



**MEETING MINUTES
OCTOBER 26, 2021
9:00 A.M. – WORKSHOP MEETING – TED C. COLLINS LAW ENFORCEMENT CENTER
10:00 A.M. – MEETING – TED C. COLLINS LAW ENFORCEMENT CENTER**

 Roll Call.

Present: Mayor Brenda Bethune, Michael Chestnut, Mike Lowder, Philip N. Render, Gregg Smith, Jackie Hatley, John Krajc.


CALL TO ORDER.....9:01 A.M. Workshop

 **Motion:** To Enter Closed Session to discuss 1) Property acquisition and invite Bill Musser 2) Contractual Agreement with an outside agency 3) personnel matter, **Moved by** John Krajc, **Seconded by** Philip N. Render.

 **Vote:** Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote (**summary:** Yes = 7).
Yes: Mayor Brenda Bethune, Michael Chestnut, Mike Lowder, Philip N. Render, Gregg Smith, Jackie Hatley, John Krajc.

9:03 A.M.


 **Motion:** To Exit Closed Session, **Moved by** Mike Lowder, **Seconded by** Philip N. Render.


 **Vote:** Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote (**summary:** Yes = 7).
Yes: Mayor Brenda Bethune, Michael Chestnut, Mike Lowder, Philip N. Render, Gregg Smith, Jackie Hatley, John Krajc.

9:53 A.M.

CALL TO ORDER.....10:00 A.M.
INVOCATION.....Mayor Pro-Tem Hatley
PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE.....Mayor Pro-Tem Hatley


APPROVAL OF AGENDA.....

 **Motion:** To Approve, **Moved by** Philip N. Render, **Seconded by** Michael Chestnut.


 **Vote:** Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote (**summary:** Yes = 7).
Yes: Mayor Brenda Bethune, Michael Chestnut, Mike Lowder, Philip N. Render, Gregg Smith, Jackie Hatley, John Krajc.



APPROVAL OF MINUTES.....October 12, 2021

 **Motion:** To Approve, **Moved by** Mike Lowder, **Seconded by** John Krajc.




 **Vote:** Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote (**summary:** Yes = 7).
Yes: Mayor Brenda Bethune, Michael Chestnut, Mike Lowder, Philip N. Render, Gregg Smith, Jackie Hatley, John Krajc.

PUBLIC REQUESTS, PRESENTATIONS, AWARDS, MEMORIALS:

1. Honorable County Councilman Gary Loftus – Horry County Recreation Funds (meeting)
 Honorable County Councilman Loftus presents the City of Myrtle Beach Parks and Recreation Department of the Horry County annual allocation.

2. Workforce Housing Update – Chad Charles (meeting)
 -  Mr. Charles gives an update. Presentation available upon request.
3. Public Information Update – PIO Staff
 -  Meredith gives an update on past, present, and future events.

NON-AGENDA ITEMS FROM THE PUBLIC.....30 Minute Time Limit

-  Martin Eells, written statement attached.
-  Joe McVaugh spoke in regards to the Chamber of Commerce and their funding.
-  Tim Carter spoke of the efforts of Sunshine Recovery Ministries and the help received by many in the area and the hopes that Concert of Hope will become as large as other local festivals.

CONSENT AGENDA – *The Consent Agenda covers items anticipated to be routine in nature. Any Councilmember may ask that an item be moved from the Consent Agenda to the Regular Agenda for lengthier discussion, items remaining on the Consent Agenda will be briefly described by staff.*

CONSENT AGENDA

Motion M2021-149 to approve a Special Event Permit to Portside at Grand Dunes for the “Portside Fall Fest and Craft Fair” on November 6, 2021, between the hours of 10:00am and 5:00pm. The City Manager is authorized to make changes to these plans as he deems necessary in keeping with the nature of the event and as circumstances dictate.

The promoter is expecting that there will be at least 800 participants for this event. There will be event signage, food trucks, beer, wine and spirituous liquors, live music and local vendors. Off Duty Police Officers will be hired at the promoter’s expense, there are no in-kind services requested or road closures.

