



City of Mexico Beach

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Weekly Report May 23, 2025



National Don't Fry Day Edition (We've all been there)

**Interim City Administrator
Mell Smigielski**

INTERESTING INFORMATION

As the State government looks at potential legislation, we had a request for information as have other municipalities. Here is what we learned:

Of the 2,685 parcels in Mexico Beach, only 387 are homesteaded. That is approximately just 15%.

The 'just value' of homesteaded property is \$173,857,434. Non-homesteaded residential property has a 'just value' of \$790,037,959. There is a figure of \$115,503,087 for certain residential and nonresidential property that is undefined, but that equates to homesteaded property being just 16% of the total value. I'll let y'all determine the significance of that knowledge.

Thanks to Tammy and Mike for getting the information for us.

UNINTENDED CONSEQUENCES – BEACH VENDING

As you all know, new ordinance #852 states the City Administrator receives beach vending applications, and the City Council approves the applications. Applications received before this holiday weekend will have to wait for City Council approval on June 3. We have one vendor that did beach vending last year but did not get a temporary permit during the cooler months so there was no process to extend the temporary permit until the next City Council meeting. Application is in the process of being made, but the expectation was that the Administrator could approve the application before the weekend. Of course, the business has some chair and umbrella reservations over the Memorial Day weekend. When I told her she had to wait until the June 3rd City Council meeting for approval, it was met with a little disappointment that she would have to cancel some reservations. There is no

method in the ordinance for a temporary permit, so it was best to back off of a temporary permit in light of the action taken by my predecessor (though I do understand there is a big difference between an ice cream vendor and a beach chair vendor). She said she would deal with it all and was not super angry like some people tend to do.

The rest of the Class II permit holders have been notified of the need for a new application. We only have one Class I potential, and we understand that Hector's wife runs that business now? Does anyone have contact information we can use? They don't have a 2025 Occupational License. Would rather get out ahead of their season as opposed to contacting them on the beach after they set up and tell them they must wait until the next Council meeting.

All that being said, this should be a one-time issue as vendors should get permits for next year in January, February or March. Unless they wait until the last minute.

GREASE TRAP

I did speak with Lance Watson, engineer for the Seaside Market, about the May 27th meeting being postponed until June 3rd. He will be in attendance. Also spoke with George Duren about the project.

SMILE – YOU'RE ON CANDID CAMERA

Cameras were being installed yesterday at City Hall.

SUNLAND MOBILE CATERING

The business caters meals to workers at work locations. They only bring food that is pre-ordered, so they don't have food available for others, nor do they set up locations for the general public. Not a bad business model because most workers go to their work site in vans and don't have transportation to get to other food choices. Due to a misunderstanding of our regulations, my predecessor suspended their occupational license for 6 months, which ends on June 13. We kicked around with the idea of giving them a temporary reprieve for 1 month (double secret probation) on June 13 to make sure they operate within guidelines as opposed to complete relaxation of the suspension. Your thoughts are appreciated.

DUNE WALKOVERS

Met with Elizabeth (Anchor), Kimberly (MBCDC) and Mark (PW Director) on location of various walkovers. We are trying to get as much done as we can for as little as we can this year and grow the effort next year. CDC is committed to getting the walkovers ADA compliant as we are. If the City pays for engineering, they will pay for the rest. We are looking at coming off the east side of Sunset Park for that walkover and even explore going over the dune. 7th Street would be reconfigured to add a handicap ramp. We also will attempt to get 5th and 3rd Street done as well. But the plan is to go ahead with the design and bid out the 7th Street walkover to establish costs, then proceed with the others. The bid process will determine how many walkovers we can tackle in this fiscal year.

DUKE ENERGY

The Mayor and I met with Robert Scott Mixon, who is the Senior Public Engagement Manager. The contact will be beneficial to the City as he will assist with inquiries the City may have. As he said, he may not have all the answers, but he will be able to get us to the right people to address any of our issues.

FARMDALE

Meeting next week with the Farmdale developers and our team. We hope to all get on the same page at what is left as they near completion of their horizontal development.

SANITATION ACCIDENT

By now you all have heard of the sanitation accident last weekend concerning a finger. That exposed a need to make some changes. Our Wednesday morning staff meetings with 9 of us are now designated as the safety committee. We will review post accidents, implement training, safety protocols and equipment needs/requirements.

MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND

We have all noticed our tourist population has picked up considerably. The Sheriff's Department and Fire Department are ready as they always are. Public Works will have personnel over the weekend as well to check bathrooms and trash.

CASUNA AND OCEAN PLANTATION

Representatives will attend our June 3rd meeting to begin conversation about the City taking over responsibility for their infrastructure. I'll have more on this in next week's report.

ANCHOR UPDATE

BOAT RAMP

Anchor and Structural Engineer coordinating design drawings. Structural Engineer is putting together a cost estimate for two different structural options for review.

- Option 1: new seawall with tieback system. New tiebacks would mean replacement of the existing sidewalk and retaining wall.
- Option 2: new seawall that is wider/deeper and may eliminate the need for tiebacks. This means the existing retaining wall and portions of sidewalk could remain.

