



City of Mexico Beach

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Weekly Report May 30, 2025



National Hole in My Bucket Day Edition

(Apparently Henry can't think for himself, so Liza must tell him everything)

**Interim City Administrator
Mell Smigielski**

PIER UPDATE

The bid opening date has been pushed back from June 4 to July 8. The reason is twofold. One is to give bidders some extra time to assemble costs and pricing from their subcontractors. The other is to give the USACE (U.S. Army Corp of Engineers) time to review the permit application. The USACE has not started their review yet because they can't do anything until they get a Biological Opinion from FEMA, who gets the Biological Opinion from the US Fish and Wildlife Service. Federal reviews are wrapping up, the Biological Opinion has been received and FEMA will be pushing the documents to the USACE in the next few weeks. The permitting office at the USACE has been contacted and indicated they will review the applications as soon as they can (it won't be their normal year to a year and a half timeframe).

We all know the estimated pier cost by FEMA is not based on today's economy, but rather using pricing from the last pier constructed in the area which is in Bay County. That puts a FEMA estimate in the 7 to 7.5 million range. We all know that will not touch construction in today's dollars.

The best scenario for which we can hope is to proceed with the bid opening in July to determine the approximate cost of the pier. We negotiate with FEMA to get their estimate up to the actual bid pricing. In the meantime, the USACE finishes their permit review. Once the bids are opened the successful bidder can hold their pricing for usually just 3 months. We will not award the bid until everything is in

place, so everything has to be completed during the 3-month period. Conceivably, we could see some action later this calendar year.

If that works out, the year it takes for construction will be a major inconvenience for the property owners as a good bit of 37th Street and the City-owned property on 37th Street will be used by the contractor. The property owners should look at it that their property will be worth a lot more once the pier is complete. We will definitely host some public meetings with the contractor to keep the property owners informed before and during the project.

Let's keep our fingers crossed!

FARMDALE

Representatives from Farmdale and the City met to discuss the next steps in their construction. The horizontal infrastructure is estimated to be completed in mid-August. The annexation ordinances will go before the P & Z in July. First reading for the City Council in late July and the second reading in August. Consultants will prepare the proper documents for changes to the zoning and future land use maps. We can't issue any building permits until the land is annexed, but we have received plans for a motel. We will review the plans and have the permit ready upon annexation.

SHELLS

We have the release form from City Attorney Sloan. Mr. Steele is looking at next weekend for the public to get shells. We will share details as they get finalized.

SWEETWATER

Representatives from Sweetwater will be meeting with the Mayor and I next week to give us an update on their plans.

HIGHWAY 98 LIGHTS

Part of the FDOT resurfacing project on Hwy 98 was a review of streetlighting and poles. Turns out they will replace 23 poles and 41 lights (turtle compatible). It will increase monthly costs by about \$1,000, but it will be added to our reimbursement list. So, no increase cost to the City.

AMPHITHEATRE UPDATE

We received the proposal/order form from the manufacturer. Signed and taking it to the Finance Department to issue the purchase order (we don't pay until the structure is shipped). Fabrication will take 20 weeks, which is longer than expected, but the contractor believes they can complete the project in the estimated time. Looking at January 2026.

MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND TRASH

Trash was on everyone's mind Monday evening and Tuesday morning. Trash pickup occurs beginning at 6:00 am each day. The trash trucks were emptied on Saturday. After the trash pickup on Sunday, the trucks were full and the dump is

closed, so we had no way to pick up more trash on Monday. This is only a major problem during the big weekends, but the issue is on our radar.

BEACH LIGHTING

Part of the beach renourishment project was a study to determine any lighting violations. Turns out we had 26 violations of our beach lighting ordinance. Kathy will be contacting each of the 26 to talk about ways to mitigate their issue. Another study will take place in July to monitor the progress.

CONCRETE PAD

The concrete shuffleboard pad (east of City Hall) has been cleaned. Public works is going to paint the surface.

VANDILISM

We had some vandalism at Under the Palms Park and some rope cutting at one of our walkovers.

