

REQUEST FOR CITY COUNCIL CONSIDERATION

Meeting Date: June 19, 2023

Agenda Item: 6A	Prepared by: Chris Noury, City Attorney
Agenda Section: Unfinished Business: Ordinance. Second Reading	Date: June 12, 2023
Subject: An ordinance to amend Section 9-0 of the North Myrtle Beach Code of Ordinances titled Redistricting Plan and Related Ward Lines	Division: Legal

The amendment to Section 9-0 is a *housekeeping matter* that accompanies the adoption of the new ward lines map for the City.

The language of Section 9-0 **to be replaced** is in Sub-section 9-0 (b) as follows:

(b) Wards shall be drawn with substantially equal populations as follows:

- (1) The ideal population for North Myrtle Beach City Council Ward is four thousand seven hundred forty-four (4,744).
- (2) In every case, efforts should be made to limit the overall range of deviation from the ideal population to less than five (5) percent, or a relative deviation in excess of plus or minus two and one-half (2 ½) percent for each ward.
- (3) Therefore, the overall range of populations of each ward should be no less than four thousand six hundred twenty-five (4,625) and no greater than four thousand eight hundred sixty-three (4,863).

The language above will be replaced with the following:

(b) Wards shall be drawn with substantially equal populations as follows:

- (1) The ideal population for a North Myrtle Beach City Council Ward shall be the City's population, including the population of those properties annexed into the City, divided by the four (4) Council Wards.
- (2) 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.

All other Sub-sections of Section 9-0 shall remain the same.

Recommended Action:

Approve or deny the proposed ordinance on second 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 AMEND
SECTION 9-0 TO CHAPTER 9 OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES FOR THE CITY
OF NORTH MYRTLE BEACH AS FOLLOWS**

**BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE
CITY OF NORTH MYRTLE BEACH, SOUTH CAROLINA (the “City”):**

AMENDMENT TO SECTION 9-0 OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES

Section 9-0 of the Code of Ordinances for the City shall be deleted in its entirety and replaced with the following:

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:
 - (1) The ideal population for a North Myrtle Beach City Council Ward shall be the City’s population, including the population of those properties annexed into the City, divided by the four (4) Council Wards.
 - (2) 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.
- 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:
 - (1) 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.
 - (2) 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:

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

(2) 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.

DONE, RATIFIED AND PASSED, THIS _____ DAY OF _____, 2023.

ATTEST:

Mayor Marilyn Hatley

City Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

City Attorney

FIRST READING: 5.15.2023

SECOND READING: 6.19.2023

REVIEWED:

City Manager

ORDINANCE: 23-42