



**VILLAGE COUNCIL
MINUTES FOR REGULAR MEETING OF APRIL 14, 2020
ASSEMBLY HALL
395 MAGNOLIA ROAD
PINEHURST, NORTH CAROLINA
4:30 PM**

The Pinehurst Village Council held a Regular Meeting at 4:30 p.m., Tuesday, April 14, 2020 remotely, via Zoom. Assembly Hall, located at Pinehurst Village Hall, 395 Magnolia Road, Pinehurst, North Carolina was open to the public to view the remote meeting live and to provide public comments in real time. The following were in remote attendance of the meeting:

Mr. John C. Strickland, Mayor
Ms. Judy Davis, Mayor Pro Tem
Ms. Lydia Boesch, Councilmember
Mr. Kevin Drum, Councilmember
Ms. Jane Hogeman, Councilmember
Mr. Jeffrey M. Sanborn, Village Manager
Ms. Beth Dunn, Village Clerk

And approximately 7 staff members.

1. Call to Order.

Mayor Strickland, called the Village Council meeting to order.

2. Reports:

Village Manager

- Staff did a great job getting things back to normal yesterday after the storm. He also thanked the power company for getting the power back up so quickly.
- Due to the storm the yard at the Public Service facility will open for residents to bring excess yard debris through the end of the month. Hours of operation will be from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday. Also, residents may leave excess yard debris out for curbside pick-up, which will be picked up on the normal collection schedule.
- He is contemplating purchasing speed trailers with funds available in this year's current budget, which may require a budget amendment to come back to Council.

Village Council

- Councilmember Boesch stated that a group of Pinewild residents have made 3,000 masks for First Health and have also produced 30 N95 masks. She thanked everyone for working so hard to get Pinehurst cleaned up after the storm.
- Councilmember Drum stated he met with the Triangle J Executive Committee, remotely, and they worked on the Families First Coronavirus Act Policy, to help assist the region. He also attended the monthly TARPO meeting, remotely, as well.
- Councilmember Hogeman thanked all the staff, Mayor, and Council for all of their hard work during this time.
- Mayor Pro Tem Davis thanked staff for reacting so quickly to the storm damage. She also noted to the Village Manager that addressing speeding will be well received, as speeders are on the minds of many people right now.
- Mayor Strickland stated at this time the County is reporting 85 confirmed cases of COVID-19 and 3 deaths. The hot spot is still at Pinehurst Rehabilitation. He received a letter from the Mayor of Zhijiang, China, our sister city, supporting us with their

thoughts and are wishing us the best during this time

3. Motion to Approve Consent Agenda.

All items listed below are considered routine or have been discussed at length in previous meetings and will be enacted by one motion. No separate discussion will be held unless requested by a member of the Village Council.

- Approval of Village Council Meeting Minutes.
 - March 31, 2020 Special Meeting
 - March 31, 2020 Closed Session
- Budget Amendment Report

End of Consent Agenda.

Upon a motion by Councilmember Drum, seconded by Councilmember Hogeman, Council unanimously approved the Consent agenda by a vote of 5-0.

4. Discuss and Consider a Resolution 20-08

Jeff Sanborn, Village Manager, stated the need to conduct electronic meetings for Village Council appointed boards has arose. This method would require parties to consent in writing to proceed with Quasi-Judicial proceedings electronically, in lieu of waiting until we could move forward with meeting in a safe manner. We have been following the guidance coming from the School of Government on this topic very closely and they have suggested that Council's give their advisory boards permission to conduct electronic meetings. Mr. Sanborn noted that Mike Newman, Village Attorney, feels our approach to this is acceptable.

Upon a motion by Councilmember Mayor Pro Tem Davis, seconded by Councilmember Drum, Council unanimously approved Resolution 20-08 authorizing Village Council appointed boards to conduct electronic meetings, by a vote of 5-0.

5. Discuss and Consider Approval of the Emergency Family and Medical Leave Expansion Act and Emergency Paid Sick Leave Policy.

Angie Kantor, Human Resources Director, stated that President Trump signed a second coronavirus emergency aid package into law on March 18, 2020. The purpose of the policy is to assist employees affected by the COVID-19 outbreak with job-protected, paid leave under the Emergency Family and Medical Leave Expansion Act and Emergency Paid Sick Leave effective April 1, 2020 through December 31, 2020.

