

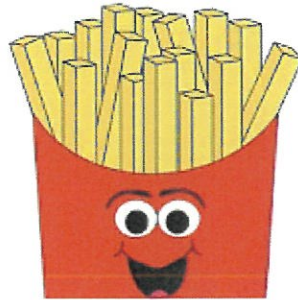


City of Mexico Beach

201 Paradise Path · Mexico Beach, Florida · 32456

Phone: 850-648-5700 · Fax: 850-648-8768

Weekly Report July 11, 2025



National French Fry Day Edition

(French Fries are a sea gull favorite)

City Administrator Mell Smigielski

BUDGET MEETING ON JULY 18

This meeting will be a deeper dive into the budget. Personnel and regular operating costs are simple and somewhat constant (outside of the number of employees). It is the special items that takes some discussion.

DUKE ENERGY

The meeting with four developers and Duke Energy is Monday afternoon. Of the four invited, two will be there. One acknowledged is trying to get someone to attend. And the fourth one has not responded.

CANAL PARKWAY CUL-DE-SAC

St. Joe Company is looking for us to have less encroachment into their property, so the design that we shared last week is being restructured.

15th Street Pedestrian Bridge

Bridge shop drawings are in production. The power pole east of the bridge will be moved the 1st week of August. Anchor checked the project schedule, and we are in week 7, which is just over the halfway point for the bridge shop drawing production milestone. Harders has 3 to 4 more weeks to get these to us for review based on the schedule. The next deliverable will be bridge shop drawing review/approval around the beginning of August.

1403 HWY 98

We met with owners of 1403 HWY 98 to review the area next to their driveway washing out. This problem is directly affecting utility installations as well as their driveway as you can see in the photos below. The Public Works department has already installed a small drain and put in some crushed shells to help alleviate washing out. That is just a temporary fix. The main cause of the problem is the drainage issue in front of the Gulf View Motel. Public Works is working on a plan to add some piping from the Gulf View to the corner of 14th Street and then bore under Highway 98. This is an expensive venture but is necessary as the problem has been going on for a number of years.



WALKOVER AT 7TH STREET

Survey under way. Anchor will put together concept drawing upon completion of the survey.

WALKOVER AT SUNSET PARK

Revised task order signed. Anchor will start on conceptual design when survey is complete.

AMPHITHEATER

BGN Contractors is working with RCP Shelters. We are still 3 to 4 weeks out from design drawings.

NANOOK AND 14TH STREET LIFT STATIONS

Anchor reviewing project submittals from Mainline. Pay application #1 for both projects signed by Anchor and sent to City for processing.

HWY 98 & 4TH STREET PROJECT

Anchor working on finalizing drawings and technical specifications/RFP.

Water tank aeration system

We have been waiting for the quote from Axis construction. Should have by the end of the week.

Noise

We had a complaint about noise in the city. I believe we talked about it last year when I was filling in. I need to find out where the discussion led.

Stormwater Plan

AVCON will be here for a 6:00 pm meeting on Thursday July 24 to release their findings concerning the stormwater plan. This is a public meeting in which attendance is encouraged.

Shark Fishing

I have spoken with owners of three shark fishing for hire businesses. Two of them will be at the July 22nd City Council meeting. We will put an item on the agenda asking for direction from the Council concerning shark fishing hours, so the sharks can chime in and give their side of the issue.

PIER

The Board asked for a copy of the Environmental Assessment timeline. It is attached to this priceless newsletter.

P & Z

There was a little confusion at the P & Z meeting concerning who sits at the table and who can participate in the discussion. We sent an email to the P & Z members reiterating that all members can sit at the table and participate in discussion. But the alternates can vote only when filling in for an absent member. We also sent out the Florida Planning Officials Handbook for the members to help with their education of their expected duties.

Boat loading at the boat dock

We had an incident at the boat dock where an operator of a large boat was gunning their engines in order to load their boat onto their trailer. This caused the boat behind them to sustain some damage to their boat as the aftereffect forced them into the seawall. Public Works did install a sign requesting boaters to not power load. We'll see if that does some good.

FIRE DEPARTMENT

4th of July weekend and its festivities went very well. The 5K run had a record turnout and the department in conjunction with the BCSO and special events committee yet again had a very successful event. As we all know the fireworks display was moved to the East of the dedicated beach. Again, with help from both BCSO and the events committee this proved to be reasonably simple change and all safety measures put in place worked well. Thank you to all the members of the public who helped by following the signage throughout the 3rd and 4th.

