

MEETING MINUTES
TOWN OF CINCO BAYOU
1ST PUBLIC HEARING FOR FY 2026/2027 MILLAGE RATE
1ST PUBLIC HEARING FOR FY 2026/2027 BUDGET

September 10, 2026 at 5:30 p.m.

MAYOR JEAN HOOD CALLED TO ORDER THE 1ST PUBLIC HEARING FOLLOWED BY A MOMENT OF SILENCE AND THE PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE.

ROLL CALL:

MAYOR JEAN HOOD	P	COUNCILMAN DILLARD	P
COUNCILWOMAN DRIVER	P	COUNCILWOMAN HAWKINS	P
COUNCILWOMAN STEIGNER	P	COUNCILWOMAN GAMMICK	P

Also present was Town Manager Keith Williams, Town Deputy Clerk Linda Barringer, Kyle Bauman sitting in for Town Attorney Jeff McInnis. Cinco Bayou business owner Brian Harrison and resident Jerry Van Winkle.

OPEN PUBLIC HEARING:

1. Town Manager explained the millage as proposed is 3.2500 mills the percentage by which this rate is to be levied is more than the 3.0398 pursuant of Florida law is 6.19% greater.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: Brian Harrison addressed the council as a business owner in Cinco Bayou. The taxes in Cinco Bayou and the justification of the increase just doesn't make sense to me he stated. I have an issue on the property tax and mileage rate being raised. As I looked at the current tax rate for the residents, what do they pay for and what benefits do you have from living in Cinco Bayou as opposed to the unincorporated. It would make more sense to be in the unincorporated part of the county instead of in the "Town of Cinco Bayou", and then in a couple of years be incorporated by the City of FWB in my opinion. Councilman Dillard addressed Mr. Harrison: You are comparing Cinco Bayou to two different cities and counties, both which are much bigger than Cinco. The "benefit" is different for everyone. Everything is costing more everywhere; prices are being raised everywhere. If we are raising the mileage it's because things costs more.

Mayor Hood spoke up on the past attempts to incorporate Cinco into Fort Walton Beach and explained how all the residence came out and voted no. Mr. Harrison mentioned the biggest factor in being in Cinco Bayou is your raising the mileage, but you don't provide really any services. Councilwoman Gammick: Mr. Harrison so you own property on Opp and Yacht Club? Mr. Harrison explained he owns several rentals, and the tax rate needs to be lower not higher. Mayor Hood: One thing Cinco does, we maintain our roads with the funds we receive, we maintain the infrastructure. Councilwoman Driver, when was the last time we raised the mileage rate, Town Manager Williams said 2015. A tentative rate has been established and will have to go with this year, but it's always a discussion for next year. The last two years our mileage has stayed under the roll back rate. We have kept our services up even with the rate being so low.

Councilman Dillard made a motion to approve the mileage rate at 3.2500 mills per \$1,000 on the Taxable Property within the Cinco Bayou Town Limits. Councilwoman Gammick seconded the motion.

Roll call was taken:

COUNCILMAN DILLARD	Y	COUNCILWOMAN HAWKINS	Y
COUNCILWOMAN DRIVER	Y	COUNCILWOMAN GAMMICK	Y
COUNCILWOMAN STEIGNER	Y	The motion passed unanimously	

2. Council on the proposed tentative FY 2026/2027 Budget to be set at **\$2,523,949.00.**

PUBLIC COMMENTS: NONE

COUNCIL COMMENTS: Councilwoman Driver made a motion to approve the tentative FY 2026/2027 budget to be set as \$2,523,949.00. Councilman Dillard seconded the motion. Roll call was taken:

COUNCILMAN DILLARD	Y	COUNCILWOMAN HAWKINS	Y
COUNCILWOMAN DRIVER	Y	COUNCILWOMAN GAMMICK	Y
COUNCILWOMAN STEIGNER	Y	The motion passed unanimously	

CLOSE PUBLIC HEARING

ADJOURN: After no further business the 1st Public Hearing for the 2026/2027 General Fund Budget was adjourned at 5:54 p.m.

ATTEST:

Mayor Pro Tem Danny Dillard

Keith Williams, Town Manager/Clerk