



Dear Citizens,

I hope everybody had a great Christmas and a safe and happy New Year! With this being the first utility bill message of 2012, I thought I would touch on some of our successes of 2011 and highlight some items you can expect to see in the upcoming year.

First, the City completed Phase III of the Mexico Beach Sidewalk Plan; this phase was located on the east side of town and now permits individuals to walk safely along Hwy 98 from Hwy 386 to the Mexico Beach Marina. The City is currently working with the Bay County Transportation Planning Organizations and the West Florida Regional Planning Council in an attempt to obtain funding for sidewalks on 15th Street and we plan to work diligently toward this goal in 2012.

Secondly, the City completed a full renovation of the elevated water storage tank. While the City had not planned on performing a full renovation, when the contractor performed their initial evaluation, it became obvious that extensive repairs were necessary. This renovation will extend the life of our water tower, allowing us to continue providing quality drinking water to the City while also preserving one of our most visible landmarks.

Along the same lines, the City completed the engineering for a new water treatment facility and an upgrade to our water distribution system. The existing water plant is almost sixty years old and many of the water lines in town are old, of inadequate size, or both. This project will allow the City to install more fire hydrants, thereby offering better fire protection to our residents and property owners. We expect construction to begin during the first half of 2012 and be completed in approximately 18 months; many areas of town will be impacted by this project and we appreciate your patience while the project is ongoing.

Lastly, in July of this past year, due to problems with the city hall building located on 14th Street, the City purchased the "Parker House" for use as a City Hall; purchasing the home of Mexico Beach's first mayor provided a structure large enough for our needs, included enough property to allow events to be held at that location, and also allow the City to protect the one historical structure inside our City limits. Unfortunately, soon after its purchase, a fire severely damaged the structure and we have been working with our design-build team and insurance company regarding its reconstruction. Expect to see construction starting in the near future and City Hall to move to this new location in the fall of 2012.

Again, happy New Year and best wishes to you and your families in 2012!

Sincerely,

Chris Hubbard, City Administrator
City of Mexico Beach

Upcoming meetings

January 10th – City Council meeting – 6:00 p.m. CST

January 24th – City Council workshop – 4:00 p.m. CST

February 7th – Planning and Zoning Board meeting – 6:00 p.m. CST

February 8th – City Council Pre-agenda workshop – 4:00 p.m. CST