

**CITY OF NORTH MYRTLE BEACH, SOUTH CAROLINA
NORTH MYRTLE BEACH CITY HALL
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
Monday, July 10, 2023, 6:15 PM**

Minutes

1A. ROLL CALL:

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

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

A quorum was established.

1B. EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Mayor Hatley called for a motion to go into Executive Session for a legal briefing regarding the Code of Laws of South Carolina, Section 4-37-10 (Transportation Authority, Establishment, Membership) and a legal briefing regarding Chapter 19, Section 22, of the Code of Ordinances of the City of North Myrtle Beach, South Carolina regarding permits required for construction. The motion was made by Councilwoman Fontana and seconded by Councilman Coyne. The motion passed 6-0. The Council returned to Chambers at 7:00 PM. Mayor Hatley announced that no votes were taken at the session. Mayor Hatley called for a motion to adjourn the Executive Session. The motion was made by Councilman Collins and seconded by Councilman Skidmore. The motion passed 7-0. The regular meeting started at 7:00 PM.

1C. CONTINUATION OF CALL TO ORDER:

Mayor Hatley asked Manager Mahaney to deliver the invocation.

Mayor Hatley led the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. MINUTES:

The motion to approve the minutes for the City Council Meeting of Monday, June 19, 2023 and the Special Called City Council Meeting of Wednesday, June 28, 2023, as presented, was made by Councilwoman Fontana and seconded by Councilman Thomas. The motion to approve passed 7-0.

3. COMMUNICATIONS:

Mayor Hatley stated that the Departmental Monthly Reports for June 2023 were available online.

4. ANNOUNCEMENTS BY MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL:

Mayor Hatley stated a wonderful Fourth of July was enjoyed by all and the fireworks show was a big success.

5. **CONSENT:**

- A. RESOLUTION: Approving the annual assessment report and an updated assessment roll for the Cherry Grove Improvement District
- B. MOTION TO APPOINT: An appointment to the Horry County Capital Project Sales Tax Commission
- C. MOTION TO APPROVE: 9/11 Memorial Service on September 11, 2023
- D. MOTION TO APPROVE: SOS Fun Monday on September 18, 2023
- E. MOTION TO APPROVE: Winter Run on January 20, 2024

Mayor Hatley read Item A by title and called for a motion. The motion to approve was made by Councilwoman Fontana and seconded by Councilman Thomas.

Having no comment from the Council or public, Mayor Hatley called for a vote. The motion to approve passed 7-0.

Mayor Hatley read Item B by title and called for a motion. Mayor Pro Tempore Baldwin recused himself from the discussion and vote and removed himself from the room. The motion to approve was made by Councilwoman Fontana and seconded by Councilman Collins. Mayor Hatley stated that Mayor Pro Tempore Baldwin had the experience and knowledge to serve effectively on the Commission.

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

Mayor Hatley asked the Council to consider Items C-E together. The Council agreed and Mayor Hatley read the items by title and called for a motion. The motion to approve was made by Councilwoman Fontana and seconded by Councilman Coyne.

Having no comment from the Council or public, Mayor Hatley called for a vote. The motion to approve passed 7-0.

6. **UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

None

7. **NEW BUSINESS:**

- A. ORDINANCE/FIRST READING: Petition for Annexation and Zoning Designation for 0.76 acres on Cenith Drive. Mayor Hatley read the ordinance by title and called for a motion. The motion to approve was made by Councilwoman Fontana and seconded by Councilman Skidmore. Councilwoman Fontana stated that this would close the donut holes on Cenith Drive.

Having no comment from Council or public, Mayor Hatley called for a vote. The motion passed 7-0.

- B. ORDINANCE/FIRST READING: Petition for Annexation and Zoning Designation for 0.72 acres on Cenith Drive. Mayor Hatley read the ordinance by title and called for a motion. The motion to approve was made by Councilman Thomas and seconded by Councilwoman Fontana.