Motion M2021-150 authorizing the City Manager or his designee to accept a grant in the amount of \$45,000 from the South Carolina Law Enforcement Division – 2021 State Homeland Security Program to support the Pee Dee Regional WMD Hazmat Team/Myrtle Beach Fire Department for Hazardous Materials, to record the appropriation of such grant funds in the amount approved, and to execute and deliver the grant agreement and such related documents as may be required to put the grant into effect. No local match is required.

The Myrtle Beach Fire Department hosts the Pee Dee Regional WMD Hazmat Team, which is part of a statewide program that provides hazardous materials, and weapons of mass destruction response to incidents across the State. Maintaining these resources and trained personnel affords the Fire Department capability to efficiently and effectively mitigate challenging Haz-Mat incidents within the City and surrounding areas.

Motion M2021-151 authorizing the City Manager or his designee to accept a grant in the amount of \$55,000 from the South Carolina Law Enforcement Division – 2021 State Homeland Security Program to support the Pee Dee Regional WMD Hazmat Team/Myrtle Beach Fire Department for Collapse Search and Rescue, to record the appropriation of such grant funds in the amount approved, and to execute and deliver the grant agreement and such related documents as may be required to put the grant into effect. No local match is required.

The Myrtle Beach Fire Department hosts the Pee Dee Regional Collapse Search and Rescue Team, which is part of a statewide program that provides technical search and rescue response to complex or large scale incidents across the State. Maintaining these resources and trained personnel affords the Fire Department the capability to efficiently and effectively mitigate challenging technical search and rescue incidents within the City and surrounding areas.

Motion M2021-152 authorizing the City Manager or his designee to accept a grant in the amount of \$44,124 from the South Carolina Law Enforcement Division – 2021 State Homeland Security Program to support the Pee Dee Regional WMD Hazmat Team/Myrtle Beach Fire Department for Incident Management, to record the appropriation of such grant funds in the amount approved, and to execute and deliver the grant agreement and such related documents as may be required to put the grant into effect. No local match is required.

The Myrtle Beach Fire Department hosts the Pee Dee Regional Incident Management Team, which is part of a statewide program that provides Command and Control response to large scale man-made and natural disaster incidents. This is a DHS/FEMA supported Type 3 Incident Management team, allowing the team to deploy to EMAC requests nationwide. Maintaining these resources and trained personnel affords the Fire Department the capability to efficiently and effectively mitigate challenging large scale incidents within the City and surrounding areas.

 **Motion:** To Approve Consent Agenda, **Moved by Philip N. Render, Seconded by Mike Lowder.**

 **Vote:** Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote (**summary:** Yes = 7).

Yes: Mayor Brenda Bethune, Michael Chestnut, Mike Lowder, Philip N. Render, Gregg Smith, Jackie Hatley, John Krajc.


REGULAR AGENDA

1st Reading Ordinance 2021-38 a supplemental ordinance providing for the issuance and sale of City of Myrtle Beach, South Carolina, limited obligation bonds (Tax Increment Pledge), taxable series 2021, in the aggregate principle amount of not exceeding \$20,000,000; prescribing the form and details of such bonds; and other matters relating thereto.

Proposed Ordinance issues \$20 million for projects that may be funded from incremental taxes or other sources consistent w/ the Downtown Master Plan. Projects eligible to be funded by TIF revenues include, but are not limited to:

- *A performing arts theatre;*
- *New library, & children's museum;*
- *Renovations to the existing Chapin Library structure.*
- *City Square;*
- *Public utility & streetscape improvements;*
- *Restoration of Transitional Properties located within the redevelopment area.*

 **Motion:** To Approve 1st Reading, **Moved by Gregg Smith, Seconded by Michael Chestnut.**

 **Vote:** Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote (**summary:** Yes = 7).

Yes: Mayor Brenda Bethune, Michael Chestnut, Mike Lowder, Philip N. Render, Gregg Smith, Jackie Hatley, John Krajc.

