

POSTAL  
CUSTOMER  
PRESORTED  
STANDARD  
US POSTAGE PAID  
GEORGETOWN, SC  
PERMIT NO. 125  
ECR WSS

# The Post and Courier

WINNER OF THE PULITZER PRIZE FOR PUBLIC SERVICE

MYRTLE BEACH

Wednesday, December 22, 2021

SERVING GEORGETOWN AND MYRTLE BEACH

\$2.00

## Where Horry County's \$6M surplus could go

Proposed breakdown of funds includes hospitality projects, infrastructure improvements, emergency services, hiring

BY ALEX BRIZEE  
abrizee@postandcourier.com

CONWAY — As Horry County heads into 2022, county leaders found themselves with roughly \$6 million in leftover funding that they plan to allocate to alleviate the needs of South Carolina's fastest-growing county.

Horry County's leaders are looking to put the budget surplus towards resurfacing roads, hiring more county employees,

updating the impact fee study and purchasing an armored police vehicle.

The proposed ordinance will need approval via three readings from county council, with the first reading on Dec. 14.

This is how the planned funding breaks down:

- \$928,550 towards additional hospitality projects.
- \$906,854 towards a one-time FEMA match.
- \$150,000 towards updating

the county's impact fee study.

- \$400,000 towards a mobile fuel storage to be used during emergencies.
- \$300,000 towards an armored police vehicle.

- \$379,267 towards the capital improvement reserves due to the anticipated increase of project costs.

- \$2,080,000 towards county roads to resurface, strip and improve their safety.
- \$1,100,000 towards hiring



FILE/ANDREW J. WHITAKER/STAFF

The Horry County Government and Justice Center.

three building permit inspectors, four plan reviewers, one assistant zoning administrator, and two civil engineers.

- \$249,911 towards the Department of Airports to hire two new positions: director of finance and a systems administrator.

Additionally, Horry County is looking to put \$60,000 towards lobbying and consulting services for a number of reasons including road maintenance fees which have come under fire recently due to an S.C. Supreme

Please see **SURPLUS**, Page A6

## Myrtle Beach to contribute annually to Interstate 73

BY ALEX BRIZEE  
abrizee@postandcourier.com

MYRTLE BEACH — Myrtle Beach officials voted unanimously on Dec. 14 to fund a portion of the long-awaited Interstate 73.

I-73, which would connect Myrtle Beach to Interstate 95 and stretch up to Michigan, has been a point of conversation for the last 20-plus years, but recently resurfaced when Gov. Henry McMaster stated in September he is seeking a \$300 million commitment from the state government as a part of \$1.6 billion plan to build the long-promised highway.

Myrtle Beach City Council plans to commit \$4.2 million a year for up to 30 years to the costly interstate, following North Myrtle Beach, which committed \$1.7 million a year on Dec. 6, according to multiple news outlets. The money would come from the city's hospitality fee.

"This can change the face of Horry County," Councilman Gregg Smith said. "And I'm not willing to sit back and wait on somebody else to do it — we've got to step up here today and say, 'We're in for this and we're going to support it.'"

Though the beach-side municipalities are the first to contribute, Horry County Council proposed and shot down a similar resolution in October, to put up to \$4.2 million annually for 30 years or \$126 million total towards the construc-

tion of the proposed interstate.

Along with local officials, McMaster and U.S. Sen. Lindsey Graham, who seeks \$15 million for I-73, have made commitments to fund the project, but they do not have the power by themselves to fund the projects.

After the unanimous vote, state Rep. Case Brittain, R-Myrtle Beach, applauded both Bethune and North Myrtle Beach Mayor Marilyn Hatley along with their respective council members for leading for the way, in a news release.

Adding, "While we have more work to do to get I-73 built, we are forging ahead, and I look forward to working with my colleagues in Columbia to take this up at the state level."

McMaster's three-tiered funding approach — which would include funding from local, state and federal leaders — will not receive the green light for the state's portion, \$795 million, unless the General Assembly approves the funding in the coming months.

"The city of Myrtle Beach has been working with Horry County and with the other municipalities, as well as with the (Myrtle Beach Area Chamber of Commerce) and our state representatives to get to a point where we can get I-73 back in action," Mayor Brenda Bethune said during the Dec. 14 meeting.

Please see **I-73**, Page A3



FILE/STAFF

The proposed interstate would connect Myrtle Beach to Interstate 95, which runs from Miami to Canada and is the main interstate up the Eastern Seaboard.

### Inside

**HORRY**  
Winter Wonderland at the Beach gets \$400K. **A3**

**LOCAL**  
City plans include water projects. **GT1**

**BUSINESS**  
Record travelers land in Myrtle Beach. **A7**

**SPORTS**  
Chanticleers claim first bowl win. **GT4**

## Myrtle Beach purchases 10 downtown properties

'It's a big day': \$15M redevelopment deal to curb 'nuisance' hotels

BY ALEX BRIZEE  
abrizee@postandcourier.com

MYRTLE BEACH — Myrtle Beach officials took a major step towards the redevelopment of downtown earlier this week.

City council voted unanimously Dec. 14 to purchase 10 parcels of

land east of Kings Highway between Sixth and Eighth avenues North in a \$15 million deal, which will be used help revitalize downtown. What city officials plan to use each parcel for specifically is unclear at this time.

All 10 parcels were for sale, according to the city.

"This quite literally was an oppor-

tunity too good to pass up," Assistant City Manager Brian Tucker said during the meeting. "If we're serious about downtown redevelopment, we could not let this opportunity pass us by."

Of the 10 parcels, seven are hotels or motels, four of which — the Oasis Motel, the Fountainbleau Inn, the Sea

Palms and the Sea Nymph — all had a history of receiving high-police call volumes for various criminal allegations. Most of the motels involved in the sale are closed.

Myrtle Beach officials have been focused on curbing hotels that they say have been nuisances, a move that could help with a makeover along the ocean.

Please see **PROPERTIES**, Page A6



Rain likely.  
High 58. Low 33.  
Complete 5-day  
forecast. **A2**

Bridge ..... A9  
Business ..... A4  
Classifieds ..... GT7

Comics ..... A8-9  
Crossword ..... A8  
Editorials ..... A7

Obituaries ..... GT6  
Sports ..... GT4  
Sudoku ..... A6

