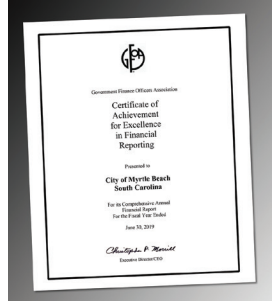


Financial team honored for 32nd year of reporting excellence

For the 32nd consecutive year, Myrtle Beach's finance team has received the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting from the Government Finance Officers Association.

"The Certificate is the highest form of recognition in the area of governmental accounting and financial reporting, and the attainment represents a significant accomplishment by a government and its management," according to the GFOA.



A public accounting firm audits the city's books each year according to standards set by the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants and the Governmental Accounting Standards Board. The auditors consistently have said that Myrtle Beach's financial statements represent the city's financial condition in a manner that is fair in all material respects, known as an "unqualified opinion."

To receive the Certificate of Achievement, Myrtle Beach's Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR) has been judged by an impartial panel to meet the GFOA's highest standards.

Myrtle Beach has Council-Manager form of government

Myrtle Beach city voters adopted the Council-Manager form of government in 1973 by a four-to-one margin. City Council is the legislative body, setting policy and direction for municipal government.

A professional manager is appointed by Council and serves as the chief executive and administrative officer for the city. The city manager administers the daily operations through the executive staff and city department heads.

Council is composed of a mayor who serves as the presiding officer and six members. All seven are elected at-large to four-year terms in staggered, biennial elections. All seven are non-partisan, meaning they do not seek office under any party affiliation.

The City of Myrtle Beach is both a public agency and a multi-million dollar corporation. The budget for fiscal year 2020-21 totals \$193.7 million, down \$7.8 million from the previous year.

South Carolina requires that local governments adopt balanced budgets, providing sufficient revenues and other financing sources to offset expenditures authorized for the fiscal period. Myrtle Beach has such a balanced budget.



Use these handy phone numbers for Myrtle Beach facilities and services

Main Number	843-918-1000
Animal Control	843-918-1382
Business License	843-918-1200
Construction Services	843-918-1111
Chapin Memorial Library	843-918-1275
Clerk of Court	843-918-1356
Crabtree Memorial Gym	843-918-2355
Crime Prevention Officer	843-918-1806
Fire Administration	843-918-1192
General Robert H. Reed Rec. Center	843-918-2380
Mary C. Canty Recreation Center	843-918-1465
Myrtle Beach City Hall	843-918-1012
Tennis Center	843-918-2440
Neighborhood Services	843-918-1062
Parks and Recreation	843-918-1188
Pepper Geddings Recreation Center	843-918-2280
Police (Non-Emergency)	843-918-1382
Public Works	843-918-2000
Solid Waste	843-918-2160
Utility Billing	843-918-1212
Planning and Zoning	843-918-1050

Sign up for Myrtle Beach's weekly news and events email. The **Friday Fax** provides upcoming meetings and agendas. Send your address to info@cityofmyrtlebeach.com.

PROGRESS REPORT Autumn 2020

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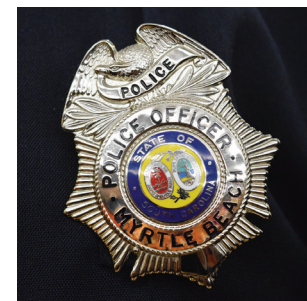
www.cityofmyrtlebeach.com

PROGRESS

REPORT

Annual Report: Fiscal Year 2019-20

COVID-19 complicates budgeting; city still adds 10 police officers



Hiring more police officers and redeveloping the downtown area were among the city's top priorities in FY 2019-20 and again in 2020-21. Public safety took center stage as the Myrtle Beach City Council funded 10 new police officers in both years' budgets.

COVID-19 slowed the economy and forced city staff to find new ways to communicate with customers during the spring and summer of 2020. To cope with an expected 2019-20 budget shortfall, the city imposed hiring and spending freezes, except for critical needs. For fiscal year 2020-21, the city trimmed \$7.8 million from the previous year, resulting in a budget of \$193.7 million.

