From:	A. A. Dunham, MA
To:	Brenda Bethune; Gregg Smith; Jackie Hatley; Mike Chestnut; Mike Lowder; Philip Render; jkrajc@cityofmyrtlebeach.com
Subject:	[External]NMB plans to increase mills
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Here is an interesting article from the Herald from the 4th of June. My interjections are in parenthesis. ( )

Says in part, "North Myrtle Beach has the lowest tax rate of all county municipalities, at 37.1 mils, (MB mills are 78.9) but was planning an 8-mil tax increase for the next fiscal year to pay off (PAY OFF) the 96-acre addition to the North Myrtle Beach Park and Sports Complex, as well as a menu of exciting new entertainment features.

Projects being discussed included seven new soccer fields, six new ballfields and a batting cage, shuffleboard and bocce ball spaces, a splash pad with several large waterslides and a family entertainment center to house a proposed 56-piece arcade and interactive obstacle course. (Oh no. Are these for the benefit of residents or to put "heads on beds"? If it is to grow tourism they are falling in line with MB's bad policy.)

While the tax increase is still in the works to pay off the land, Hatley said next year's budget won't include the expensive new features in the sports complex and other infrastructure projects the city wanted to start working on, like an ocean outfall at 18th Avenue North. That outfall was projected to cost $9.5 million in FY 2021, and another $4.5 million the two years after. (MB stopped working on outfalls? Is not implementing the consultant's plan? For example, one recommendation from the consultant was for pond edges to not be cut to help filter water. Seems like that could be implemented at no cost.) Fewer tourists means a drop in tax revenue, which equates to a smaller city budget. Before COVID-19, the city was projecting to spend more than $119 million.

"Our stormwater drainage project is going to be put on hold, our ocean outfall is going to be put on hold, our underground utilities that we were planning on starting in our Cherry Grove area is going to be put on hold," Hatley said. "We've got to see what kind of income we're going to have coming in over the next three months."

The city furloughed over 200 employees, Hatley said, but it didn't touch public safety. .."

Blessings, Ann

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