



# City of Mexico Beach

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## Weekly Report June 27, 2025



### **National Sunglasses Day Edition** (Can't live in Florida without them)

#### **City Administrator Mell Smigielski**

##### **CASUNA**

The meeting with CASUNA went well. They will be providing us with their agreement and copy of a bill for the streetlights so we can determine if we as the City could get a better rate.

##### **SHARK FISHING**

Spoke with one of the shark vendors. I relayed that we would not approve an occupational permit or a beach vending permit. He had the burning question if we are banning shark fishing on the beach. I indicated that we are banning shark businesses on the beach, not individuals who are shark fishing.

##### **MX-1 LIFT STATION**

We did have one of the three pumps at our main lift station go out of service. Don't worry—no spills. See Garrett's report below for details.

##### **MBARA FISHING TOURNAMENT**

MBARA is preparing for their fishing tournament later in July. City Staff met with Mitch Coleman at the boat ramp to go over staging and requests for the event.

## GALENA, ILLINOIS

I know this is not related to Mexico Beach in any way, but if you are interested in where our retirement years will be spent, see pictures below. It's not the beach on the Gulf of America, but we'll make it work.





## FARMDALE

Farmdale is working on getting us the attachments to their applications for annexation. We will also receive copies of the certified letters they sent along with proof of mailing.

## JETTY

Recall that the estimated cost amount from FEMA was just over 2 million and the bids came back at 4.2 million. We have provided Atkins with our dredging reports over the past few years. They are nearly finished with a report that shows how much money the City will save in dredging costs that will justify the increase.

## FIRE/POLICE REPLACEMENT

The saferoom part of the new facility has been pulled back by the State. They can obligate funds only so long, and FEMA's constant foot dragging is the reason for the move. As for the main facility, FEMA requires the building design on the old location on 14<sup>th</sup> Street. You know how it goes—only replace what was destroyed. This area is in the 500-year floodplain, so design standards will require elevation

and be more costly. The plan is to get the design by the end of this week or next and then compare the cost of the location on 14<sup>th</sup> Street to the design at the new location north of Public Works. Naturally, the new location replacement cost will be cheaper, so we hope to convince FEMA to go with the preferred location. If need be, we can use 428 dollars to compensate. 428 dollars are left over funds from previous projects that can be used towards other FEMA projects.

## PIER

We had our kickoff meeting (usually means things are moving) with FEMA yesterday and it did not go as well as planned. We gave them our EA (environmental assessment) 20 months ago for their review. Now we have a new FEMA official who indicates we have to start over on the EA, which can take close to a year. We also have confirmation from FEMA on other issues to shorten up the timeframe. So we are working with our consultants to get a plan together to follow a better plan for the EA.

## FIRE DEPARTMENT

The Gollywopper Classic fishing tournament was a great success. We had a record of 110 boats register which is an increase of 14 on last year, which was also a record. We had perfect weather and a great turnout at both the captain's party and the weigh in event. Thank you to all that helped make the first of the two fishing tournaments held in the city each year a great event yet again. The funds raised will be used to educate and equip the department members going forward.

The city continues to get busier as we get deeper into the summer months, with this comes more people and more calls for service for the department. At this moment all apparatus are in service and ready for what might come our way. We are keeping an eye on the tropics as we have entered hurricane season but as we know it is early days yet. Please do not forget to have your hurricane evacuation plan and kit up to date. This includes your important paperwork and medical needs, food and water for each person for at least 72 hours. This is very important as it can take time for the needed assets to make it to us in the event of a storm.

## HARBOR MASTER

It's been a great June at the boat launch and the city marina. We are well ahead of 2024 numbers, and the July 4th weekend is also looking to be a record breaker. So all is good on this front.

## UTILITY DEPARTMENT

- Pulled pump 2 and 3 from MX1. Pump 2 is damaged but we were able to get pump 3 repaired and placed back in the wet well.

- We continued Smoke Testing and repaired damage sewer laterals discovered from testing.
- Replaced water meters.

