

REQUEST FOR CITY COUNCIL CONSIDERATION

Meeting Date: December 5, 2022

Agenda Item: 7A	Prepared by: Chris Noury, City Attorney
Agenda Section: New Business: Ordinance. First Reading	Date: November 14, 2022
Subject: An ordinance to adopt guidelines related to the redistricting plan for the revision of North Myrtle Beach ward lines	Division: Legal

The City of North Myrtle Beach is required to revise its ward lines in accordance with the 2020 Census Data to comply with the requirements of the United States Constitution, federal law, the Constitution of South Carolina and state law.

The attached ordinance contains the framework regarding how the ward lines will be drawn with the goal of achieving substantially equal populations in each ward. The ideal population for a NMB City Council ward is 4,744.

The plan provides that in every case, efforts should be made to limit the overall range of deviation from the ideal population to less than five percent (5%), or a relative deviation in excess of plus or minus two and one-half percent (2.5%) for each ward which should result in the overall range of population for each ward to be no less than 4,625 and no greater than 4,863.

After the attached ordinance is adopted, City Council will host a public meeting with a map depicting the revised ward lines where members of the public may comment on the proposed map. Council can discuss adopting changes to the map to incorporate the public feedback. Thereafter, the revised ward lines map will be adopted by City Council.

Recommended Action:

Approve or deny the proposed ordinance on first reading

Reviewed by City Manager		Reviewed by City Attorney
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Council Action:
Motion By _____ 2nd By _____ To _____

**AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF NORTH MYRTLE BEACH TO ADOPT GUIDELINES
PERTAINING TO A REDISTRICTING PLAN FOR THE REVISION OF WARD LINES
AND TO ADD SECTION 9-0 TO CHAPTER 9 OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES FOR
THE CITY OF NORTH MYRTLE BEACH AS FOLLOWS**

WHEREAS, the United State Census Bureau, in accordance with constitutional guidelines, updates population records every ten (10) years with the most recent update occurring in 2020 (“**2020 Census Data**”); and

WHEREAS, the South Carolina Revenue and Fiscal Affairs Office provided an analysis of 2020 Census Data to the City of North Myrtle Beach; and

WHEREAS, the City of North Myrtle Beach must revise its ward lines in accordance with 2020 Census Data in order to comply with the requirements of the United States Constitution, federal law, the Constitution of South Carolina, and state law; and

WHEREAS, the City of North Myrtle Beach desires to adopt guiding principles and a framework for the realignment of the City’s wards as provided herein.

Chapter 9, Section 9-0 shall be added to the Code of Ordinances for the City of North Myrtle Beach to read as follows:

Sec. 9-0. Redistricting Plan Related Ward Lines

- A. Wards shall be drawn in compliance with the United States Constitution, federal law, the Constitution of South Carolina, and state law.
- B. Wards shall be drawn with substantially equal populations as follows:
 - (i) The ideal population for a North Myrtle Beach City Council Ward is 4,744.
 - (ii) In every case, efforts should be made to limit the overall range of deviation from the ideal population to less than five percent (5%), or a relative deviation in excess of plus or minus two and one-half percent (2.5%) for each ward.
 - (iii) Therefore, the overall range of populations of each ward should be no less than 4,625 and no greater than 4,863.
- C. Wards shall be comprised of contiguous territory, with contiguity by water being sufficient.
- D. Wards shall be reasonably compact and shall follow census block geography:
 - (i) Bizarrely-shaped wards are to be avoided except when required by one or more of the following factors: (a) city limit and annexation geography, (b) census block geography; (c) natural geography including water; and/or (d) efforts to comply with the standards delineated above.
 - (ii) Compactness should be judged based on the prior wards and not by any mathematical, statistical, or formula-based calculation or determination.
- E. Wards should strive to protect communities of interest, whether those be economic, social, cultural, linguistic, historic, political, geographic, or other communities as follows:

(i) Public input shall be considered in the definitions of those communities of interest.

(ii) While there may be competing communities of interest identified and it may not be possible to accommodate all communities of interest, these communities should be considered and accommodated to the greatest extent possible.

F. Wards should be drawn in a manner to reasonably retain the core of the prior district to the greatest extent possible. Core retention serves many of the standards delineated above including respecting communities of interest and also considers the incumbency.

G. Reasonable efforts shall be made to be transparent and allow public input in this process.

H. If there is a conflict between criteria delineated above, the requirements to comply with state and federal law shall be given priority, followed by equal population, then contiguity, then compactness.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL FOR THE CITY OF NORTH MYRTLE BEACH, SOUTH CAROLINA:

Section 1. This Ordinance is hereby approved.

Section 2. This Ordinance shall become effective upon the date of passage.

DONE, RATIFIED AND PASSED, THIS _____ DAY OF _____, 2022.

ATTEST:

Mayor Marilyn Hatley

City Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

City Attorney

FIRST READING: 12.5.2022

SECOND READING: _____

REVIEWED:

City Manager

ORDINANCE: _____