

Sept 15, 2026

City of Hawk Cove
Mayor, Darren Evans
City Secretary, Massey
City Council

RE: 2026 Property Tax

I am making this public statement, out of concern for the most recent actions by the Attorney General's office against the City of Hawk Cove. The AG sent numerous emails to the City Secretary since December 2025 through June 2026 notifying them of their records request based on SB 1851 and Texas Local Government Code 103 regarding financial reporting and audits. On August 3, 2026 the AG made a decision to penalize Hawk Cove for not providing the 2025 Audit or, provide financial statements in accordance with State Law. The AG states that the municipality **MAY NOT** adopt an ad valorem tax rate that exceeds the municipality's no new revenue tax rate. Referencing Texas Local Government Code, Title 4, Subtitle A, Chapter 103.005.

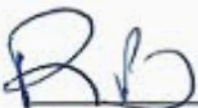
Upon Review, the AG states that "Based on the information and representations the City made to our office, I have determined that the City of Hawk Cove **DID NOT COMPLY** with the requirements under Local Government Code Chapter 103 for fiscal year 2025. Therefore, the City of Hawk Cove is subject to the penalties specified in Local Government Code 103.005 (c)"

In addition, per the last City Council session 9/4/26 I attempted to present to the Mayor and Council the direct Texas Local Government Codes, that pertained to the attempt to propose (draft) or, pass a tax rate and that is Texas Local Government Code 102.009 (a) states that, the governing body of the municipality may levy taxes **ONLY** in accordance with the budget. Mayor Evans stated that we must abide by the Tax Code. The tax code that aligns with the Texas Local Government Code 102.009 (a) is Tax Code 26.05 which states "The law requires the tax rate to be set **AFTER** the taxing unit has **DRAFTED** and **ADOPTED** a BUDGET, and the vote on the tax rate must be **SEPERATE** from the vote on the budget.

Therefore, NO tax rate can be passed at this time. If an attempt to default back to last years 2025 tax rate because of this issue. Hunt County Tax Office 5 year Tax Rates for the City of Hawk Cove states **2025 ADOPTED RATE WAS 0.644185, 2024 ADOPTED RATE WAS 0.774** which contradicts the Property Tax Calculation Worksheet of 0.66327, and **2023 ADOPTED RATE 0.642038.**

In accordance with Tax Code 26.04 (h-1) Notwithstanding Subsection (h) the anticipated collection rate of a taxing unit as calculated under that subsection is **LOWER** than the lowest actual collection rate of the taxing unit for any of the **PRECEEDING 3 years**, the anticipated collection rate of the taxing unit for purposes of this section is **EQUAL TO THE LOWEST ACTUAL COLLECTION RATE** of the taxing unit **FOR ANY PRECEEDING THREE YEARS.**

Based on the current violations as cited by Attorney General, Ken Paxton and violations against state local government and tax codes, as mentioned. I make a motion to Adopt, in accordance with the Attorney General determination and penalties filed against us and according to Tax Code 26.04 (h-1) a property tax rate with in the given 3 year window of last years ADOPTED rate of 0.644185 as the lowest rate available to charge.



Rebecca Bernardi, Mayor Pro Tem, Place 1