Taxes remain flat in 2023-24 after boost in 2022 for police

Myrtle Beach’s total budget for Fiscal Year 2023-24 is $358.2 million, achieved without a property tax increase. The city’s ad valorem tax rate remained stable in the new year, although some fees did increase beginning July 1.

The previous year’s budget of $292 million saw a 10 mill tax increase to fund 25 new police officers and 22 other positions to accommodate growth. Still, Myrtle Beach’s property taxes are among the lowest in the state.

This year, the property tax rate remains unchanged at 88.9 mills, and owner-occupied homes continue to receive the 67.45 percent credit on their taxes. That’s $600 per year in savings on a home valued at $250,000, courtesy of the Tourism Development Fee.

Infrastructure work begins for A&I District

Work is underway on a $34 million infrastructure project for Myrtle Beach’s Arts & Innovation District. The project lays the groundwork for transformation into a lively destination for both residents and visitors.

You won’t see much yet, as the first two projects are a stormwater pond off Balsam Street and a sewer pump station on Sixth Avenue North. The public is likely to notice limited road work and detours later this fall, when underground utility work begins.

The four-year scope of work covers new streetscapes, underground utilities and the realignment of Oak Street as the throughway, replacing Broadway Street. Also included in construction are new water and sewer lines and stormwater systems to handle growth.

**Dear City Council...**

City Council wants to hear from you! We created an email address specifically to encourage public input to the Myrtle Beach City Council. Send your email message directly to Council at dearcitycouncil@cityofmyrtlebeach.com.

**PROGRESS REPORT**

**Autumn 2023**

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Michael Chestnut, Mayor Pro Tem
Jackie Hatley
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**Contact Information**

Community Support Team
Myrtle Beach Fire Department

- opioid@myrtlebeachfire.com
- 843-918-1600
- 801-4th Street
Myrtle Beach, SC 29577

**Annual Report: Fiscal Year 2022-23**

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...see A & I Work, page 3

**Property Tax Comparison**

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**Sign up for the weekly Friday Fax email to receive meetings and agendas for the coming week, along with city-related news and events. Visit http://epurl.com/iduxX to put your address on the Friday Fax list. Like and visit our Facebook page, too: www.facebook.com/myrtlebeachcitygovernment.**

**Infrastructure work begins for A&I District**

The former Broadway movie house and two retail stores will become a 300-seat theater on Main Street in the A&I District as part of Myrtle Beach’s Downtown Master Plan.

Opioid program offers help for addiction in Myrtle Beach

Are you addicted to opioids, or do you know someone who is struggling with substance use? The Myrtle Beach Fire Department’s Opioid Response Program can help.

Thanks to opioid settlement funds, the city has a community support team that reaches out to people in need. An opioid program coordinator and two certified peer support specialists are available to help individuals struggling with substance use.

The support team uses three pathways to connect with those in need. The first is through self-referral. The staff accepts contact from any community member who struggles with substance use. The second pathway is through community response, where our team responds in real time with Myrtle Beach’s first responders to suspected overdose calls.

The third pathway is post-overdose outreach. With assistance from the Police Department, the support team initiates home visits to individuals who have survived a suspected overdose.

Through empathy, compassion and informational guidance, the team’s mission is to help break the cycle of addiction. With “lived experience,” two certified peer support specialists can meet you where you are to help start your chosen path to recovery.

After a brief assessment, the team provides support and guidance and can help make a connection to care that you feel is most appropriate. Loved ones who support someone struggling with substance use often can benefit from support, too.

The team provides informational guidance and connections to community resources, including family-centered mutual aid groups and counseling services.

For more information, email opioids@cityofmyrtlebeach.com or call 843-918-1600. See the detailed brochure above for direct contacts for each team member.

https://www.facebook.com/myrtlebeachcitygovernment

14286717_10830-INS
FY 2022-23 capital projects improved public spaces

During the fiscal year which ended June 30, 2023, the City of Myrtle Beach budgeted $62.5 million for new capital projects. The total includes roads, utilities, a downtown theater, building maintenance and more, but last year’s work was most visible in our parks, playgrounds and other public spaces, as the following list illustrates.