Once a year all the ladders on our trucks have to be tested. This is taking place today and is a full day event. We have to keep at least one unit in service at all times while cycling all the ladders through testing. Here's hoping we have no issues.

The VFA grant for equipment has been completed and the 50% reimbursement has been received. This is a great grant opportunity that the department has been using for the last 7 years to gain equipment. We have also completed a TIPS grant with our insurance company for PPE and just waiting on the agreed reimbursement on that.

HARBOR MASTER

All went well over the 4th of July holiday with over 50 of our slips booked leaving only 2 available on one of the nights. Already July has passed the number of slip days book of the month in comparison the 2024 and we are seeing bookings daily. The boat ramp has been very busy and working well.

PUBLIC WORKS

Beach Projects

- Routine beach raking operations are ongoing.
- Public Works continues to collaborate with the Turtle Research Team to support the "Leave No Trace" initiative.
- Additional bird nesting activity has been observed on the west side of the canal.
- Daily inspections and cleaning of the beach are being conducted by the department.
- Maintenance and monitoring of the 8th Street Canal are ongoing.
- Beach Tractor #1 has been repaired and is scheduled to return to service on Monday.
- Public Works is in the process of clearing overgrowth from the wooden walkways to ensure safe and accessible pedestrian use

Traffic and Safety Improvements

- Productive discussions have continued with FDOT regarding U.S. Highway 98 improvements, with progress expected in the coming weeks:
 - Two crosswalks are undergoing necessary repairs:
 - One crosswalk button is being relocated to the appropriate side to meet ADA compliance.

- A second button is being retrofitted with an extender due to its excessive distance from the sidewalk and gaining ADA compliance.
- Signal issues at a separate crosswalk are being addressed, including a faulty radio connection on the northbound side.
- 16th Street will be striped and roadway markings applied soon.
- New fire department warning signs and electronic speed verification signs for eastbound U.S. Highway 98 traffic have been ordered and will be installed.
- Shoulder repair efforts are underway, including permit review for additional improvements along the south side of the highway.
- FDOT is monitoring grass growth along the shoulders; if it fails, the contractor is responsible for replacement.
- Temporary roadwork signage is being removed unless otherwise required.
- Repairs and installations of stop signs and other regulatory signs are in progress in compliance with FDOT standards.
- New speed limit and "No Outlet" signs are being posted throughout city streets.
- Public Works completed repairs at the end of 34th Street, including updated signage, sand removal, and asphalt resurfacing.
- Three potholes and utility-related roadway cuts were repaired.

Stormwater Management

- Four residential stormwater systems have been completed; residents provided materials for the installations.
- A temporary drainage solution has been implemented along the south shoulder of Highway 98 to address erosion and protect adjacent infrastructure.
- Stormwater canals are under inspection to ensure proper flow and functionality.
- The department is actively obtaining quotes for stormwater improvements at Highway 98 and 15th Street, with plans to initiate the project in the next fiscal year.

Parks and Recreation

- The fishing season continues smoothly.
- Additional staffing is in place at the fish cooler and restrooms during weekends; coolers are checked nightly.
- Crushed shell resurfacing is nearing completion at the Boat Ramp Park, Captain's Lot, and Pickleball Court parking areas.
- Routine maintenance and updates are ongoing across all park facilities.
- Damaged signage at the Boat Ramp has been replaced or repaired.
- The life jacket storage box has been restored.
- The pavilion bathroom lights at both the Boat Ramp and Parker Park have been replaced.
- Public Works assisted with the removal of debris and obstructions from the canal to improve waterway access.
- One individual was trespassed by the Bay County Sheriff's Office following a disruptive incident involving shark fishing and improper fish handling at the cooler. These enforcement measures aim to protect public safety and maintain cleanliness.

Routine Operations and Maintenance

- Restrooms at all public facilities are being cleaned and maintained regularly.
- Roadway and landscape maintenance activities, including mowing and weeding, are ongoing.
- Fleet maintenance and preventive servicing continue.
- General roadway maintenance remains a routine focus.

