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1 **2021-51 (1<sup>ST</sup> READING): TO AMEND ZONING CODE SECTION 1407.C AND TO**  
2 **ADD NEW SECTION 1501.VV TO ALLOW INDOOR AXE THROWING AS A**  
3 **CONDITIONAL USE IN THE HC2 (HIGHWAY COMMERCIAL) AND LM (LIGHT**  
4 **MANUFACTURING) ZONING DISTRICTS**

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5 **Applicant/Purpose:** David Wilhelm (applicant) / to amend the Zoning Code to allow axe throwing  
6 as a conditional use.

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8 **Brief:**

- 9 • Myrtle Beach does not allow commercial axe throwing in any zoning district.
- 10 • Over the past several year's axe throwing has become a popular recreational activity,  
11 competitive sport and team building activity for some businesses.
- 12 • The World Axe Throwing League was formed in 2017 to organize international  
13 competition.
- 14 • Since 2018 the City has allowed axe throwing during special events with no perceived  
15 issues. Most recently at the Carolina Country Music Festival.
- 16 • In 2018 Planning Commission recommended denial of *outdoor* facilities in the  
17 Amusement District (A) in 2018. City Council denied Ordinance 2018-45 July 10, 2018.
- 18 • In 2018 Planning Commission recommended denial of Indoor facilities in the Highway  
19 Commercial Districts (HC1 & HC2). City Council denied ordinance 2018-53 on  
20 8/14/2018.
- 21 • Planning Commission recommends approval (5-1) with conditions (11.16.21):
  - 22 ○ Allow the use in the HC2 and LM districts, not the HC1 as originally requested
  - 23 ○ No less than 50% of the gross square footage is designated for axe-throwing  
24 operations
  - 25 ○ The applicant consented to the modifications

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27 **Issues:**

- 28 • In 2018 axe throwing as a commercial enterprise was new to Myrtle Beach. It was unclear  
29 at the time if axe throwing was a fad, or would become a trend.
- 30 • Since 2018 the industry nationwide has recognized safety concerns, having formed  
31 operational and safety standards adopted by many establishments.

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33 **Public Notification:** Agenda published and posted. Legal ad ran in the Myrtle Beach Herald.

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35 **Alternatives:**

- 36 • Modify or deny the proposed ordinance.

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38 **Financial Impact:** The City could see a modest increase in business licenses and tourist related  
39 taxes and fees.

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41 **Manager's Recommendation:**

- 42 • I recommend 1<sup>st</sup> reading (12.14.21)

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44 **Attachment(s):** modified ordinance, staff report

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CITY OF MYRTLE BEACH  
COUNTY OF HORRY  
STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

TO AMEND ZONING CODE SECTION  
1407.C AND TO ADD NEW SECTION  
1501.VV TO ALLOW INDOOR AXE  
THROWING AS A CONDITIONAL USE IN  
THE HC2 (HIGHWAY COMMERCIAL)  
AND LM (LIGHT MANUFACTURING)  
ZONING DISTRICTS

IT IS HEREBY ORDAINED that the Myrtle Beach Code of Ordinances, Appendix A Zoning, Section 1407.C Permitted Uses is amended as follows:

Use Category and Type	HC2	LM	Additional Regulations
<b>Commercial and Office Uses</b>			
Axe throwing, indoor	C	C	1501.VV

IT IS HEREBY FURTHER ORDAINED that the Myrtle Beach Code of Ordinances, Appendix A Zoning, Section 1501 Conditional Uses is amended as follows:

1501.VV. Indoor Axe Throwing provided that:

1. Facilities shall have individual throwing lanes only, built to the following standards:
  - a) Lanes shall be between 5ft and 7ft wide.
  - b) A lane divider wall shall be placed between lanes with a minimum length of 12ft measured from the target.
    - I. The divider wall shall be at least 8ft tall or the height of the ceiling whichever is shorter.
    - II. The divider wall shall be constructed of wood, chain fencing, or other material capable of stopping an axe from entering the adjoining lane.
  - c) A Safety Zone at least 5ft long and the same width as the lane shall be clearly marked beginning 12ft from the target.
2. The back wall surrounding the wood target shall be constructed of wood, chain fencing, or other material capable of stopping an axe from entering the adjoining lane, and shall be designed in such a manner as to absorb the energy from the axe and prevent axes from bouncing back and. Such designs may include heavy rubber suspended and free-floating from a structure.
3. No less than 50% of the gross square footage is designated for axe throwing operations

This ordinance will take effect upon second reading.

\_\_\_\_\_  
BRENDA BETHUNE, MAYOR

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
JENNIFER ADKINS, CITY CLERK

1<sup>st</sup> Reading: 12-14-2021

2<sup>nd</sup> Reading:

**STAFF COMMENTS:**

**City Attorney:** Is aware of Commissioners' enquiries regarding liability, and plans to attend the Public Hearing to answer questions.

**Public Works:** No concerns.

**Planning & Zoning:**

- Conditions need to be enforceable by the city's code enforcement officers.
- Other jurisdictions have allowed axe throwing in warehouse and industrial zones, where establishments have refurbished underutilized heavy-duty buildings. Opportunities exist in the WM District adjacent to the ART District, and in the LM District adjacent to Market Common.
- Additional research was conducted and the cities of North Charleston, Florence, Wilmington and Horry County all consider axe-throwing indoor-amusement. Similar to bowling or billiards and no regulation specific to axe-throwing.
- Code enforcement revisions are included in the attached ordinance.

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Section 403. Findings of Fact Required</b></p>
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In reviewing any petition for a zoning amendment, the Planning Commission shall identify and evaluate all factors relevant to the petition, and shall report its findings in full, along with its recommendations for disposition of the petition, to the City Council. Factors shall include, but shall not be limited to, the following:

- 403.A. Whether or not the requested zoning change is consistent with the Comprehensive Plan or is justified by an error in the original ordinance.
- 403.B. The precedents and the possible effects of such precedents, which might result from approval or denial of the petition.
- 403.C. The capability of the City or other government agencies to provide any services, facilities, or programs that might be required if the petition were approved.
- 403.D. Effect of approval of the petition on the condition or value of property in the City.
- 403.E. Effect of approval of the petition on adopted development plans and policies of the City.

## Other Information

**Jack-Axe** <https://jackaxethrowing.com/Myrtle-beach-location-book-now/>

North Myrtle Beach and South Kings near Myrtle Beach Harley Davidson

**Chucktown Axe-throwing** <https://www.chucktownaxethrowing.com/> North  
Charleston w/Rusty Bull Brewery

**Throw Lumber Jill's** <https://www.throwlumberjills.com/>

Summerville, SC

**World Axe-throwing League** <https://worldaxethrowingleague.com/axe-throwing-rules/>

**Blade & Bull** <https://bladeandbull.com/florence/>

Florence, SC

**Axes & Allies** <https://www.axesandalliesnc.com/>

Wilmington, NC