- Installed new modular restrooms at Valor Memorial Garden and Midway Memorial Park.
- Replaced dune walkovers damaged by Hurricane Ian, in addition to regular crossover replacements each winter.
- Replaced field turf on three fields at Grand Park Complex.
- Created New Town Bark Park, with separate areas for large and small dogs.
- Created Swashbuckler Disc Golf Course at Withers Swash.
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Myrtle Beach Awards and Recognitions

- Charlie’s Place was named to the Beach Music Hall of Fame during the 28th annual Beach Music Awards Ceremony in November 2022. The Hall of Fame is for groups and individuals who promote and preserve Beach Music.
- The City of Myrtle Beach received its 26th annual Tree City USA Award in December 2022. Sponsored by the National Arbor Day Foundation, the US Forest Service and the National Association of State Foresters, the Tree City USA award recognizes efforts to protect and preserve Myrtle Beach’s urban forest.

Water & Sewer Rate Comparison

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rate Type</th>
<th>FY 2021-22</th>
<th>FY 2022-23</th>
<th>Percent Change</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Residential</td>
<td>$29.45</td>
<td>$31.25</td>
<td>6.12%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Commercial</td>
<td>$54.90</td>
<td>$59.25</td>
<td>8.33%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Industrial</td>
<td>$149.90</td>
<td>$163.75</td>
<td>9.41%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Myrtle Beach’s water and sewer rates compare favorably with other jurisdictions’ rates. These totals include our blended 4.6 percent rate increase, which took effect this fiscal year.

WWII Memorial rising

A World War II Memorial is taking shape at Warbird Park. The 2,000-square-foot project honors the men and women of the “greatest generation” for defending freedom globally. It also recognizes Myrtle Beach’s role in the war effort from 1941-1947, when the city hosted the Myrtle Beach Army Air Field.

Dedication ceremonies for the completed memorial will be held in early November 2023.

Hours extended at Jake Abraham Transfer Station

Residential customers now have greater access to the Jake Abraham Solid Waste Transfer Station. Hang tags shown above appeared on solid waste pelicans to announce the change. Myrtle Beach residents may use the transfer station at 3211 Mr. Joe White Avenue from 3:00 to 6:00 p.m., Tuesday through Friday, and from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. on Saturdays.

This allows city residents more time to drop off recyclables, bulky junk, yard waste and similar items on their own schedule, rather than waiting for weekly pickup at curbside.

You must provide proof of residency to use the transfer station. Just show your current utility bill and driver’s license or parking decal.

Previously, the transfer station was open to the public only on Friday. For more information about Solid Waste services, call 843-918-2160.

Video: Jake Abraham Transfer Station Hours Extended

A&I work creates new spaces and opportunities downtown

...continued from page 1

Streets and sidewalks will be transformed, too, for greater walkability and multimodal uses. Final paving surfaces throughout the district are expected in Spring 2026.

The realignment of US 501 will occur simultaneously with this work, beginning in early 2024. US 501’s straightening is a RIDE III project, managed by the SC Department of Transportation.

The Arts & Innovation District will include city offices, a museum or two, a 300-seat theater and a new city park for events and activities. Vibrant destinations will generate additional customers to support new dining, retail, living and entertainment options.

Hear local history first-hand from our citizens who lived it

Myrtle Beach’s oral history series, “Through the Lens of Time,” is back for a second year with a new lineup of local guest speakers. Here’s your chance to learn about Myrtle Beach’s early days from the people who lived through them.

Former City Council member Wayne Gray kicked off the fall program in September with a packed house at Chapin Memorial Library. He kept the audience spellbound for 90 minutes.

The history program features one speaker per month, through May 2024. See the speakers’ names and dates, below.

All presentations are at 2:00 p.m. on a Wednesday at Chapin Memorial Library. The program is free, of course.

...continued from page 1

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