



December 10, 2018

Dear Mexico Beach Utility Customer,

Today marks two months since Hurricane Michael's unwelcomed visit. While we've made great strides in our City's recovery, much is still left to do. Every single day our city employees leave their own disaster troubles and come to work to take care of the City's disaster troubles. Their dedication is obvious everywhere you look. No one expected us to be this far along after only two months. So when you see a City employee, be kind and remember they are going through this with you and for you.

The following are highlights of our efforts:

Public Utilities

This is your first utility bill since the storm, for services from September 21 2018 through November 20, 2018. If you have concerns or questions please call the number on your bill and we will be happy to assist you.

This past week the City Council voted to bid the more complex repairs to our water and sewer system. This work will involve all remaining repairs to our water and sewer infrastructure. For sewer, the temporary repairs made to get the lift station system up and running will soon move into permanent repairs, including technology upgrades, back-up power, and increased elevation.

Sanitation has returned to regular routes. Trash collection is on Monday and Wednesday. To identify your day please see the street map on the City's website at <http://www.mexicobeachgov.com/pdfs/7262121018033102.pdf>. Remember that trash must be placed in properly sized cans at the street the day of collection.

Parks and Public Spaces

You may have noticed that beach clean-up is already underway and clean-up and repairs of both Under the Palms and Municipal Park are also underway. Very quickly you will begin to see City buildings demolished and those lots cleaned as we continue clearing debris from all public property.

On Friday the Council awarded the long-term contracts for canal cleaning and dredging. This work will begin immediately upon mobilization of those resources.

Let's Talk Trash

To date, we have hauled off 437,224 cubic yards of debris. At ground zero, Mexico Beach had more construction debris than any other area. But if you drive to neighboring cities, you can't argue that we are leading the way with debris removal. The debris field is large and includes heavily wooded areas, but we will get it all cleaned up quicker than anyone thought we could.

As for private property, the City finally received FEMA approval to begin what is referred to as the right-of entry process which will start this week. This means property owners can grant us entry to their property and we will remove the

debris for you. The waiver form along with the process for submitting your request can be found on the City's website under the "news" section.

Currently, we don't have FEMA approval to demolish private uninsured structures but we are working through that request. In the meantime, there are several volunteer groups in town who can do that for you. Please remember, if you have insurance proceeds to demolish and remove demolition debris you cannot push the debris to the right-of-way. It must be removed by your contractor.

Rebuilding and Recovery

Rebuilding and recovery planning will consist of many public meetings and the opportunity for citizen participation every step of the way. By far, the most important step of rebuilding is to determine how owners can rebuild, especially non-conforming structures that were built long before our Land Development Regulations were in place. Along with wind load and flood elevation, non-conforming structure decisions will also include set-backs, lot size, density, and use. All of these issues must be finalized before the building moratorium expires in early February.

Planning and Zoning workshops will begin this evening and continue through early February. Keep an eye on the City's website for meeting notices and agendas. While our space is limited at City Hall, all meetings are recorded and available on the City's website. We also have a conference bridge set up for all of our meetings so you can listen in.

Mexico Beach is scheduled to receive the updated flood plain maps, or as FEMA refers to them "best available" maps by December 21st. The maps are currently in the hands of the Northwest Florida Water Management engineers who will be integrating the data from Hurricane Michael.

On this past Tuesday, the Council awarded the architectural work for rebuilding our 'vertical' infrastructure—all of our destroyed buildings. This effort is a key step in our long-term recovery, a process that will begin just after the first of the year. Other work for recovery include rebuilding the pier, our parks, repairs to the canal, repairs and improvements to the storm water system, boat ramp, sidewalks, signage, landscaping, and lighting. While some may say it is a significant amount of work, I refer to it as a significant opportunity. It is an opportunity to make all the improvements that have been on our wish-list for years, and an opportunity to rebuild more resilient for the next storm.

Wishing you the happiest of holidays and a very Merry Christmas! #mexicobeachstrong



Tanya Castro

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City of Mexico Beach