



City of Mexico Beach

201 Paradise Path · Mexico Beach, Florida · 32456

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

Weekly Report August 8, 2025



National Pickleball Day Edition

(All I know about pickleball is to stay out of the kitchen)

City Administrator Mell Smigielski

Meetings Next Week

Tuesday	August 12	9:00 am	Regular City Council Meeting
Thursday	August 14	9:00 am	Budget Workshop

Boat ramp

Anchor reviewing structural engineer's drawings and finalizing civil drawings.

15th Street Pedestrian Bridge

H.G. Harders sent a pay application that is being reviewed by Gortemoller Engineering.

On August 5th, Bridge Brothers sent signed/sealed drawings and calculations for review by the structural engineer.

Dune Walkovers

Surveys should be completed this week. Conceptual drawing soon to follow.

PIER

Working on the review of the bids.

Amphitheater

Design drawings from RPC Shelters should be in hand within the next week.

Nanook and 14th Street Lift Stations

Anchor is reviewing submittals for the Nanook Lift Station.

The wet well for 14th Street was supposed to be delivered this week on Thursday, but due to the rain the past few days, the delivery date has been pushed to August 13 (next Wednesday).

Street Assessment

Anchor is working on a proposal to perform a street and sidewalk assessment for CASUNA and Ocean Plantation.

Water Meters in Ocean Plantation

It appears the lines to the water meters for the pool and pool house have been mixed up for some time. You can imagine this creates a billing issue because the meter to the pool was charged sewer and garbage. We understand this was first discovered a couple of years ago by Glenn Davis who contacted someone with the HOA to adjust the lines. It never was done so the problem persisted. We are looking back to last June to determine what the charges should have been and make credits between the two accounts with the overage by way of a check.

Food Cart

We had a request for a food cart. These look like the hot dog carts you see in the big cities with an umbrella. I let them know that they are only allowed if tied to an event approved by the city for a maximum of 72 hours.

Locking Park Bathrooms

Due to the incident last week at Sunset Park, we will be locking the bathroom doors after 10:00 pm. That doesn't mean they will be closed precisely at 10:00 because the Deputies may be on a call or some other duties that may require more immediate attention. Public works will open the bathrooms each morning.

Utility Woes

Garrett and I met with the Florida Rural Water Association this week. THE FRWA will construct an asset management program for the city. This includes mapping our facilities and assessing the condition. A priority list will be made, and they will help search for grants and other funding opportunities. They will look at our water and sewer rates to determine if we are charging enough to have the financial means to pay for utility upgrades. Once the asset management project is complete, we will be qualified to get some grants or loans from FDEP through the State Revolving Fund. This is the project I mentioned during the budget meeting in that we could qualify for a low interest loan and perhaps even principle forgiveness. There is no cost to the city for the asset management program.

Council Member Adams reached out to some County officials who indicated there was an opportunity not long ago where there was a grant available for engineering for the 14" sewer main from here to Tyndall with a 75/25 percent split. The city declined at the time due to lack of funds. There is a possibility of regaining the grant. The County will be in touch with us to discuss.

Fire/Police Facility

FEMA is reviewing the plan submitted at the 14th street location. It is ready to be pushed up to the region office for their review. We will have more later on getting the design team back together.

Jetty

The benefit cost analysis for the difference between the FEMA estimate and the actual bid is to be completed this week.

P & Z

Larry Henderson resigned. Also Mr. Bellesbach has stepped aside. With Mr. VanArsdale moving up, we need a couple of alternate board members.

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.
- Bird nesting still remains active on the west and east sides of the canal.
- Turtle nesting is active along the beach with approximately three to four confirmed nesting sites.
- Daily inspections and cleaning of the beach are being conducted by the department.
- Maintenance and monitoring of the 8th Street Canal are ongoing.

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.
- 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 assessed for the next steps.
- Repaving meeting was completed and finally decisions are being completed.

Stormwater Management

- 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.
- A representative from the Spider Excavator company flew into the City and assessed the canals and overgrowth. The equipment will be able to successfully complete the proper stormwater clearing, and the process to order the equipment for the next fiscal year has begun.

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.
 - The main sign has been relocated.
 - The parking areas have been updated, and shells will be added in the near future.
 - The showers and rinse off system had to be repaired.
 - The restroom lights and pavilion lights have been repaired.
- The packing of the parking areas for the boat ramp, captain's lot, and pickleball courts are underway and being completed.

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.
 - Several vehicles had to be repaired with reference to air conditioning.
- Repairs to the bushhog pull-behind mower have been completed. General roadway maintenance remains a routine focus.
- Working on the removal of the east footers from the old water tower are moving along. The first footer should be removed by the end of the week.
- Work at the Public Works compound is underway and in progress. The north grassy area has been extended with shells, guardrail systems for safety are being installed with old materials to save funding, and additional upgrades are being completed.