1st Reading Ordinance 2021-39 an ordinance concurring in amendments to the redevelopment and financing plan of the Myrtle Beach Air Force Base Redevelopment Authority, as amended; and other matters relating thereto

Following the Redevelopment Authority's adoption of the 2018 Amendment to the Air Base Redevelopment Plan, and the City's concurrence, Horry County and the School District of Horry County initiated a lawsuit against the Authority and the City in December 2018. The lawsuit was resolved by mutual agreement of the parties on July 13, 2021 (the "Agreement").

The Amendment provides for:

- An Initial Distribution to City, County, and School District of \$_____ from accumulated incremental taxes (blank to be filled in before 2nd reading);
- Annual Distributions of \$6 million each year until the dissolution of the District;
- Completion of \$28.5 million of capital projects by CY2028/FY2029; and
- Defeasance of the remaining debt in 2028/29.



Motion: To Approve 1st Reading, **Moved by** Michael Chestnut, **Seconded by** Mike Lowder.



Vote: Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote (**summary:** Yes = 7).

Yes: Mayor Brenda Bethune, Michael Chestnut, Mike Lowder, Philip N. Render, Gregg Smith, Jackie Hatley, John Krajc.

1st Reading Ordinance 2021-40 to amend Appendix A, Zoning, of the Code of Ordinances Article 11 Floodplain Management Regulations to adjust regulations as required by FEMA and the South Carolina Code of Laws and to maintain regulatory consistency with the adoption of the 2019 FEMA flood maps.

The new FEMA flood maps need to be adopted by the City by December 16, 2021. The goal is to continue to minimize community flood risk and maintain our current NFIP community rating of Class 5. The proposed maps reclassify some coastal property from the VE flood zone to the AE flood zone. City's participation in CRS saves residents an estimated \$1,000,000 annually in flood insurance premiums.



Motion: To Approve 1st Reading, **Moved by** Jackie Hatley, **Seconded by** Michael Chestnut.



Vote: Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote (**summary:** Yes = 7).

Yes: Mayor Brenda Bethune, Michael Chestnut, Mike Lowder, Philip N. Render, Gregg Smith, Jackie Hatley, John Krajc.


1st Reading Ordinance 2021-41 authorizing the sale of surplus city property on Old Bridge Road to Robert Lukey.

The City owns surplus property located at 855 Old Bridge Road. The sale is subject to the following terms and conditions:

- The property is sold "AS IS WHERE-IS" condition.
- Buyer shall be responsible for all taxes that may accrue as a result of the transfer.
- Buyer shall pay all costs and fees associated with the sale and closing including but not limited to preparation of the deed and other documents associated with the transfer, attorney's fees, closing costs, and filing and recording fees to include deed stamps.
- Buyer shall not build any structure or make any improvement that interferes with the ability of the City of Myrtle Beach to access underground lines and valves unless written permission is granted by the City.

- Buyer recognizes the intent of the City of Myrtle Beach to reserve to itself a utility easement over, under and across the property for all water and sewer utilities and that the sale is subject to those easements.
- City reserves the right to access the property for installation, operation, maintenance, inspection and/or repair of all water and/or sewer utilities. If the property is disturbed or damaged in connection with the installation, operation, maintenance, inspection and/or repair of utilities, the City has no liability or responsibility to repair the property or return the property to its condition prior to the damage or disturbance.

 **Motion:** To Approve 1st Reading, **Moved by** Mike Lowder, **Seconded by** Philip N. Render.

 **Vote:** Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote (**summary:** Yes = 7).

Yes: Mayor Brenda Bethune, Michael Chestnut, Mike Lowder, Philip N. Render, Gregg Smith, Jackie Hatley, John Krajc.


Resolution R2021-29 to adopt the City of Myrtle Beach Disaster Recovery Plan 2021.

