



City of Mexico Beach

201 Paradise Path · Mexico Beach, Florida · 32456

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

Weekly Report August 1, 2025



National Mountain Climbing Day Edition

(Florida has a lot of wonderful things. Mountains are not one of them.)

City Administrator Mell Smigielski

MEETINGS NEXT WEEK

Monday	August 4	9:00 am	Millage Rate Meeting
Tuesday	August 5	9:00 am	Food Truck Workshop

TOWING

Most places have gone through an RFQ process to have designated towing companies in case there is a need to tow vehicles from a no parking or tow away zone. We could even have a turn sheet process should multiple companies show an interest in the program. Perhaps Mexico Beach should submit RFQ's for towing services.

NOISE

I remember last year when I served as Interim there was discussion about our noise ordinance. Not sure where it ended. Here is a quick summary of our ordinance: Our current section 2.07.00 states, "No person shall continue or cause to be made or continued any loud unnecessary or excessive noise which unreasonably interferes with the comfort and repose of others within the jurisdiction of the City of Mexico Beach". A table lists land use categories, times and dba levels. A violation would occur if the limit in the table is exceeded by 10% for a period not less than 10 minutes. Exempt items include power tools, emergency vehicles, parades and concerts. Specific prohibitions include car horns for over 60 seconds; radio, tv and musical instruments that exceed limits in table;

and excessive animal noises for over 10 minutes. Construction and demolition is prohibited in noise-sensitive areas between 10:00 pm and 6:00 am.

If you have received complaints and think there needs to be an adjustment to our ordinance, let me know and we can add it to a future meeting agenda.

CAPUTO PROPERTY

You may recall Mr. and Mrs. Caputo came to a council meeting and claimed no one from the city returned their calls concerning their wanting to rebuild on their property at 2115 HWY 98 (not an accurate claim because many of us spoke with them, their architect or contractor). City Attorney Sloan has completed a detailed letter giving them options.

PIER

There might be some concerns with a couple of bids for the pier. As soon as we work through the issues, we will give you an update. On a more positive note, there is a process on the FEMA side concerning the environmental assessment that could take up to a month that has been completed in just 2 weeks. We'll take all the wins we can.

SANITATION/RECYCLING/YARD WASTE

I did put a copy of the yard waste contract in council boxes. We did receive a cost estimate for a recycling program from Waste Management for \$2,650. The intent is to reduce our tipping fees to the point where recycling would pay for itself. We will have costs in addition to that, so we continue to work through the process. One main issue is the sanitation truck. If we decide to go to a new way of picking up our garbage, buying a truck like our current trucks could be counterproductive.

SHARK FISHING

Just got off the phone with a nice gentleman who occasionally comes to Mexico Beach. He is not a fisherman for hire. He and his family love to fish for sharks and in fact, he uses similar heavy-duty equipment as the professionals (even a drone). He said an adjustment in allowable hours wouldn't affect them at all as they normally fish in the evening hours. Anyone getting a license that includes sharks is required to take a class that includes public safety.

Public Works

Incident

- This week, an incident occurred at the Sunset Park restrooms involving an individual who remained inside the male restroom for an extended period of time. The Bay County Sheriff's Office responded conducting a welfare check. Upon investigation, it was determined that the individual had tampered with the restroom's light sensor system by removing them completely out of the wall. He

also left a large machete on the sink. Additionally, the individual was found to be engaged in inappropriate sexual conduct. A trespass warning was issued, and the individual is no longer permitted on park property. General Maintenance staff have since repaired the vandalized equipment and restored the facility to proper working order.

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.
- Public Works assisted in saving one small new hatched turtle that was traveling to residential yards.
- Bird nesting still remains active on the west and east sides 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.
- Public Works has cleared all the overgrowth from the wooden walkways to ensure safe and accessible pedestrian use.

Traffic and Safety Improvements

- We continued to work with FDOT regarding U.S. Highway 98 improvements, with progress expected in the coming weeks. These are the projects pending:
 - 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.
 - 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.
- The new fire department warning sign has been installed for westbound traffic.
- Two new electronic speed verification signs for eastbound and westbound U.S. Highway 98 traffic have been installed and functional. Continued repairs and installations of stop signs and other regulatory signs are in progress in compliance with FDOT standards.
- New "Special Needs Children at Play" signs have been received and being installed at requested locations.
- New speed limit and "No Outlet" signs are being posted throughout city streets.
- Public Works is scheduling the continued repairs at the end other streets are being scheduled, including updated signage, sand removal, and asphalt resurfacing.
- Bridge repairs are underway and being planned.
- Repaving meeting is scheduled for Friday, August 1, 2025.

Stormwater Management

- Ten (10) stormwater inspections have been completed.

- 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.
 - Routine maintenance and updates are ongoing across all park facilities.
 - Landscape updates are underway at Sunset Park.
-

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.
 - Working on the removal of the east footers from the old water tower.
 - Work at the Public Works compound are underway and in progress.
-

Sanitation

- Weekend sanitation service remains active for commercial dumpsters and beach receptacles throughout the season.
-

CODE ENFORCEMENT

1. Currently have 4 fence permits requests to survey.
2. Received a call from Matt with FEMA regarding an ICC Claim, per Building Dept. gave him phone number to AC Disaster.
3. Issued several Courtesy Violation at Boat Launch.
4. Dead tree to be cut down on Florida and 5th per owner.
5. Notice of Violation sent to cut lots.
6. Notice of Violation sent to remove illegal shed brought in on vacant lot.