle being towed.)

Recommended Action:

Approve or deny the proposed ordinance on first reading

Reviewed by Department Head	Reviewed by City Manager	Reviewed by City Attorney

Council Action:
Motion By _____ 2nd By _____ To _____

AN ORDINANCE

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF NORTH MYRTLE BEACH PROVIDING THAT THE CODE OF ORDINANCES, CITY OF NORTH MYRTLE BEACH, SOUTH CAROLINA, BE AMENDED BY REVISING CHAPTER 22, VEHICLES FOR HIRE, SECTION 22-45 TITLED TOWING FROM PRIVATE PROPERTY, OF SAID CODE.

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NORTH MYRTLE BEACH, SOUTH CAROLINA, IN COUNCIL DULY ASSEMBLED, THAT:

Section I. Section 22-45, Towing from private property, be revised to read as follows (new matter underlined, deleted matter struck-through).

Section 22-45, Towing from private property.

(d) Any time a vehicle is towed without the authorization of the vehicle owner, the following fees shall be the maximum charged by any wrecker operator or company and no other fees or charges of any kind (such as administrative fees, processing fees or fuel surcharges) shall accrue within thirty (30) days from the date of such tow and be required to be paid by the vehicle owner in order to recover the vehicle:

~~*Class A wrecker/car carrier:*~~

~~Towing (any motor vehicle or trailer ten thousand (10,000) pounds GVW or less, per tow, flat fee to include dollies and Go-Jacks\$175.00.~~

~~Towing (any vehicle and trailer over ten thousand (10,000) pounds GVW, per tow\$250.00.~~

~~Storage (after first twenty-four (24) hours), per twenty-four (24) hours:\$30.00.~~

No tow, per call: ...\$40.00. (A No Tow occurs when a towing operator has attached a vehicle to a tow truck for removal, but the owner or authorized operator of the vehicle arrives at the scene before the vehicle is removed from the property and is able to take possession of the vehicle and drive it away without the vehicle being towed.)

~~Vehicle release (between 6:00 p.m. and 7:00 a.m. only), per release:\$40.00.~~

~~Vehicle title search: Not to exceed the maximum fee set by the department of motor vehicles where such vehicle is titled.~~

1. In addition to the No tow, per call fee referenced above, in accordance with Section 38-600 of the South Carolina Code of State Regulations, the Department of Public Safety publishes a yearly fee schedule outlining the maximum allowable fees for each class of wrecker on the SChP wrecker rotation list. The below referenced fee schedule is hereby adopted as the fee schedule for the City of North Myrtle Beach. The reasonableness of fees on the fee schedule is determined by the highway patrol on a comparative basis. Thereafter, the South Carolina Department of Public Safety's yearly fee schedule outlining the maximum allowable fees for each class of wrecker may be adopted at City Council's sole discretion, after January 1 of each year.

2026 MAXIMUM ALLOWABLE FEES FOR ROTATION LIST CALLS

<u>Rates / Fees</u>		
<u>Class A Wrecker</u>		
<u>Standard Towing Charge</u>	<u>*Special Operations</u>	<u>Storage</u>
\$272.00 Flat Fee	\$162.00 Per Hour	\$47.00 Per Day
<i>*Special Operations are billed at half the hourly rate in 34 hour increments.</i>		
<u>Class B Wrecker</u>		
<u>Standard Towing Charge</u>	<u>*Special Operations</u>	<u>Storage</u>
\$390.00 Flat Fee	\$269.00 Per Hour	\$59.00 Per Day
<i>*Special Operations are billed at half the hourly rate in 34 hour increments.</i>		
<u>Class C Wrecker</u>		
<u>*Standard Towing Charge</u>	<u>Special Operations</u>	<u>Storage</u>
\$576.00 Per Hour	**See below	\$76.00 Per Day
<i>*Standard Towing is billed at half the hourly rate in 34 hour increments.</i>		
<i>**Although no Special Operations fee is set for Class C tows, a wrecker service may recover the actual cost of rented/subcontracted equipment or labor necessary to accomplish the job. Proof of these actual costs in the form of an itemized invoice or receipt from each third party providing such equipment or labor must accompany the tow bill.</i>		
<u>Class C services only. Rates for all equipment usage should include the cost of an operator, operating expenses, and the cost to transport the equipment to and from the scene. Fees for service, labor, or equipment and not listed below may not be assessed.</u>		
<u>Description of Service, Labor or Equipment</u>	<u>Rate / Fee</u>	
<u>Additional Wrecker</u>	<u>\$560.00</u>	<u>Per hour</u>
<u>Dump Truck, Dump Trailer or Drop Dumpster</u>	<u>\$325.00</u>	<u>Per hour</u>
<u>Rotator/Crane or equivalent</u>	<u>\$790.00</u>	<u>Per hour</u>
<u>Truck Tractor with Box Trailer or equivalent</u>	<u>\$374.00</u>	<u>Per hour</u>
<u>Truck Tractor with Flat Trailer or equivalent</u>	<u>\$375.00</u>	<u>Per hour</u>
<u>Truck Tractor with Landoll/Lowboy/Tilt Trailer or equivalent</u>	<u>\$431.00</u>	<u>Per hour</u>
<u>Skid Steer or equivalent</u>	<u>\$313.00</u>	<u>Per hour</u>
<u>Forklift or equivalent</u>	<u>\$318.00</u>	<u>Per hour</u>
<u>Backhoe or equivalent</u>	<u>\$338.00</u>	<u>Per hour</u>
<u>Service Truck (includes all tools and equipment on board)</u>	<u>\$250.00</u>	<u>Per hour</u>
<u>Tower Light System</u>	<u>\$200.00</u>	<u>Per hour</u>
<u>Complete Air Bag Unit</u>	<u>\$932.00</u>	<u>Per hour</u>

Additional Labor (General)	\$122.00	Per person/per
Additional Labor (Specialized)	\$162.00	Per person/per

City council shall be authorized to amend these fees from time to time at its discretion.

If a vehicle owner returns to reclaim his or her vehicle while the tow truck is on the scene but before the vehicle is physically connected to the tow truck, the tow truck operator may charge no more than the no tow fee to release the vehicle, provided the private property owner or agent of record has signed and dated the written authorization form for such nonconsensual tow. If the vehicle owner refuses or is unable to pay the no tow fee, the tow truck operator may tow the vehicle. If the vehicle is connected to the tow truck when the vehicle owner returns to reclaim the vehicle, the tow truck operator shall disconnect the vehicle and return it to the vehicle owner upon payment of no more than the maximum towing charge listed above, provided the private property owner or agent of record has signed and dated the written authorization form for such nonconsensual tow. If the owner refuses to or is unable to pay the towing fee, the vehicle may be towed.

Section 2. This Ordinance shall take effect upon the date of passage.

DONE, RATIFIED AND PASSED, THIS _____ DAY OF _____, 2026.

ATTEST:

Mayor J.O. Baldwin, III

City Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

City Attorney

FIRST READING: 3.16.2026
SECOND READING: _____

REVIEWED:

City Manager

ORDINANCE: _____