The Recovery Plan provides the framework for the City of Myrtle Beach in coordination with local, state, and federal government agencies as well as non-governmental organizations to coordinate the federal, state, local, and private sector recovery from the long-term consequences of a disaster. The purpose of the Recovery Plan is to:

- *Outline a framework potentially used to assist communities in rebuilding after a disaster while increasing the communities' ability to recover from future disasters and*
- *Provide the coordination necessary for the recovery efforts of the city with other government agencies.*

The goal of recovery is to return populations, infrastructure, and natural and cultural resources to pre-disaster or better conditions as quickly as possible following a disaster.

 **Motion:** To Approve, **Moved by** Mike Lowder, **Seconded by** Michael Chestnut.

 **Vote:** Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote (**summary:** Yes = 7).

Yes: Mayor Brenda Bethune, Michael Chestnut, Mike Lowder, Philip N. Render, Gregg Smith, Jackie Hatley, John Krajc.

APPROVED

Resolution R2021-30 to authorize the City Manager to enter into a purchase agreement(s)

The purpose of the Oceanfront Redevelopment Project is to revitalize and redevelop the City's core downtown areas. Property acquisition within the redevelopment area is necessary to meet the overall redevelopment goals.

 **Motion:** To Approve, **Moved by** Gregg Smith, **Seconded by** John Krajc.

 **Vote:** Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote (**summary:** Yes = 7).

Yes: Mayor Brenda Bethune, Michael Chestnut, Mike Lowder, Philip N. Render, Gregg Smith, Jackie Hatley, John Krajc.

Motion M2021-153 authorizing the City Manager or his designee to accept a grant in the amount of \$128,000 from the Waccamaw Community Foundation to fund the Proposal for Consulting Services for a City of Myrtle Beach Housing – Economic Mobility Strategy & Implementation Plan; to record the appropriation of such grant funds in the amount

approved, and to execute and deliver the grant agreement and such related documents as may be required to put the grant into effect. There is no match requirement.

The grant will fund the development of strategies to address the shortage of dignified affordable housing options within the City and ways to create pathways to upward economic mobility that enable people to obtain better economic outcomes and housing security. This work is supplemental and will coordinate with the work being done by James Lima Planning and Development for the Myrtle Beach Downtown Alliance and the work being done by Habitat for Humanity of Horry County for the City of Myrtle Beach. Enterprise Community Partners, Inc. brings national experience as a resource for those addressing this problem locally.



Motion: To Approve, **Moved by** John Krajc, **Seconded by** Mike Lowder.



Vote: Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote (**summary:** Yes = 7).

Yes: Mayor Brenda Bethune, Michael Chestnut, Mike Lowder, Philip N. Render, Gregg Smith, Jackie Hatley, John Krajc.

APPROVED

Motion M2021-154 appoint/reappoint two members to the Beach Advisory Committee.

The terms of Gordon Hirsch and Steve Taylor expired on October 10, 2021. Both wish to be reappointed. On file are the resumes of Roger Smith (City Resident), Geoff Kay (City Resident), Dan Wiener (City Resident), and Debra Kresch (City Resident). Both terms will expire on October 9, 2024.



Motion: To Reappoint Gordon Hirsch and Steve Taylor, **Moved by** Jackie Hatley, **Seconded by** Mike Lowder.



Vote: Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote (**summary:** Yes = 7).

Yes: Mayor Brenda Bethune, Michael Chestnut, Mike Lowder, Philip N. Render, Gregg Smith, Jackie Hatley, John Krajc.

EXECUTIVE SESSION - Council may take action on matters discussed in Executive Session which are deemed to be “emergency” concerns.


Note: *South Carolina law requires that Council’s business is conducted in public with limited exceptions known as “Executive Sessions”. Subjects eligible for Executive Session include:*

- **Personnel matters.**
- **Negotiations concerning proposed contractual arrangements and proposed sale or purchase of property.**
- **The receipt of legal advice relating to:**
 - **A pending, threatened, or potential claim.**
 - **Other matters covered by the attorney-client privilege.**
 - **Settlement of legal claims, or the position of the City in other adversary situations.**
- **Discussions regarding development of security personnel or devices.**
- **Investigative proceedings regarding allegations of criminal misconduct.**
- **Matters relating to the proposed location, expansion, or provision of services encouraging location or expansion of industries or other businesses.**

Motions to go into Executive Session must be made in public and specify one or more reason above. Council can take no votes or take action in Executive Session.

