



**VILLAGE COUNCIL
MINUTES FOR WORK SESSION OF JUNE 13, 2023
ASSEMBLY HALL
395 MAGNOLIA ROAD
PINEHURST, NORTH CAROLINA
4:30 PM**

The Pinehurst Village Council held a Work Session Meeting at 6:51 p.m., Tuesday, June 13, 2023, in the Assembly Hall of Pinehurst Village Hall, 395 Magnolia Road, Pinehurst, North Carolina.

The following were in attendance in Assembly Hall:

Mr. John C. Strickland, Mayor
Mr. Patrick Pizzella, Mayor Pro Tem
Mr. Jeff Morgan, Councilmember
Ms. Jane Hogeman, Councilmember
Ms. Lydia Boesch, Councilmember
Mr. Jeffrey M. Sanborn, Village Manager
Ms. Kelly Chance, Village Clerk

And approximately 6 attendees, including 5 staff and 0 press

1. Call to Order.

Mayor Strickland called the Village Council meeting to order.

2. Discuss Sandhills Area Metropolitan Planning Organization Development and LPA Designation.

Jeff Sanborn, Village Manager reported on June 8th, elected and managerial representatives of jurisdictions within the Pinehurst-Southern Pines Urban Area met to advance efforts to form our required Metropolitan Planning Organization. He stated at that meeting, elected representatives unanimously agreed to three provisions. He stated they agreed to the Metropolitan Planning Area boundary as discussed during the regular meeting. He noted they agreed to a name for the MPO: the Sandhills Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (SAMPO). He stated lastly, after a proposal brief, he provided the group, they agreed that Pinehurst will be the Lead Planning Organization for the MPO.

Mr. Sanborn provided a briefing covered during the June 8th meeting. He described the proposed MPO staff functions, the support the Village of Pinehurst will provide, and the facilities that would be available to the MPO. He noted this organization's MOU ideally needs to be approved by the local government by election time. He stated the group did vote to unanimously elect the Village of Pinehurst as the Lead Planning Association designation. He stated the group will meet again in July.

3. Discuss North Carolina General Assembly Legislation.

Village Manager Jeff Sanborn stated regarding SB675, the legislative intent is to not have this elimination of ETJ not apply to counties who have a population greater than 50,000, thus there would really be no change to us. He stated we would be prohibited from extending our ETJ, which means as we grow, we will not be able to extend the ETJ designated area. He noted this has been approved by the Senate and is now listed as received by the House. Mayor Strickland stated that Council should continue to oppose

this, but Mr. Sanborn and Mayor Pro Tem Pizzella stated that there really is no threat to Pinehurst except the not being able to extend the ETJ, which we really were not planning to do anyway. Councilmember Morgan agreed it is not really an issue at this point. Mayor Strickland noted that there is still some concern about this bill in the state.

Mr. Sanborn reported that HB409 has passed the House and now is in the Senate. Alex Cameron, Planning & Inspections Director stated that some Planning Directors participate in groups that monitor these various bills, with some being supportive, and other not. He noted there is more support it appears of HB409, but he has not heard any new information lately. He stated that SB675 passed the first reading in the House today and was referred to a committee. Councilmembers consensus is that they are still in favor of opposing SB675 and should continue to express this.

4. Discuss Board nomination and Appointment Process.

Mayor John Strickland stated he feels when candidates come to us it is an awkward situation where Council does not know the candidates being presented for vote. He stated council used to do some interviewing and he wishes to have more council involvement. Councilmember Boesch and Councilmember Hogeman stated the process of them interviewing candidates worked well. Mayor Pro Tem Pizzella stated he would like that type of process. Mayor Strickland stated he would like to see a process that Council gets two months' notice in advance, staff sorts out what applicants are needed. He stated staff would pull out three or four names that Councilmembers can meet with, along with staff and candidates.

Mr. Sanborn stated that in this instance then one councilmember would have the ability to veto a candidate. He stated this would also allow one councilmember to choose a candidate that may be a personal choice. Mayor Pro Tem Pizzella stated the mayor should designate two councilmembers to work with the staff and board chair to come up with the best candidate in the event of vacancies. He stated the councilmembers could be rotated so there is a variety of decisions.

Councilmember Morgan stated he wants a process that takes the politics out of it. He stated we also have not taken the advice of staff who have put a lot of work into interviewing these candidates. Councilmember Boesch stated the talent the recent candidates we have appointed shows that the process has been working. Councilmember Hogeman stated she feels awkward voting on a candidate she has never met.

Village Manager Jeff Sanborn stated that Council needs to trust us. He stated the person that they rejected tonight was great candidate and he tried to communicate for weeks with Council about his candidacy and no one expressed interest except Mayor Strickland. Councilmember Boesch suggested that after staff and Committee Chair interviews and comes to a decision of a candidate then Council can meet with that candidate. Councilmember Morgan stated he suggests two sets of two councilmembers meet so there is not a minority number eliminating a candidate based on their sole choice.

Mayor Pro Tem Pizzella stated he wants staff to narrow down to the ones that should be interviewed, then council should make the decision. Councilmember Hogeman asked Southern Pines and Aberdeen do. Mr. Sanborn stated he has never asked him. He stated he is not opposed to the two groups of two Council meeting with the candidate to have some face-to-face time. Mayor Strickland asked Councilmember Hogeman and Councilmember Morgan to work with Mr. Sanborn to come up with a workable process. Councilmember Morgan stated he did just suggest a workable process with the two and two concept. He stated that there needs to be a clear expectation of what Council deems as the criteria expected of the candidates so the candidates are not subjected to certain questions like they were tonight.

Councilmember Boesch and Councilmember Morgan both expressed that they want to see staff continue to be empowered in the process. Councilmember Morgan and Councilmember Hogeman will discuss some viable solutions with Mr. Sanborn and report back to Council.

5. Other Work Session Business

- Mayor Pro Tem Pizzella asked when the ETC Survey occurs again, to which Mr. Sanborn stated it occurs in the summer with results being received in September.
- Mayor Pro Tem Pizzella asked about the fire in the restroom at Cannon Park, to which Mr. Sanborn stated that four teenager boys have been interviewed and admitted to the crime.

- Mayor Pro Tem Pizzella asked about an update for the NAC vacancies, to which Mr. Sanborn provided the status of interviews.
- Mayor Pro Tem Pizzella asked about removal of the water takes, to which Mr. Sanborn stated that conversation will be taken up at a later date.
- Mayor Pro Tem Pizzella asked about the potential property swap on Murdocksville Rd/Monticello property that backs up to the Harness Track, to which Assistant Village Manager Jeff Batton stated there will be a closed session meeting in a couple of weeks about that property.

6. **Potential Future Agenda Items**

Councilmember Boesch suggested an update on the USGA building.

7. **Adjournment.**

Upon a motion by Mayor Pro Tem Pizzella, seconded by Councilmember Morgan, Council unanimously approved to adjourn the work session at 8:39 p.m., by a vote of 5-0.

Respectfully Submitted,



Kelly Chance,
Village Clerk

A videotape of this meeting is located on the Village website: www.vopnc.org

Vision: The Village of Pinehurst is a charming, vibrant community, which reflects our rich history and traditions.

Mission: Promote, enhance, and sustain the quality of life for residents, businesses, and visitors.

Values: Service, Initiative, Teamwork, and Improvement