



City of Mexico Beach

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Weekly Report July 4, 2025



Independence Day Edition

(This one was kind of obvious)

City Administrator Mell Smigielski

BUDGET MEETING ON JULY 11

This meeting is not designed to take a detailed deep dive into the budget. We hope to have the Council establish an interim millage rate, establish preferred date and time for tentative budget hearings and get input from the Council on major objectives for the budget. So, council members be thinking about what you hope to accomplish in the budget.

DUKE ENERGY

When the Mayor and I met with Duke Energy a few weeks ago, he mentioned potential developments in the planning stage and some in the initial construction stage. Duke Energy requested a meeting of developers to determine future energy needs. We set it up for July 14. Invited representatives of Sweetwater, Nickel Creek, Sugar Sands and Salt Creek.

OCEAN PLANTATION

The meeting with the Ocean Plantation HOA took place on Thursday. Very cordial group of people. Their request was for the city to take over the right-of-way which would include streets and streetlights. The HOA would continue to pay for the streetlights and will pay up to \$2,500.00 to reimburse the city for legal fees. Some legal hurdles need to be addressed before we are ready to take the issue before the council.

CANAL PARKWAY CUL-DE-SAC

Conceptual design sent to the St. Joe Company for their review (see copy at end of this report). Also looking to use the two legs of beach access to the south of the cul-de-sac with emergency access on the west leg and Mobi-mat for handicapped access on the east side.

15th Street Pedestrian Bridge

Bridge designer received permission to use vertical pickets instead of horizontal. Bridge shop drawings are in production.

WALKOVER AT 7TH STREET

Survey subconsultant getting started. Anchor will put together concept drawing upon completion of the survey.

WALKOVER AT SUNSET PARK

Council to consider task order on July 8 meeting.

AMPHITHEATER

BGN Contractors coordinating with RCP Shelters on amphitheater design and engineered drawings for review (will be completed in mid-July). Next question is do we have a use for the old stage? Or should it be demolished?

NANOOK AND 14TH STREET LIFT STATIONS

Anchor reviewing project submittals from Mainline. Coordinated with Utility Department on hatch design. Project still on schedule for early October completion.

HWY 98 & 4th STREET PROJECT

First draft sent to City on 6-30. Anchor working on finalizing technical specifications.

PIER

We had a couple of meetings with FEMA the past week. Things are still tense, but not as dire as last week. Needed some minor adjustments in the bathroom design which was forwarded to the potential bidders through an addendum. The date to receive the bids has been moved to July 22nd (from July 8).

FINANCE

1. The FY 2024 audit is complete and was submitted June 30, 2025...on time! I appreciate the help of the staff, when a request was made by the auditors, we turned it around in less than 48 hours, a huge reason the audit was completed on time. The citizens are fortunate to have dedicated folks here moving the city in the right direction.
2. The water/sewer/sanitation bills are going out a day early, even with losing a processing day. Many thanks to Vanessa and the guys who read the meters

3. Our ACH vendors list is growing weekly, fewer checks produces and more secure electronic payments being made, kudos to Katelyn
4. The last 2 weeks Andrea has processed several Boat/Golf cart permits and the week of the Gollywhopper, she manned the front window and timely processed all the fisherman's permits.

FIRE DEPARTMENT

It has been a busy week with making sure we have all the pieces in place for the 5 k Fun run on July 4th morning and then working with Special Events for their BIG fireworks display the evening of the 4th. It does look like everything is in place for a good time of all. We will have extra firefighters on shift to be sure we are covered for both events. As you know this is the first time we have had the display at the East end of the city, so we have worked closely with BCSO to be ready for the event and are hoping that people enjoy it and that the traffic diversions and parking restrictions will not cause to much undue discomfort. All restrictions will be removed after the display and things will revert to normal as soon as possible. We thank everyone for their cooperation and look forward to enjoying the events with you.

HARBOR MASTER

June was another record month with 848 slip days rented out, an increase from 780 last year. We had 309 boat launch daily permits bought and 36 yearly permits purchased for an income of \$14,925.00 for the boat launch for the month. We are all but full for the July 4th weekend at the city marina with only 3 slips available at the time of writing, but books are still coming in. It has been a busy time but the general feedback on all city amenities for our boating community is very positive. Thank you to all for keeping things looking good and working well.

CODE ENFORCEMENT

Here are some of the activities Code Enforcement has done.

- Received several emails and calls regarding the violations sent on turtle sights.
- Notice of Violations sent - 4th St Lot needs cut.
- Notice of Violations sent - Lot needs cut.
- Citation at boat launch - no daily ticket - no annual pass.
- Worked Friday & Saturday at shell mountain distribution
- Complaint tractor trailer parked at boat launch, had to be removed.
- Fence permit installing pool.
- issued Courtesy Violations at boat launch

SHERIFF'S OFFICE

June 1 – June 30

Calls for service	222
Miles patrolled	14550
Traffic stops	66
Citations	5
Warnings	59
Arrests	3 Misdemeanor / 1 Felony / 1 Criminal Traffic
Traffic accidents	6

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.
 - Additional bird nesting has been seen at the west side of the canal.
 - Public Works is checking and cleaning the beach daily.
 - 8th Street Canal Maintenance
 - Repairing ropes that continue to be cut and vandalized.
 - Beach Tractor 1 is still down for repairs.

- Traffic and Safety Improvements
 - FDOT is finishing two crosswalks.
 - 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.
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- Stormwater Management
 - One stormwater drainage was completed and one certified.
 - One member is now a newly certified FDEP Stormwater Inspector.
 - Two Stop Work Orders issued for stormwater violations.
 - Inspection of stormwater canals for clearing and operational effectiveness.
 - FDEP is authoring us to move forward with permitting the drainage solutions by US Highway 98 and 15th Street went well.
 - One (1) stormwater inspection was completed.
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- Parks and Recreations
 - Two days of shells give-a-ways on June 27-28 were a major success.
 - Snapper Season continues without issues.
 - The Fourth of July Events (5K) were 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.
- Regular park maintenance and updates.
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- 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
 - Lights repaired at Parker Park Restrooms
 - Water main break at Dedicated Beach area. Utilities Dept. assisted with repairs.
- Sanitation
 - Holiday routes were shifted for a day.
 - 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.

FLOODPLAIN

We have issued 485 minor floodplain reports/permits and conducted 54 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)