Sanitation

- The sanitation routes have taken longer due to seasonal volume increases but are being completed without delays.
- Weekend sanitation service remains active for commercial dumpsters and beach receptacles throughout the season.
- Repairs to Truck #008 are in progress, with completion expected next week.

Administrative

- Budget and Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) reviews and submissions are underway.
- Staff are in the process of being scheduled to participate in FSU-led training sessions and professional development courses.
- The department has consulted with FDOT regarding the location and design of Highway 98 crosswalks. All installations were engineered to meet ADA standards and ensure pedestrian safety.
- The Public Works Department has installed and poured 12x12 concrete splash pads on each side of the water tank per the FDEP requirements.

Building Department

Permit Number	Category	Permit Type	Property Address	Subdivision	Total Square Footage	Valuation	Total Fees Paid
25MB-RB0099	Residential New	Attached Single Family	207 SALT CREEK LANE, MEXICO BEACH, FL 32456	SALT CREEK	1,738.00	\$143,194.00	\$1,937.82
25MB-RB0100	Residential New	Attached Single Family	215 SALT CREEK LANE, MEXICO BEACH, FL 32456	SALT CREEK	1,738.00	\$143,194.00	\$1,937.82
25MB-RB0101	Residential New	Attached Single Family	219 SALT CREEK LANE, MEXICO BEACH, FL 32456	SALT CREEK	1,738.00	\$143,194.00	\$1,937.82
25MB-RB0102	Residential New	Attached Single Family	203 SALT CREEK LANE, MEXICO BEACH, FL 32456	Salt Creek	2,127.00	\$154,535.00	\$2,002.74
25MB-RB0103	Residential New	Attached Single Family	223 SALT CREEK LANE, MEXICO BEACH, FL 32456	Salt Creek	2,127.00	\$154,535.00	\$2,002.65
25MB-RB0104	Residential New	Attached Single Family	211 SALT CREEK LANE, MEXICO BEACH, FL 32456	Salt Creek	1,738.00	\$143,194.00	\$1,937.82
25MB-RB0092	Residential Alteration	Pool / Hot Tub (Residential Alteration)	107 26TH ST, Mexico Beach, FL 32456	MEXICO BEACH UNIT 4 235C2		\$60,032.00	\$527.03
25MB-M0036	One Stop	Mechanical Permit	134 OCEAN PLANTATION CIR, Mexico Beach, FL 32456	OCEAN PLANTATION		\$520,000.00	\$373.10
25MB-CW0001	Commercial Alteration	Retaining Wall - Commercial	108 Miramar Drive, Mexico Beach, FL 32456			\$18,900.00	\$278.50
25MB-E0064	One Stop	Electric Permit	2002 HWY 98, Mexico Beach, FL 32410	MEXICO BEACH UNIT #3 235C4		\$400,000.00	\$287.00
25MB-DR0002	One Stop	Door Replacement	231 KIM KOVE, Mexico Beach, FL 32456	GRAND ISLE UNIT 15 235C4		\$6,500.00	\$79.00

Meeting Agenda

4399-FL Environmental Assessment for a
Public Assistance Grant Project for City of Mexico Beach, Bay County, Florida,
June 26th, 2025, starting at 4:00 pm EDT
via Microsoft Teams

Attendees:

- **FEMA:**
 - **EHP**
 - Mary Maddox, PA-EHP TAC
 - Paula Largo, Environmental Protection Specialist
 - Endia Casley, Interim EHAD
 - **PA**
 - Allen Brinkman, Jr.-PDMG
 - Angela Novak – IBD OPC
- **FDEM**
 - Hamza Sattar, Programmatic Reviewer EHP Specialist
 - Darryn Gipson, Programmatic Reviewer Lead
- **Applicant (City of Mexico Beach)**
 - Mell Smigielski, Acting City Administrator
 - David Hemphill, City Lead Design Engineer
 - Ryan Wiedenman, Consultant, AtkinsRéalis
 - Dina Bautista, Consultant, AtkinsRéalis

Discussion:

1. Introductions/Attendance Call
2. Background
 - a. During Hurricane Michael, from October 7, 2018-October 19, 2018, Bay County’s municipal facilities experienced high-velocity winds, heavy rain, and storm surge, resulting in complete destruction of the City of Mexico Beach (COMB) pier and accessory bathroom facility.
 - b. City of Mexico Beach Projects
 - i. 428 Project - PW 2300 PN 77664 NOT A 428 PROJECT-Municipal Fishing Pier Cost: \$7,019,365.00