Employees can take leave under this policy for certain qualifying reasons:

1. The employee is subject to a federal, state or local quarantine or isolation order related to COVID-19.
2. The employee has been advised by a health care provider to self-quarantine due to concerns related to COVID-19.
3. The employee is experiencing symptoms of COVID-19 and seeking a medical diagnosis.
4. The employee is caring for an individual who is subject to either number 1 or 2 above.
5. The employee is caring for his or her child if the school or place of care of the child has been closed, or the childcare provider of such child is unavailable, due to COVID-19 precautions.
6. The employee is experiencing any other substantially similar condition specified by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

Ms. Kantor explained that eligible employees are entitled for up to two weeks, or a part-time employee's two-week equivalent, of paid sick leave based on their rate of pay. The amount of pay will vary depending on the reason leave is needed. This policy does exclude emergency responders from reasons #4 and #5 above. Emergency Responders are eligible when their health is impacted. Councilmember Boesch stated she is impressed that staff was able to pull this policy together so quickly.

Upon a motion by Councilmember Boesch, seconded by Councilmember Hogeman, Council unanimously approved Resolution 20-08 approving the Emergency Family and Medical Leave Expansion Act and Emergency Paid Sick Leave Policy, by a vote of 5-0.

6. Preview of Fiscal Year 2021 Strategic Operating Plan (SOP).

Jeff Sanborn, Village Manager, stated this item is to give a preview of the Fiscal Year (FY) 2021 Strategic Operating Plan (SOP) that was based on the guidance provided by the Council at the annual Strategic Planning Retreats and subsequent meetings. Mr. Sanborn reviewed the Strategic Challenges and Opportunities and the 8 Initiative Action Plans (IAP), identified by Council. Mr. Sanborn explained there are 67 projects planned to be completed between FY 2021-2025. He reviewed some of the more significant projects included in the plan that address Strategic Opportunities are construct pedestrian facilities, stormwater improvements, West Pinehurst Park master Plan and development, Village Place Streetscape enhancements, consolidate and align multi-modal transportation planning, and update Comprehensive Parks and Recreation Master Plan. Mr. Sanborn explained there are also 39 evaluations planned for FY 2021-2025.

Mr. Sanborn explained that last year around this time the Village had an increase in tipping fees from the County and an increase in the state mandated retirement contributions, both which impacted the five-year SOP forecasting. Mr. Sanborn reviewed some of the key highlights of the proposed FY 2021 five-year forecast. Staff is recommending a .005 tax rate increase to \$0.305, as projected in last years, FY 2020, five-year forecast. The tax rate for the FY 2022-2025 includes a tax rate increase of \$0.005 per year for FY 2022-2024, no tax rate increase planned for FY 2025. Mr. Sanborn explained that key external sources of operating expenditure pressures continue to include the state mandated retirement contribution increases, County mandated tipping fees, and 2.5% annual inflation rate for operating expenditures. The FY 2022-2025 forecast also includes funding of over 3 million for 2019 Comprehensive Plan implementation across the five-year planning period. Mr. Sanborn noted some key highlights for salaries and benefits in the 5 year forecast include cost of living adjustments of 1.8%; merit raises averaging 2% funded in FY 2021-2025, an addition of .75 full-time equivalents (FTEs) in FY 2021-2025, and restructuring one department.

Mr. Sanborn reviewed the funding planned for significant Comprehensive Plan implementation. Overall the 5 year forecast estimates funding, to implement strategies, at a total of \$3,262,100. The most costly being pedestrian facilities at \$1,850,000 and the lowest being creating a Multi-Modal Transportation Plan at \$100,000. Brooke Hunter, Financial Services Director, noted that this plan includes accelerating all of the remaining debt service payments that were programed in for FY 2022, those will now be paid in full in FY 2021.

Mayor Strickland asked how the plan has 1 less full time employee within an environment with increased demands on services. Mr. Sanborn stated they continue to evaluate need for staff but also look with a critical eye to requests for more and always look to the data. He noted he can't predict for certain that there won't be requests for additional staff with in the five year plan. Councilmember Boesch asked what a Transportation Planner would do and help us improve. Mr. Sanborn stated this position would be creating a Multi Modal Plan and overseeing that effort. Also, he explained this person would measure and map problem areas, study intersections, and have dialogue with the Department of Transportation and surrounding municipalities.

Mayor Pro Tem Davis asked what unit we are looking at to project the cost of pedestrian facilities. Mr. Sanborn stated that when the sidewalks were installed in Village Acres it cost around \$400,000 and they have used that number as a placeholder for future projects. Councilmember Drum stated there is a great need for pedestrian facilities and feels we are behind on building those. He also noted that he feels that funding the Transportation Planner will help fill the gap and help manage all of these issues cohesively. Councilmember Drum asked if there was a way to take control the recycling costs and services. Mr. Sanborn stated that currently we continue to work with the County on various options. Councilmember Hogeman asked if the Transportation Planner would be a credentialed traffic engineer. Mr. Sanborn stated this position would be a planner not an engineer.

