FY 2016-17 budget rates

Hosted 2,053 participants in the Summer Reading Program.
Welcomed 27,892 registered users, circulated 131,982 items
Collected 66,440 pounds of recyclable materials from the beach.
Planted 185 trees on public property and rights-of-way.
Welcomed 2,481 youth sports participants and 3,665 adult
Received $46,144 in donations for R.A.I.N. (Remembering
Conducted 1,464 new site plan reviews.
Collected and disposed of 47,550,000 pounds of solid waste
Handled 25,084 court cases and issued 3,374 arrest warrants.
Answered 136,860 calls for police service and investigated
Hosted 210 events and 574,000 people at the Convention Center.
Tagged 383 inoperable or unlicensed cars.
Issued 6,521 building permits with a value of $411.5 million.
Installed 19,970 linear feet of water line and cleaned 240,000
Installed 597 new water meters and 322 water valves.
Received 3,703 job applications for 470 positions.
Provided a peak one-day water flow of 27.2 million gallons.
Maintained 97 city buildings and 39 parks.
Mowed 49 miles of median strips.
Processed subdivisions for 1,040 new lots, mostly residential.
Resurfaced 4,879 feet of sidewalk.
Landscape medians, LED street lights, designated bike lanes and marked parking spaces were added to Carver Street, between Mr. Joe White Avenue and 21st Avenue North, this spring. The goal was to improve safety and create a more appealing community street.

Carver Street facelift

New construction activity in Myrtle Beach 30 year trend

Weekly city updates available via e-mail

Increasing service was top priority for FY 2016-17 budget

Service was the focus of Myrtle Beach’s budget for fiscal year 2016-17, which ended June 30. The $188.5 million spending plan also included $20 million in new capital improvements, such as renovations to Doug Shaw Memorial Stadium, street paving, sidewalk construction and several water and sewer projects.

To keep pace with growth and provide that enhanced service, the budget called for a mill property tax increase. Thirteen fulltime positions were added. They included a crime analyst, beach coordinator, youth coordinator, two Solid Waste staff, a street sweeper, a court bailiff and Special Events staff.

The three mill increase raised the ad valorem rate to 77.5 mills for 2016-17. Owner-occupied homes did not feel the increase, though, as the budget included an adjustment in the Tourism Development Fee credit to offset the higher millage. As a result, the effective tax for owner-occupied homes was only 13.5 mills.

The past year also saw a 4.1 to 4.7 percent blended increase in water and sewer fees. The increase covered higher wholesale costs from Grand Strand Water and Sewer Authority and Santee Cooper, along with water and sewer line construction.

In response to continued residential growth, the city funded a new Solid Waste service crew. Residents also requested options for recycling and garbage. Instead of purchasing carts for up to $70 each, a $2 monthly fee gave customers a choice. The green recycling cart is available in a 48 or 64 gallon size, while the blue solid waste cart comes in a 64 or 96 gallon size. Customers may have up to two carts, one of each, for the $2 monthly fee.

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FY 2016-17 budget addressed city growth, customer service ...

...continued from page 1

Youth Sports fees remained unchanged at $15 per youngster for in-city residents in last year’s budget, but dropped to $50 (from $75) for out-of-city residents. Hours of operation at the Base Recreation Center and Chapin Memorial Library were extended, too. The Base Recreation Center is again open Monday through Friday, thanks to funding in the 2016-17 budget year.

Current Budget Year... 2017-18

For fiscal year 2017-18, which began July 1, the city’s $190.6 million budget did not require a tax increase. Owner-occupied homes continue to receive an 80 percent credit from the Tourism Development Fee. As a result, the effective ad valorem rate for owner-occupied homes is just 14 mills for 2017-18.

New capital improvement projects total $22.5 million, including renovations to Mary C. Canty Recreation Center, the baseball stadium and the Convention Center. Sewer pump replacements and beach renourishment also are costs this fiscal year.

Fourteen new fulltime positions are funded in the current budget, including five new police officers. Increased beach safety services and patrols by both the Police and Fire Departments are covered through existing revenues.

Other new positions included in FY 2017-18 are two code enforcement officers, two real-time crime analysts, a commercial information technology technician, an administrative assistant in Risk Management and a cashier in Revenue Billing.

The new budget includes two fee increases, one for solid waste and one for water and sewer service. The residential solid waste fee increase of $1.15 per month is simply a pass-through of higher tipping fees charged by the Horry County Solid Waste Authority. Utility customers have a blended water and sewer rate increase of $1.23 per month is simply a pass-through of higher tipping fees charged by the SC Fire Chiefs Association for Excellence in Public Safety Education. This is the 12th time the Fire Department has received this statewide award for safety efforts.