## **PUBLIC WORKS**

### Projects and Tasks Completed or In Progress

- **Beach Projects**

- Continued beach raking is ongoing.
- Public Works continues to work with the Turtle Research Team with the leave no trace.
- Public Works is checking and cleaning the beach daily.
- Removed trees that have washed ashore.
- Created a new weekly crossover checklist.
- 8<sup>th</sup> Street Canal Maintenance
- Built the 14<sup>th</sup> Street Walkover including ropes and poles.
- Beach Tractor 1 is down for repairs.

- **Traffic and Safety Improvements**

- FDOT is finishing crosswalks.
- FDOT has been watering the grass three times weekly.
- Waiting for the installation of the new fire department and speed verification signs for US Highway 98 that will be installed for eastbound traffic.
- Additional stop signs and other roadway signs are being repaired and re-installed under FDOT regulations.
- Additional speed limit signs and no outlet signs are being installed on streets throughout the city.
- Sidewalk repairs are underway and two sections of US Highway 98 and several sections along 15<sup>th</sup> Street are complete and ready for use.
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- **Stormwater Management**

- Two additional stormwater drainage locations at residential properties are being installed next week depending on weather conditions.
- One stormwater drainage was completed.
- Inspection of stormwater canals for clearing and operational effectiveness.
- Meeting with FDEP for the drainage solutions by US Highway 98 and 15<sup>th</sup> Street went well, and moving for the permitting process.
- One (1) stormwater inspection was completed.
- Stormwater Inspector Certification is underway.

- **Parks and Receptions**

- Two days of shells give-a-ways are scheduled for Friday and Saturday, June 27-28.
- Snapper Season continues without issues.
- GollyWhopper Classic was completed with great success.

- Extra staffing at the fish cooler and restrooms during the weekend, and the cooler is checked each evening.
  - The Boat Ramp Park parking lot, Captain’s Lot and the Pickleball Court parking lot shell resurfacing with crushed shells is near completion.
  - Two (2) new sunshades are installed at the Pickleball Courts.
  - Regular park maintenance and updates.
  - The missing pieces to the Pickleball Court privacy fence are being installed.
- **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**
    - Two (2) pending commercial dumpsters are still being coordinated by local businesses.
    - All sanitation trucks have been cleaned, and new maintenance procedures are now being conducted.
    - Sanitation is operational during the weekends for commercial dumpsters and beach cans throughout the season.
    - Truck # 008 is down for repairs again.
- **Administrative**
    - Budget submissions and reviews are underway.
    - FSU training and career building training are underway.
    - Public Works assisted the public with a sinking boat.

## BUILDING DEPARTMENT

Here are the permits issued this week  
06/20/2025 - 06/26/2025

Permit Number	Permit Type	Property Address	Permit Issuance Date	Valuation	Total Fees Paid	Description of Work
25MB-MO0005	Misc. Other	1405 HWY 98, Mexico Beach, FL 32456	06/24/2025		\$150.00	LONO Letter
25MB-RR0047	Residential New Roof	477 SALT CREEK LN, Mexico Beach, FL 32456	06/24/2025	\$305,000.00	\$79.00	NSF ROOF
25MB-RR0048	Residential New Roof	469 SALT CREEK LN, Mexico Beach, FL 32456	06/24/2025	\$325,000.00	\$79.00	NSF ROOF
25MB-RB0094	Pool / Hot Tub (Residential Alteration)	113 CIRCLE DR, Mexico Beach, FL 32456	06/25/2025	\$40,000.00	\$397.88	Swimming Pool
25MB-RB0096	Pool / Hot Tub (Residential Alteration)	116 37TH ST B, Mexico Beach, FL 32456	06/25/2025	\$58,550.00	\$514.73	Swimming pool
25MB-E0061	Electric Permit	477 SALT CREEK LN, Mexico Beach, FL 32456	06/25/2025	\$305,000.00	\$218.84	NSF Electrical
25MB-E0062	Electric Permit	469 SALT CREEK LN, Mexico Beach, FL 32456	06/25/2025	\$325,000.00	\$233.19	NSF Electrical
25MB-RB0097	Pool / Hot Tub (Residential Alteration)	509 CATHEY LN, Mexico Beach, FL 32456	06/26/2025	\$55,000.00	\$490.13	Swimming Pool

\$1,413,550.00

\$2,162.77