Sanitation

- Weekend sanitation service remains active for commercial dumpsters and beach receptacles throughout the season.
- Truck # 008 is experiencing issues with the rear locking mechanism and is scheduled for repairs.

Administrative

- One (1) employee experienced injuries during routine operations to his foot.
 - Budget and CIP evaluations are underway and are being evaluated for the coming fiscal year.
 - Employee evaluations are underway and will be completed at the end of next week.
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SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Calls for Service	211	
Miles Patrolled	14,300	
Traffic Stops	54	
Citations	11	
Warnings	34	
Arrests	1 Felony	2 misdemeanors
Traffic Accidents	43	

FIRE DEPARTMENT

There is very much a slowdown on beach goers due in part to the ending of the school holidays and the fact that the weather has not been great over the last two weeks. We have continued to patrol between the showers and at weekends and will continue through Labor Day weekend.

We have signed up with a company called Vector Solutions to help us with our training needs. It contains training modules needed for ISO and will record the hours of training for each member of the department needed to meet the ISO standards yearly. It can be integrated with our other systems to record all activities and training.

We have partnered with Panama City Beach for training classes for both the Chief in emergency management and for two newer members of the department that need ladder operations training.

HARBOR MASTER

July was another good month with booking throughout and an increase in people booking for the whole month. We signed a lease agreement for another slip to put in a boat lift in the coming month. This brings the number to 5 that we have in the program. I believe we have room for another five but need to keep slips available for our vacationers.

Bookings for the august are up on last year and continue to come in.

CODE ENFORCEMENT

1. Matt Larson called wants to cook a luncheon for City Employees sometime in October. Wants to know how many employees, what day would be the best, and where he can serve the food. Also, told Matt to contact Mell to keep him informed.
2. Golf cart parked illegally in the sand near the sand dune.
3. Notice of Violation sent town home needs to be demoed.
4. Boat Launch issued Courtesy Violation
5. Boat Launch issued Citation - no annual permit, no daily permit.
6. Sharon Call came in to see me regarding someone has parked a tractor, pipes and other machinery on her lot without permission. Took her to see Lt. Marty who was able to locate the owner of the items and had them removed.
7. Notice of Violation sent to have 6 lots cut.
8. Received a call regarding someone installing a fence over the 6' ft. Limit and I don't have a fence permit. Will inspect.

BUILDING DEPARTMENT

Issued Permits

Permit Issued Date: 08/01/2025 - 08/07/2025

Permit Issued Date	Property Address	Permit Number	Contractor	Category	Valuation	Subdivision
Permit Type			Dock/Boat House (Residential Alteration)			
Permit Status			In Progress			
08/07/2025	SLIP 48 CANAL PKWY, MEXICO BEACH	25MB-RB00009	Makaira Construction Group, LLC CGC1529170	Residential Alteration	\$18,000.00	
Count: 1			Total: \$18,000.00			
Count: 1			Total: \$18,000.00			
Permit Type			Gas Permit			
Permit Status			In Progress			
08/05/2025	107 26TH ST, Mexico Beach	25MB-G0009	Sunshine Plumbing Systems LLC	One Stop	\$60,032.00	MEXICO BEACH UNIT 4 235C2
Count: 1			Total: \$60,032.00			
Count: 1			Total: \$60,032.00			
Permit Type			Plumbing Permit			
Permit Status			In Progress			
08/05/2025	238 WILLIAM WAY, Mexico Beach	25MB-P0058	McKoy Construction LLC CFC1433615	One Stop	\$25,000.00	GRAND ISLE UNIT 15 235C4
08/06/2025	104 26TH ST B, Mexico Beach	25MB-P0059	JD1 PLUMBING - RF11067742	One Stop	\$480,000.00	MEXICO BEACH UNIT 4 235C2
Count: 2			Total: \$505,000.00			
Count: 2			Total: \$505,000.00			
Permit Type			Pool / Hot Tub (Residential Alteration)			
Permit Status			In Progress			
08/04/2025	122 14TH ST, Mexico Beach	25MB-RB0109	Gulf Coast Pool Consulting & Construction CPC056661	Residential Alteration	\$50,000.00	MEXICO BEACH BUSINESS CENTER
Count: 1			Total: \$50,000.00			
Count: 1			Total: \$50,000.00			
Permit Type			Retaining Wall - Commercial			
Permit Status			In Progress			
08/07/2025	108 Miramar Drive, Mexico Beach	25MB-CW0002	Makaira Construction Group, LLC CGC1529170	Commercial Alteration	\$50,200.00	
Count: 1			Total: \$50,200.00			
Count: 1			Total: \$50,200.00			
Total Permits: 6			Valuation Total: \$683,232.00			

STORMWATER CONSULTANT

We have issued 491 minor floodplain reports/permits and conducted 73 compliance inspections 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.
- Meeting held 6/30/2025 to discuss pier public restroom.

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)