In FY 2019-20 a three mill tax increase allowed City Council to hire and equip 10 new police officers. With no tax increase in the current fiscal year, a \$1.25 million federal grant funded 10 more officers, for a total of 40 new police positions in the past four years.

As expected, the investment in police personnel and technology has resulted in lower crime rates. The city's violent crime numbers fell 13 percent from 2018 to 2019, a significant achievement.

...see **Budgets shrink**, page 2



Departmental accomplishments detailed in 30-page online report

The City of Myrtle Beach offers a detailed review of the city's many statistics and accomplishments during the past fiscal year in a 30-page document. To learn more about what staff members and departments achieved in FY 2019-20, visit "A Year in Review" in our online Document Center at <https://www.cityofmyrtlebeach.com>.



Mashburn Construction Company is the first to occupy a renovated building downtown, but others are underway, including a brewery and residential spaces fronting Nance Plaza.

Downtown Arts & Innovation District work gets underway

Downtown Myrtle Beach is getting a facelift! Construction is underway on a number of projects in the Arts & Innovation District, just west of Kings Highway.

Mashburn Construction has renovated a historic building that fronts on Nance Plaza. Next door at the former Edwards Five & Dime, work is underway to create a brewery on the ground floor and residential spaces above.

New windows, matching the original ones to retain the building's historic look, have been installed. The business hopes to be producing beer in early 2021.

Utility improvements are underway in the parking area off Broadway Street. These include new water, sewer and stormwater systems to serve potential new businesses.

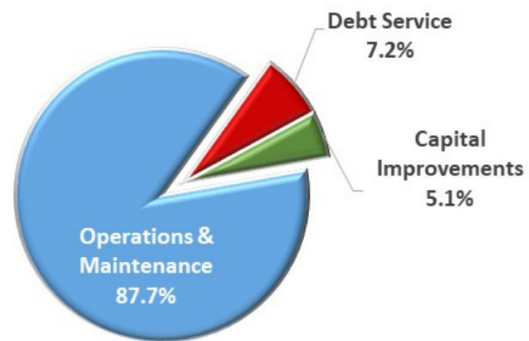
Overhead utilities, such as electricity, cable and telephone, also will be placed underground. Two city-owned buildings will be demolished to provide greater access and additional parking.

...see **Downtown**, page 3



<https://www.facebook.com/myrtlebeachcitygovernment>

FY20 Resource Allocation by Major Category



Budgets shrink due to COVID-19 realities

...continued from page 1

In addition to 10 new police officers, the FY 2019-20 budget included eight new solid waste positions to improve service and keep up with residential growth. Six positions allowed the city to add an extra full crew for daily service routes. The other two were for code enforcement.

The FY 2019-20 budget featured \$7.9 million in new capital improvement projects. For 2020-21, the city is proceeding with a new Solid Waste Transfer Station, with construction beginning late this year.

Water and sewer rates increased slightly during FY 2019-20 due to higher wholesale costs from Grand Strand Water and Sewer Authority. For a typical family using 7,500 gallons of water a month, the 7.0 percent increase resulted in an extra \$2.90 per month.

For the current fiscal year, both water and sewer rates and property tax rates are unchanged. And with no increase, the property tax rate remains at 78.9 mills.

2019-20 awards and recognitions

◆ The Myrtle Beach Fire Department won the “**Ricard S. Campbell Award for Excellence in Public Education**” for the ninth consecutive year. The award is presented by the South Carolina Association of Fire Chiefs.

◆ The city’s Financial Management & Reporting Department received its 32nd annual “**Certificate for Excellence in Financial Reporting**” from the Government Finance Officers Association for the city’s Comprehensive Annual Financial Report for 2018-19.

◆ The Youth Sports Division of the Parks, Recreation & Sports Tourism Department again was named “**Athletic Department of the Year**” by the South Carolina Parks and Recreation Association.

◆ City of Myrtle Beach Risk Manager Val Rosser won the “**Risk Professional of the Year Award**” from the South Carolina Public Risk Management Association.

◆ The City of Myrtle Beach received its 23rd 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 efforts to protect and preserve our urban forest.