Facility	Location	Construction Date
NOT A 428 PROJECT-Municipal Fishing Pier	37 th Street South Start: (29.949492, -85.424278) End: (29.947076, -85.426074) Restroom (29.94940,-85.42404)	1968

ii. Cumulative Impacts

Facility	Location	Construction Date
Mexico Beach Emergency Dune Project	Between R-127.6 and R-144	2019
Mexico Beach Inlet Sand Bypassing and Beach Restoration Project	From R-127.8 to shoreline section R-132 to R-138	2021
Mexico Beach Renourishment and Dune Restoration Project	Dune Restoration only- R-127.8 to R-130 Dune and Beach Restoration – R-130 to R-144	Winter of 2024
NOT A 428 Project-Mexico Beach Harbor Canal Jetties	(29.94992, -85.43048)	Sometime in 2024

3. Alternatives Considered

- a. Alternative 1: No Action Alternative
- b. Alternative 2: Replace and Extend Pier (Preferred Alternative).
- c. Alternative 3: Repair Pier to Pre-Disaster Conditions (Summarize any Codes and Standards)
- d. Other alternative – Pier with Bathroom and Bait Shop

4. Discussion Points & Questions

- a. SOW
 - i. Construction plans?
- b. Consultations
 - i. National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA): State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) and Tribal Historic Preservation Offices (THPOs) -Concurrence received 06/14/2024
 - ii. USFWS- Endangered Species Act – BO received 05/01/2025
 - iii. National Marine Fisheries (NMFS)- BO received 03/13/2025
 - iv. Magnuson–Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act of 1976 (MSA) EFH – Concurrence received 07/11/2024
- c. Permits
 - i. CZMA: FDEP - 0206187-004-JC
 - ii. CWA: USACE permit- Pending completion of EA
 - iii. EO11988 – Floodplain Authorization
 - 1. Clarification Ordinance 757 (referenced in Response to RFI #9a 09/20/2024), vs Ordinance 847 (referenced in Floodplain Permit Acknowledgement received 06/20/2025)
 - a. Restroom (First Floor Elevation) FFE – 10.5 ft (BFE +1.5)
 - b. Pier elevation - 26.1 (NAVD 88)
 - c. Section 4.05.08, Part A.4
 - d. Engineering Analysis
 - iv. CCCL Permit (Provided 10/28/2024) -Expired 10/02/2024
 - v. Condition for any and all permits will be placed on project
- i. Public Involvement
 - a) Draft EA public comment period (30 days)
 - b) Posted on FEMA and City websites (and hard copy)

5. Timeline (No construction or ground disturbance until FEMA review is completed)

6. Bi-weekly Meetings

Action	Estimated Time (# of days)
Call with Stakeholders	06/26/2025
Clarification Information Requested	7
FEMA completes the draft EA submits to subrecipient for review	14
Subrecipient provides edits and comments to draft EA to FEMA for review	14
FEMA submits draft EA/FONSI and PN for Lead Environmental Advisor (LEHAD) review	30
FEMA submits draft EA/FONSI and Public Notice (PN), Appendices for legal review	30
FEMA receives comments from Legal and incorporates in draft	14
FEMA submits draft EA/FONSI, PN and consultation documents for Florida State Clearinghouse review (If any comments, incorporated into draft)	30
Subrecipient reviews and provides comments on FEMA’s updated EA/FONSI/PN drafts	14
FEMA finalizes drafts and completes 508 compliance.	10
FEMA submits the draft EA and PN to the NEPA repository (FEMA.gov) FEMA HQ (Office of Environmental and Historic Preservation) for online publication	2-7
FEMA submits the draft EA and PN to subrecipient for online publication and hardcopy posting at project location (Subrecipient	30

provide proof of posting to start the clock)	
FEMA incorporates public comments received	10
FEMA final review of EA and signature of FONSI by REO and Region 4 PA Branch Director	15
FEMA submits the final EA and FONSI to FEMA HQ (Office of Environmental and Historic Preservation) for online publication	2-7
Once posted, FEMA EHP completes review of Project Worksheet (PW) and saves documents for administrative record; Sent to PA for project review	14