The City of Myrtle Beach received its 20th annual Tree City USA Award last year. Sponsored by the National Arbor Day Foundation, the US Forest Service and the National Association of State Foresters, the award recognizes Myrtle Beach’s efforts to protect and preserve its urban forest.

Grants received in Fiscal Year 2016-17

The City of Myrtle Beach received more than $200,000 in grants last year for projects, from planting trees to Savannah’s Playground. A short list includes $100,000 from the state for restrooms at Savannah’s Playground, $12,500 from CSX Railroad for two tree-planting projects, $6,500 from TD Bank for new trees at US 501 and Third Avenue South and $5,000 from Palmetto Pride for the community garden at Grand Park.

The city also received $50,000 from the National Association of Realtors and Coastal Carolinas Association of Realtors for a walkability audit of Kings Highway.

Myrtle Beach also was one of only five cities selected for a sustainability program from the Environmental Protection Agency.

Finally, the Vinings on Farrow Parkway paid for an adjacent driveway connection to the new outdoor classroom at the Grand Park linear extension, near the International Technology and Aerospace Park.

Crews install a 36-inch valve at the Fifth Avenue South sewer pump station.

Smile! You’re on camera...

Public safety was the top priority last fiscal year, and it remains the top priority for the current 2017-18 budget year. Technology is one way of making better use of limited resources, with very positive results.

Myrtle Beach currently operates nearly 800 surveillance cameras on Ocean Boulevard and elsewhere, including most parks and major intersections throughout the city, for your safety. The camera system is complemented by automated license plate readers (LPRs) which were installed during the 2016-17 fiscal year at the entrances to the city limits.

The LPRs automatically capture and process license plate numbers through the State Law Enforcement Division system. Stolen vehicles and other criminal violations are returned quickly. Scofflaws, beware.

The Myrtle Beach City Council also extended the juvenile curfew by one hour, earlier this year. Young people who are 17 and under may not be out in public between 12:00 and 6:00 a.m. Exceptions exist for school, work and emergencies, as well as when accompanied by a parent or guardian.

The curfew’s goal is to keep kids safe and encourage parents to be responsible for their children’s whereabouts. By the way, parents can be charged under the curfew ordinance if their children are in violation.

What do you get for your money?

When all regular property taxes, fees and service charges were considered, a typical residential household in the City of Myrtle Beach paid an estimated $122.49 per month for city services in 2016-17. Included are property taxes on a house valued at $250,000 and two automobiles valued at $28,000, along with monthly fees for 7,500 gallons of water, solid waste services and the stormwater fee. When all regular property taxes, fees and service charges were considered, a typical household in the City of Myrtle Beach paid an estimated $122.49 per month for city services in 2016-17. Included are property taxes on a house valued at $250,000 and two automobiles valued at $28,000, along with monthly fees for 7,500 gallons of water, solid waste services and the stormwater fee.

Note that the cost per month is about the same or less than a typical electric power bill or the cost of telephone, cable and internet service for most homes. And that’s before calculating the 80-percent property tax credit for owner-occupied residential property. So, what does that $122 per month buy? Here’s a short list of what you get for your money.

Value for your dollars

ISO 1 fire protection; 24-hour EMS response; hazardous material response; 24-hour police protection; traffic enforcement; criminal investigation; crime prevention programs; school resource officers; street construction and maintenance; traffic signals and street lights; street sweeping; litter pick-up; recycling; stormwater drainage system maintenance and improvement; parks; playgrounds; recreation facilities and programs; community planning; zoning and development review; code enforcement and construction services; municipal court; various economic development services; street tree plantings and maintenance; and all municipal management, support and legislative services.

New LED lights shine bright

Thanks to fast work by Santee Cooper, the City of Myrtle Beach has 222 new LED street lights on Ocean Boulevard and second-row streets, between Eighth Avenue North and 29th Avenue South. The utility acted quickly on a request by the city to upgrade street lights in that area for better visibility.

As shown in the photo above, an LED light is noticeably brighter than a traditional street light. The light at left is one of the new LED fixtures. The light at left is one of the older models. The difference in brightness is remarkable.

The increased lighting is just one additional step the city has taken to ensure the public’s safety on Ocean Boulevard and elsewhere.

Sign up now for new calling feature

The Myrtle Beach Police Department has added a new tool to instantly reach residents of the city about special events or emergency situations.

Hyper-Reach allows participants to receive community news alerts via text message, phone call or email. This is a new service, available to Myrtle Beach residents only.

To receive notifications, simply sign up. Go to http://hyper-reach.com/smyrtlebeachsignupt.html.