Having no comment from Council or public, Mayor Hatley called for a vote. The motion passed 7-0.

- C. **ORDINANCE/FIRST READING:** Petition for Annexation and Zoning Designation for 0.38 acres on Cashmere Lane. Mayor Hatley read the ordinance by title and called for a motion. The motion to approve was made by Councilwoman Fontana and seconded by Councilman Thomas. Mayor Pro Tempore Baldwin stated this was R-1 low density.

Having no comment from Council or public, Mayor Hatley called for a vote. The motion passed 7-0.

- D. **ORDINANCE/FIRST READING:** Amendment to the Myrtle Beach RV Resort Planned Development District (PDD) amending living space standards. Mayor Hatley read the ordinance by title and called for a motion. The motion to table was made by Councilwoman Fontana and was seconded by Mayor Pro Tempore Baldwin. Councilwoman Fontana stated more information was needed before they voted. Mayor Hatley stated she and the council were not comfortable with the details of this ordinance and more information was needed. City Attorney, Chris Noury, added that the ordinance would be on the agenda for the next meeting.

Having no further comment from the Council or public, Mayor Hatley called for a vote. The motion to table passed 7-0.

8. PUBLIC COMMENT:

Gregory Snow, 5210 Windy Pines Drive, North Myrtle Beach, read his statement:

I stand before you today to address a matter of utmost urgency- the safety design of our beloved community in North Myrtle Beach. It is imperative that we prioritize the safety of pedestrians and fire prevention to ensure the well-being of our residents and protect their property.

First and foremost, South Carolina's ranking as the second most dangerous state for pedestrians cannot be overlooked. Immediate action is required to address the pressing issue. Regrettably, financial restraints have impeded our progress in improving pedestrian and bicycle safety over the past decade. We must acknowledge that our city's Complete Streets Ordinance has been partially stripped of key pedestrian elements, including adequate funding, oversight, and safety features.

Furthermore, I would like to address the current state of fire codes within our ordinances. While we can appreciate the inclusion of the International Fire Code (IFC) into our ordinances following the Barefoot fire 14 years ago, it is disconcerting that inferior fire codes persist throughout. This creates uncertainty and potentially undermines the effectiveness of our fire safety measures.

A specific concern arises from the development plan for the Blu Water Parcel. Disturbing rumors are circulating about a disregard for important safety guidelines outlined in the International Fire Code. According to the IFC, developments with over 30 single-family units should have two separate fire apparatus access roads. Shockingly, the current plan fails to meet this critical requirement, raising serious doubts about the safety of our community.

Moreover, I find myself deeply troubled by the conduct of the developer representative for the Blue Water Project, who has a history of ethics violations. It is absolutely essential that those involved in significant projects uphold the highest ethical standards. The well-being and safety of our residents should never be compromised.

Additionally, I am disconcerted by the absence of our AICP-certified city employees at the recent South Carolina American Planning Association conference, which specifically focused on ethics. To foster the professional development of our certified employees, it is vital that we sponsor their attendance at future APA-SC conferences. Upholding ethical standards should be a top priority for our city.

Thank you for your attentive consideration and unwavering dedication to the well-being of our community. By taking swift action to prioritize pedestrian safety and fire prevention, we can ensure a secure prosperous future for North Myrtle Beach. Mayor Hatley thanked Mr. Snow for his input.

David Prince, 1311 Holly Drive, North Myrtle Beach, asked the Council to consider a time of limitation for response from TRC meetings. He stated he had been waiting over four weeks for a reply. Mayor Hatley thanked Mr. Prince for his comments.

9. **ADJOURNMENT:**

Mayor Hatley thanked everyone for coming and called for a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Councilman Collins and seconded by Councilwoman Fontana. The meeting adjourned at 7:15 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Allison K. Galbreath, City Clerk

MARILYN HATLEY, MAYOR

Minutes approved and adopted this 21st day of August 2023