15th ST PEDESTRIAN BRIDGE

Harders wanted the NTP to wait until the Bridge Bros. sent the invoice for the bridge (Julie also sent the invoice to FDOT for their review) and the City sent the check for purchase, however Anchor is going to go ahead and have the NTP issued and if there is a lag in time from receiving the invoice to the check being sent, we can credit those days back to Harder's in a Change Order at the end of the project.

AMPHITHEATER

- BGN is putting together a milestone schedule
- BGN will get a draft contract and warranty from RCP Shelters for City to review.

NANOOK RD LS & 14TH STREET LS PROPOSAL

- Signed NTP's sent to Mainline on 05/16.
- Anchor working on conformed manual which will include all executed documents (agreement, NTP, etc.).

HWY 98 & 4TH ST PROJECT

Anchor started on preliminary design and draft bidding/procurement documentation.

CODE ENFORCEMENT

- Received email complaint vacant lot on 32nd street neighbor wants lot cut, had already sent Notice of Violations to owner who is an LLC and owns 4 lots total. Have not received a response from the owner.
- Enclosed trailer on vacant lot parked on right of way, sheriff had trailer towed off lot. Had already sent Notice of Violation to owner, no response.
- Issued 2 Courtesy Violation at Boat Launch.
- Tagged 4 boat trailers brought onto boat launch.
- Have a Kill Deer bird nest in over flow lot, coned and roped off area so no one disturbs the nest.
- Inspected 2 fence permits.
- Sent Notice of Violation for vacant lot to be cut.
- Complaint regarding townhouse on 38th St., had sent several Notice of Violations. No response. Certified letters returned unclaimed, sent information to Special Master.
- Interpreter for Sandy for those who don't understand him.

PUBLIC WORKS

Projects and Tasks Completed or In Progress

Beach Projects

- Continued installation of additional poles and rope barriers, and one complete crossover left at 14th Street, and several more rope extensions. Waiting on material that is being delivered next week.
- Continued Beach Raking
- Repairs to the Second Beach Rake and Back Online by Friday
- Public Works continues to work with the Turtle Research Team with the leave no trace.

- Public Works is checking and cleaning the beach twice daily.
- Installed the volleyball cable safety cable covers.
- Assisted with the removal of a deceased sea turtle.
- Completion of all the installation of all \$500 Fine signs for dune violations.

Traffic and Safety Improvements

- DOT has installed new sod on US Highway 98 and temporary no parking signs have been installed to keep the new sod from being damaged.
- A new fire department and speed verification signs have been ordered for US Highway 98 and will be installed for eastbound traffic.

Stormwater Management

- Finished the clearing of the stormwater ditch along St. Joe Road and Ocean Plantation Circle
- Three (3) stormwater inspections were completed.
- The storm drain at the end of Pier Road (37 Street) was cleaned and emptied from all the sand.

Parks and Recreations

- New sand has been placed at Sunset Park for the walkway.
- Repairs to irrigation sprinklers that have been damaged.
- The Boat Ramp Park was cleared and prepared for the beginning of Snapper Season.
- All parks were mowed and cleaned for Memorial Day.
- Over ten (10) new trees have been planted in various parks throughout the City.
- A new rinse-off shower was installed at Pier Road (37 Street)

Routine Operations and Maintenance

- Restroom cleaning and maintenance across public facilities
- Roadway maintenance and landscaping, including mowing
- Sanitation Truck #008 is repaired and operational.
- Ongoing fleet repairs and preventative maintenance
- Continued pothole repairs and general roadway maintenance
- The old 14th Street Fire Station property has been cleaned and organized.
- Continue to rebuild dumpsters for additional customers.

UTILITY DEPARTMENT

- Repaired 2-inch water line on Hatley Drive.
- Repaired damaged sewer laterals while smoke testing
- Jetted and vacuumed sewer main on S. 24th Street.
- Installed water meters.

FIRE DEPARTMENT

- Things are getting busy on the beach with schools closing and Memorial Day weekend upon us. We are patrolling the beach regularly and putting the new side by side to good use.
- Continuing to work with public works to finish the signage off the beach access numbers. Also, still placing hydrant markers on the roads to make hydrants more visible after dark.
- Construction of the training room continues at the old fire station. This week they are putting the finishing touches to a forcible entry door prop.
- We had some electrical work done to the Ladder truck that was giving us issues. We are waiting on one small switch to totally fix the issue. The new Chief truck is in its final stage of wiring of the emergency lights and will soon be ready for collection.
- Attached to this report is a planned burn map for over the weekend.

HARBOR MASTER

The canal will be busy this weekend with the start of snapper season, which has made this the busiest May since I have been in charge. Thank you to Mark and his crew for cleaning up the parking area so we can fit as many trucks and trailers in there as possible. I will be there tomorrow morning from 4 am along with the fire department to help keep things flowing as best we can.

May 2025 Planned PX Units