The Myrtle Beach Police Department’s Real Time Crime Unit monitors more than 1,000 live video cameras keeping watch over streets, intersections and other public spaces throughout the city.

Myrtle Beach, by the numbers

The City of Myrtle Beach has coped with health and economic effects of COVID-19 during the past year, in many of the same ways as everyone else. Safety precautions significantly affected the local economy. Even so, city staff still found ways to help the public and provide that “first in service” experience. Here are a few statistics about city services during the 2019-20 fiscal year.

- ◆ Issued 491 new single-family residence permits and 17 new commercial building permits.
- ◆ Issued 6,837 building permits of all kinds with a total value of \$355,405,763.
- ◆ Performed 16,338 building inspections and handled 650 property maintenance cases.
- ◆ Received 7,283 job applications to fill 100 fulltime and 197 part-time positions.
- ◆ Hosted 287 events and 450,000 people at the Myrtle Beach Convention Center during the eight months before COVID-19.
- ◆ Mailed 10,846 business license renewals.
- ◆ Handled 24,223 municipal court cases.
- ◆ Answered 125,055 calls for police service and 14,347 calls for fire and/or medical service.
- ◆ Investigated 2,684 motor vehicle collisions and made 396 arrests for impaired driving.
- ◆ Processed 38.5 million license plate tags resulting in 133,116 alerts with the city’s Automated License Plate Readers, or ALPRs.
- ◆ Increased the number of video cameras keeping an eye on public spaces throughout the city to 1,009.
- ◆ Collected more than 476 pounds of unneeded or outdated prescription drugs through the drop-off collection box.
- ◆ Collected and disposed of 55,900,000 pounds of solid waste.
- ◆ Responded to 408 requests for access to public documents under the South Carolina Freedom of Information Act
- ◆ Annexed 11.25 acres and subdivided 393 acres.
- ◆ Conducted the 38th Citizens Police Academy, the second Citizens Fire Academy and the fifth MyBeach 101 class.
- ◆ Received customer contributions to Remembering Animals in Need (R.A.I.N.) totaling \$45,060 during the year to support the Grand Strand Humane Society.
- ◆ Tagged 554 derelect or abandoned vehicles.
- ◆ Issued 75 swimming pool construction permits.

Downtown projects will transform space

...continued from page 1

Six buildings on Ninth Avenue North also have been prepared for future work. Three of those will be restored to their original historic character and facade design.

The building at 509 Ninth Avenue North will become a co-work space for entrepreneurs and start-ups, partially funded by a \$125,000 grant from HTC. It will be home to eMYRge.

The next few months should bring more signs of progress. The city and Coastal Carolina University are collaborating on plans for a small performing arts center on Main Street. Architectural designs are well underway.



New, historically accurate windows have been installed in the former Edwards Five & Dime. Second floor residential spaces there will have quite a view above an improved Nance Plaza.

2020 Solid Waste Schedule

Veterans Day Week (November 9-13)
Regular Monday-through-Thursday collection schedule.

Thanksgiving Week (November 23-27)
Service on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday. No service on Thursday.



City Council welcomes your feedback.
Do you have something to share?
Send your email message to Council at dearcitycouncil@cityofmyrtlebeach.com.



The Solid Waste Division’s Christopher Campbell gives a big “thumbs up” as he completes his daily routes.

portion of the budget. For the current 2020-21 fiscal year, the TDF provides a 76 percent credit toward city property taxes. For a home with an assessed value of \$250,000, that’s a savings of \$600 per year.

What do you get for your money as a resident?

When all regular property taxes, fees and monthly service charges were considered, the typical residential household in the City of Myrtle Beach paid an estimated \$133 per month for city services in 2019-20.

Included in these amounts 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, monthly curbside solid waste services and the stormwater fee.

Note that the cost per month of all city services is about the same as a typical electric power bill or the cost of telephone, cable and internet service for most homes. And that’s *before* calculating the TDF property tax credit for owner-occupied residential property.

Owner-occupied homes continue to receive a credit from the Tourism Development Fee for the operational