

AN EMERGENCY ORDINANCE
REQUIRING INDIVIDUALS TO WEAR FACE COVERINGS IN CERTAIN
CIRCUMSTANCES, AND MATTERS RELATED THERETO

WHEREAS, according to the Centers for Disease Control (the “CDC”), Novel Coronavirus Disease 2019 (“COVID-19”) is a severe acute respiratory illness that can spread among humans through respiratory transmission; and

WHEREAS, the disease COVID-19 presents a public health concern that requires extraordinary protective measures and vigilance; and

WHEREAS, on March 11, 2020, the World Health Organization declared a world-wide pandemic; and

WHEREAS, on March 13, 2020, the President of the United States declared a National Emergency for the United States and its territories in an effort to reduce the spread of the virus; and

WHEREAS, on March 13, 2020, the governor of the State of South Carolina, Henry McMaster, declared a state of emergency for the State of South Carolina; and

WHEREAS, COVID-19 has spread across the state with the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (“SCDHEC”) confirming the localized person-to-person spread of COVID-19 in South Carolina, which indicates a significant risk of exposure and infection and creating an extreme public health risk; and

WHEREAS, City Council finds that COVID-19 continues to present an increasing danger to the health, safety and welfare of the public; and

WHEREAS, the CDC and SCDHEC advise the use of cloth face coverings to slow the spread of COVID-19, and

WHEREAS, taking measures to control outbreaks minimizes the risk to the public, maintains the health and safety of the City’s residents, and limits the spread of infection in our communities and within the healthcare delivery system; and

WHEREAS, S.C. Code Ann. 5-7-250 empowers Council to enact emergency ordinances affecting life, health, safety, or property; and

WHEREAS, the CDC advises that a significant portion of individuals with coronavirus lack symptoms (“asymptomatic”) and that even those who eventually develop symptoms (“pre-symptomatic”) can transmit the virus to others before showing symptoms. This means that the virus can spread between people interacting in close proximity – for example, speaking, coughing, or sneezing – even if those people are not exhibiting symptoms; and

WHEREAS, the CDC recommends wearing cloth face coverings in public settings where other social distancing measures are difficult to maintain in order to slow the spread of the virus; and

WHEREAS, the CDC recommends simple cloth face coverings for the general population and not surgical masks or N-95 respirators because these are critical supplies that must continue to be reserved for healthcare workers and other medical first responders; and

WHEREAS, City Council finds it is in the best interest of public health, safety and the welfare of residents, workers, and visitors to North Myrtle Beach to require suitable face coverings in certain public locations to slow the spread of COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, City Council finds the inconvenience of an ordinance requiring the use of cloth face coverings or other suitable face coverings is minimal compared to the risk to the health, safety and welfare of the community were no such rule imposed; and

WHEREAS, City Council finds implementation of this ordinance is necessary for the preservation of the health, safety and welfare of the community; and

WHEREAS, in light of the foregoing, City Council deems it proper and necessary to adopt this Emergency Ordinance to require (a) patrons of all retail businesses, including but not limited to grocery stores and pharmacies; and businesses where personal services are dispensed including but not limited to hair and/or nail salons, barber shops and tattoo parlors, to wear face coverings while inside the above referenced establishments and to require (b) the employees of all restaurants; retail establishments, including but not limited to grocery stores and pharmacies; and any business where personal services are being dispensed including but not limited to hair and/or nail salons, barber shops and tattoo parlors, to wear face coverings at all times while having face to face interaction with the public.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NORTH MYRTLE BEACH, SOUTH CAROLINA:

SECTION 1. Findings. The above recitals are adopted by City Council as legislative findings.

1. All persons entering any retail business, including but not limited to grocery stores and pharmacies and any business where personal services are dispensed including but not limited to hair and/or nail salons, barber shops and tattoo parlors in the City must wear a face covering while inside the establishment. In the event that the face covering interferes with the personal service provided, such as a haircut, the face covering can be removed while the personal service is being dispensed. The business shall not have responsibility for enforcing this requirement, but shall post conspicuous signage at all entrances informing its patrons of the requirements of this section.
2. All restaurants; retail establishments including but not limited to, grocery stores pharmacies; businesses providing personal services including but not limited to hair and nail salons, barber shops and tattoo parlors; all government offices in the City must

require their employees to wear a face covering at all times while having face to face interaction with the public.

3. Exemptions from this Ordinance: Any person who is unable to safely wear a face covering due to age, an underlying health condition, or is unable to remove the face covering without assistance of others; any person whose religious beliefs prevents them from wearing a face covering.

4. This Ordinance shall be enforced by a City code compliance official or law enforcement officer.

5. A person who fails to comply with Section 1 of this Ordinance shall be guilty of a civil infraction, punishable by a fine of not more than \$25.00.

6. A person who fails to comply with Section 2 of this Ordinance shall be guilty of a civil infraction, punishable by a fine of not more than \$100.00. Each day of a continuing violation of this Ordinance shall be considered a separate and distinct offense.

7. The City recommends that all restaurants within the City participate in the Palmetto Priority program established by the SC Restaurant and Lodging Association to provide a clean and safe environment for their staff and customers.

8. This Emergency Ordinance shall take effect at 12:00 pm on July 2, 2020 and may be terminated by the issuance of another ordinance or shall automatically expire on the 61st day after enactment, whichever date is earlier.

DONE, RATIFIED AND PASSED, THIS 30 DAY OF June, 2020.

ATTEST:

Alison K. Hallbreath
City Clerk

Marilyn Hatley
Mayor Marilyn Hatley

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

City Attorney

REVIEWED:

[Signature]
City Manager

ORDINANCE: 20-17