



City of Mexico Beach

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Weekly Report April 24, 2026



National Bucket List Day Edition

(Life is too short. Now get around to it)

CITY ADMINISTRATOR

Mell Smigielski

Upcoming Meetings

Tuesday	April 28	9:00 am	City Council
Monday	May 4	6:00 pm	P & Z
Tuesday	May 12	9:00 am	City Council
Tuesday	May 26	9:00 am	City Council

Bids/RFQ's/RFP's

RFQ for strategic planning consultant services	2:00 pm	May 6
RFP for Boat Ramp & Expansion	2:00 pm	May 15

15th Street Pedestrian Bridge

Almost done...but not quite! There are still elements of the project still left to complete, but more importantly, the final inspections and acceptances have not been completed. We are not sure who removed the yellow caution tape, but allowing the public to use the bridge at this point would imply that the city has accepted the bridge in its current condition. That means if the bridge has some installation issues, fixing the bridge would be at the expense of our taxpayers and not the contractor who installed the bridge. I know closing the bridge at this point will be an inconvenience, but it is a necessary action to protect the safety and pocketbook of our taxpayers.

Sunset Park Pavilion

Work has begun on the pavilion repairs!! The time frame will be a few weeks. We anticipate the work to be completed ahead of the Memorial Day holiday.

Beach Water Sampling

Samples were taken on Monday this week. All samples in Mexico Beach came back good.

Lift Station Bypass Pump Project

LS #9: Concrete footers are poured. Pump setting and anchoring to be completed 04/27 – 05/01. Mainline will install piping and will be completed in May and possibly completed in early June.

LS #11 & #13: Razorback's updated schedule shows bypass pump setting and anchoring to be completed between 04/27 – 05/01.

Fire/Police/Civic Center

Our consultants sent the plans to FEMA for their review. Here is the FEMA reply: "Due to the current DHS lapse of appropriations, Disaster Recovery Operations are focused on life safety and life sustaining activities to include Public Assistance and Individual Assistance with a focus on Hurricane Helene, Hurricane Milton, and Winter Storm Fern. Once the lapse is over, we can send the requested information."

Boat ramp

Addendum #1 has been posted. Bid opening on May 15. Revised drawings sent back to the Army Corp for permit review.

Dune Walkovers at 7th and Sunset Park

FDEP Permits have been received and plans approved. The permit is good for a year (4-22-2027). The contractor (MKM) for the walkovers is the same for Sunset Park pavilion, so you should see plenty of work going on very soon.

Canal Parkway Cul-de-sac

Construction on the Canal Parkway cul-de-sac should be completed today (4-24-26).

Nanook and 14th Street Lift Stations

Nanook Rd – Anchor reviewing the startup report from Mainline and is will send any comments.

14th Street – Startup/dataflow scheduled for May 12th per Mainline.

4th Street Stormwater Project

Mainline is finalizing the remaining scope, complete as-builts, and send over pipe videos.

Dune Walkover #3

Anchor working on concept layout.

Amphitheater

Concrete pile installation has been completed, but here are some photos during installation:



Fishing Permit

We stand corrected! For years the city fishing permit for the pier also included fishing at the canal. The FWC reviewed the license and determined the permit does not include the canal but only covers the pier. Unless we find documentation to the contrary, our permit does not include the canal and at this point, we are not aware of any documentation. For those of you who fish the canal, make sure you obtain your own license to protect yourself should the FWC make compliance checks.

Sanitation

After having met with the potential contractor for sanitation services (Waste Management), our mission was to give them a few scenarios so they can look at the costs of the level of service and give us a price. Here are a few assumptions:

Not everyone requires concierge or back-door service, so they should not have to pay for something they don't use. Those who do need the service will incur a separate charge that is not yet determined.

Should the city determine Recycling is important, full-time residents may be required to participate (I know that sounds hypocritical based on the previous comment). An additional can will be provided for recycling (once a week) and recycled items may be mixed for the convenience of the end user. WM has a sorting facility in Fort Walton Beach. Short term rentals will not be included as they tend to have issues with putting trash in the recycling cans.

Trash pick up will remain twice per week, but it is hoped that after our citizens see trash reduction due to recycling, a future determination can be made to go to one pick up a week (maybe for part of the year?).

Should WM be asked to pick up dumpsters (we have approximately 38 dumpsters), they would need to provide new dumpsters due to their front load trucks versus our rear load trucks. The new dumpster cost would probably increase cost considerably, but we shall see their cost when available.