ADJOURNMENT

 **Motion:** To Adjourn, **Moved by** Mike Lowder, **Seconded by** Philip N. Render.

 **Vote:** Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote (**summary:** Yes = 7).

Yes: Mayor Brenda Bethune, Michael Chestnut, Mike Lowder, Philip N. Render, Gregg Smith, Jackie Hatley, John Krajc.

10:52 A.M.

ATTEST:

BRENDA BETHUNE, MAYOR

JENNIFER ADKINS, CITY CLERK

This is the last council meeting before the elections next week. We are here because of the city and councils' actions to cancel our healthcare. I would like to correct my math calculations. After the old retirees were segregated from the group insurance, I calculated the 1400 a month cost the city projected. I took the projected increase and divided amongst the 900 employees, leaving out the retirees. I failed to look at the numbers from the angle that the city puts into an account of \$832, based on 900 employees that are calculated as part of an employee's salary or cost. That lead to a figure of 748,800 dollars, add in the 50,704 dollars for the retired employees totaling 829,504 a month. That's 9,954,048 dollars a year. This figure does not include spousal or family coverage! I have placed a FOIA request for the actuary report that breaks it all down to see where the balance, surplus and payouts occur. I anticipate a clearer understanding hopefully demonstrating the city is not in harms way. I wonder if this was included when the staff presented the numbers to council.

EMPLOYEES
+
RETIRES

~~If this is true, and the numbers are positive, then the facts were hidden from us as well as you. This is not transparency. This is questionable accounting actions designed for manipulation.~~

Madam Mayor, you stated you would look at the facts. Here are some:

- 1) Retirees were separated from the group plan.
- 2) Information provided did not spread the claims to the entire group
- 3) Resulted in the retirees and our families being stripped from the cities health insurance
- 4) Future retirees that have full credit service will lose coverage upon retirement.
- 5) This action will result in financial disaster for retirees and their families. (Average increase in the marketplace is over 700 a month, and that's with the subsidies.)
- 6) This was an earned benefit
- 7) City staff presented this case inaccurately against our great employees.
- 8) City council voted and approved of this measure

We presented to the council to fully reinstate our benefits without the hyperinflated cost of marketplace rates that do not provide group rates. We asked for our vision and dental, city clinic and MRI discounts. The delay instituted by council until the 15th of January makes this APPEAR that we are going to be allowed to stay on the cities insurance but we would be paying marketplace prices. This is not the correct thing to do nor is it the right thing to do. Currently I can only guess.

We have a mistrust in the city based on several experiences. We had our insurance until 65 years old, stripped away from us in 2009. We suffered a substantial price increase two years ago. And now we lose our benefits beginning in 2022. Mistrust was reinforced in 2020 with the forced retirement of rehired employees. But then it was a selective based which meant that a select few were allowed to stay, maybe because of who they knew, certainly not because the city could not operate without them. ~~Pick and choose! Transparency can be ugly.~~ The city is experiencing the tragic results in public safety positions particularly in the police department as

they cannot fill these voids. And our city is unique in that all departments operate in a support capacity for all public safety placing us all on equal value.

But the tragedy is that the city forced retirements, with full understanding that they were going to cancel our insurance! Our coworkers, our leaders, our friends, betrayed our years of public service. ~~This takes us from ugly transparency to disgraceful actions.~~

We appreciate you revisiting this in all sincerity. However, there is an easy fix. Restore to us our healthcare in its entirety without segregated prices, without compromise. I started this quest with one question in mind. "Who cancels old peoples health insurance? Who does that!?!"
Because I believe in accountability, I have my answer. The city staff canceled it. You voted for it. You have cancelled our health insurance.

My thanks to council for hearing us. Good luck with your reelections.

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My thanks to council for hearing us. Good luck with your reelections.