CODE ENFORCEMENT

Here are some of the code activities for the week:

- Boat Launch - issued 8 courtesy violations and issued 3 citation violations
- Tree removal permit - Unable to issue - trees are live oaks and not damaged nor in the way that can cause damage.
- Notice of violation sent 35th St. South has post in right of way.
- PLMMG LLC requested photos of their lots that need to be mowed.
- Had a wonderful Memorial Day Holiday, thanks to everyone to served our country.

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. We are still waiting for the material that is being delivered next week and weather delays.
 - Continued beach raking with both tractors and beach rakes.
 - 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.
 - Repairs to the volleyball cable due to weekend visitors jumping on the cable.
 - Assisted with the removal of two deceased sea turtles.
 - Fire / emergency services access points marked and posted.
- Traffic and Safety Improvements

- FDOT has installed new sod on US Highway 98 and temporarily “no parking” signs have been installed to keep the new sod from being damaged. Numerous locations are still experiencing drivers that will not stop driving on the grass.
- Waiting for the installation of the new fire department and speed verification signs for US Highway 98 that will be installed for eastbound traffic.
- Stormwater Management
 - Inspecting and working on three stormwater drainage locations at residential properties being installed next week. Material was ordered and pending delivery.
 - Inspection of stormwater canals for clearing and operational effectiveness.
 - Meeting set June 26 with FDEP for the drainage solutions by US Highway 98 and 15th Street.
 - Four (4) stormwater inspections were completed.
- Parks and Receptions
 - Start of Snapper Season went without issues.
 - Extra staffing at the fish cooler and restrooms during the weekend.
 - The Boat Ramp Park parking lot is being resurfaced with crushed shells. Other parking locations will be completed after the boat ramp.
 - Regular Park maintenance and updates.
 - All new trees have been planted in various parks throughout the city including Parker Park and Under the Palms Park. Over twenty (20) trees total.
- Routine Operations and Maintenance
 - Restroom cleaning and maintenance across public facilities
 - Roadway maintenance and landscaping, including mowing
 - Ongoing fleet repairs and preventative maintenance
 - Continued pothole repairs and general roadway maintenance
- Sanitation
 - Pending fifteen (15) new commercial dumpsters to replace the rusted and non-operational dumpsters, however, it is the same inventory amount.
 - No trash pick-up on Memorial Day; however, all trash that was backlogged was picked up by Wednesday with no significant issues.
 - Sanitation is operational during the weekends for commercial dumpsters and beach cans throughout the season.
- Administrative
 - Budget Reviews and discussions.
 - One workplace incident – spider bite at public works.
 - Coordinating with FSU for training and career building assistance.

STORMWATER CONSULTANT

We have issued 503 minor floodplain reports/permits to date.

Major applications (Commercial, Subdivisions, Plats etc.) listed below have either been reviewed and feedback provided, are pending more information from the applicant, or have been permitted. Please see the lists below for status details:

Pending Application/ Meetings Held:

- Sweetwater at Mexico Beach: Preliminary meeting held June 25th, 2024.
- Harmony Lakes preliminary meeting held August 28th, 2024.

Reviewed & Feedback Provided - Pending new information:

- The Palms - 1008 15th St. Units A-D
- Forgotten Coast Villas (Development Order- Structures)

Approved/ Approved with Comments:

- 102-104 14th St Replat Application
- 2902 Hwy 98 Development Order for Mixed Use Building
- Salt Creek Final Plat Approval
- Cottages at Paradise Cove (Preliminary Plat, Final Plat, & Development Order)
- 480 15th St. - Restaurant (Playa De Mexico)
- 712 Highway 98- Restaurant
- The Driftwood Inn Chapel
- Salt Creek Temporary Parking Lot
- Villas at Mexico Beach (Development Order)
- 100 42nd St. S (Preliminary Plat)
- 314, 316, 318 Hatley Dr. Duplex
- Toucans- 719 Hwy 98 (Development Order- Structure Only)
- 4101 Hwy 98 (Development Order)
- El Governor (Development Order) - Bathroom & Pool
- Salt Creek Townhomes Ph. 2 (Preliminary Plat)
- Aquas Esmeralda (Preliminary Plat)
- Aquas Esmeralda (Development Order)
- Sweetwater at Mexico Beach (Preliminary Plat)
- Cape & Coast Office: 3016 Hwy 98 (Development Order)