We determined that the most logical scenario at this point is to allow WM to pick up the normal trash, but the city keep a sanitation crew of 3 members. That crew would be responsible for dumpsters, beach can trash, extra pick-ups and yard waste pick up (assuming this next budget allows the acquisition of the tools needed for yard waste pick up like a dump truck and pick up apparatus).

We emphasize the need for the 3 remaining sanitation crew to also pick up extra pick-ups. We all know once WM leaves a certain area on trash day, they will not come back if a resident forgets to put out their can on trash day. Our crew would be available to ensure the customer service remains that has been a trademark of our sanitation department.

Jetty

Good news! The FEMA/FDEM-funded Jetty improvement project has been obligated at the bid price of \$4,267,436.00 by FEMA/FDEM. This is 1.6 million above their previous estimates. FEMA/FDEM agreed to the increase due to the work of Atkins-Realis (Dina Bautista) who provided a BCA (benefit-cost analysis) proving that jetty improvements will save the city in dredging costs over time.

Bad News! The contractor costs could only be held for 90 days, and we have exceeded that many times over. GCUC is looking to their suppliers to get a new cost for us and FEMA/FDEM to consider. Another hurdle is the timing of the project if it gets a green light soon. Construction may be during our busy fishing seasons, so some delay may be necessary.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

Sam Buccieri, PWD

Sod has been ordered for the Casuna side of Joe Drive adjacent to the new pedestrian bridge.

Bollards have been successfully installed on both sides of the new pedestrian bridge to improve safety and access control.

The golf cart bridge located at Bailey and Joe Drive will be removed.

Construction of the cul-de-sac on Canal Parkway is nearing completion and is expected to be finished this week.

Materials for the Utility and Public Works pole barn have been received, and construction is scheduled to begin soon.

Fire Department

Sandy Walker, Chief

Personnel have been installing and replacing blue road reflectors throughout the city to improve hydrant visibility during nighttime operations, in accordance with ISO annual maintenance requirements. Daily beach patrols are ongoing and will be increased as needed during the busy season.

Harbor Master

Bookings continue to come in steadily, indicating a strong season ahead.

BUILDING DEPARTMENT

Issued Permits

Permit Issued Date: 04/17/2026 - 04/23/2026

Permit Issued Date	Property Address	Permit Number	Contractor	Category	Valuation	Subdivision
Permit Type			Electric Permit			
04/20/2026	109 35TH ST, Mexico Beach	26MB-E0033		One Stop	\$700,000.00	MEXICO BEACH UNIT 6 235C2
Count: 1			Total: \$700,000.00			
Permit Type			Fire Spinkler			
04/23/2026	5501 Hwy 98, Mexico Beach	26MB-FS0001		One Stop	\$85,210.00	
Count: 1			Total: \$85,210.00			
Permit Type			Mechanical Permit			
04/20/2026	1405 HWY 98, Mexico Beach	26MB-M0044		One Stop	\$1,200,000.00	MEXICO BEACH UNIT # 2 235C4
04/20/2026	109 35TH ST, Mexico Beach	26MB-M0031		One Stop	\$700,000.00	MEXICO BEACH UNIT 6 235C2
Count: 2			Total: \$1,900,000.00			
Permit Type			Plumbing Permit			
04/20/2026	109 35TH ST, Mexico Beach	26MB-P0024		One Stop	\$700,000.00	MEXICO BEACH UNIT 6 235C2
Count: 1			Total: \$700,000.00			
Permit Type			Residential New Roof			
04/20/2026	109 35TH ST, Mexico Beach	26MB-RR0018		One Stop	\$700,000.00	MEXICO BEACH UNIT 6 235C2
04/20/2026	211 4th St, Mexico Beach	26MB-RR0038		One Stop	\$150,000.00	
04/17/2026	1405 HWY 98, Mexico Beach	26MB-RR0037		One Stop	\$1,200,000.00	MEXICO BEACH UNIT # 2 235C4
Count: 3			Total: \$2,050,000.00			
Permit Type			Residential Remodel - CC			
04/21/2026	411 COLORADO DR, Mexico Beach	26MB-RB0032		Residential Alteration	\$30,000.00	MEXICO BEACH UNIT #14 236A2
Count: 1			Total: \$30,000.00			
Total Permits: 9			Valuation Total: \$5,465,210.00			