Councilmember Hogeman asked if we had an update on the Library Needs Assessment. Natalie Hawkins, Assistant Village Manager, stated the consultants are evaluating all of the data and finalizing their recommendations. The recommendations will be the basis for the ETC Survey, which will come to Council to review before sending out to residents. Ms. Hawkins noted that she believes the consultants will have at least four different recommendations.

Councilmember Hogeman asked if we have we looked at projects that we could postpone, if we need to due to economic impacts of COVID-19. Mr. Sanborn stated they took potential COVID economic impacts into consideration when creating the budget and used some input from the state on what they are forecasting for sales tax revenues. Mayor Pro Tem Davis asked what the debt pay off amount was, that's being rolled into FY 2021. Ms. Hunter stated the total debt amount to be paid in FY 2021 is \$148,000.

Councilmember Hogeman asked if there was any to bury power lines in the Village. Mr. Sanborn stated that is very expensive and most of the above around lines are downtown, where the trees are in the right-of-ways. Council agreed this is something to look at moving forward with any new plans.

7. Other Business.

- Mayor Strickland stated that the traffic light on Hwy 211 and Gun Cub was out after the storm and the Police were directing traffic some during this time. He asked who's responsibility that was to direct the traffic. Mr. Sanborn stated Highway 211 is a state highway, however, directing traffic is up to us as State Troopers are usually dealing with other traffic issues. Our staff will fill in to the best of our ability.
- Councilmember Drum stated that Moore County is behind on the response to the 2020 Census and said he would like to see the Village communicate the need for residents to fill out the Census.

8. Comments from Attendees.

- Bernard Peters, Monticello Drive, submitted the following public comment by email: "I am writing to you, the Honorable City Council, concerning the motorists that continue to speed on Monticello Drive. I live on Monticello by the corner of Monticello and Surry Circle North and South intersection. About 95% of the drivers DO NOT go the posted 25 Mph speed limit and some even run the 4 way stop sign at the same intersection. I believe the average speed is around 40 MPH. The 4 way stop signs HAVE NOT reduced the speed as intended! I have contacted the PPD but was informed it is a manpower issue. I've offered my driveway as a radar location. I would appreciate anything that could be done. Increased radar monitoring or speed bumps would help. I hope it wouldn't depend on a child fatality or similar to see changes."
- Debbie Scaf, Pinehurst resident, submitted the following public comment by email: "There are many people walking the streets on Adam's Circle, Forest Drive and Longleaf that will not move for oncoming traffic. I see children not obeying traffic rules on Forest drive and Adam's Circle darting out in the street with no supervision on bikes and running across the street. Runners, walkers, dune buggies, unleashed dogs and children using Adam's circle as a track and will not move over for traffic and staying in the middle of the road impeding traffic. This is very dangerous since there are contractors building and several blind spots exist within the area causing very dangerous traffic issues. I don't know how to fix this but I wanted to bring this to the attention of the village and for the Council meeting."
- Dee Tenant, Pinehurst resident, submitted the following public comment by email: In the last 3 years, I have noticed more children driving golf carts. I have seen kids drive carts around Adams Circle, Barkley Lane, on the Greenway entrance at Forest Drive and on Longleaf. I have reported this to the police but this still happens. There needs to be some kind of police presence in Village Acres since there are so many people breaking rules. There is a man that drives a dune buggy around the neighborhood too. There is a man that shoots a crossbow on Tyler Way across the street across Forest Drive, people walking in the middle of the streets impeding traffic.
- Michael Pizzi, Pinehurst resident, submitted the following public comment by email: "On a walk yesterday I saw an 8 year old driving her family of 4. Why oh why is this permitted? And if it is not, why aren't police fining people (or are they?). Secondly- for adult drivers - aren't they too supposed to abide by the 25mph speed limit? The location was off Burning Tree Rd and Gingham for both instances. However I have witnessed this numerous times on major roadways. Please put a stop to this as it endangers not just the children but also pedestrians. I look forward to hearing from you."
- Megan Keating, Forrest Drive, submitted the following public comment by email: "Hello! I live in village acres on Forrest Dr. and we have a horrible speeding problem in the neighborhood. Between myself and my neighbor, we have contacted the police roughly 10 times. The police will come and sit along the street but this is only a temporary fix, for as long as they are sitting there. We have to do something. Of the 4 houses with driveways on Forrest, there are 6 children ages 7 and under. PLEASE do something. Signs, speed bumps. Something. We need to protect our children and encourage people to follow the law." And "Hi! Just me again, reminding you that speeding is a problem in village acres. Sidewalks or slow signs would be appreciated. I hope you all are willing to make a change before someone is killed."
- Melissa Kholman, Pinehurst resident, submitted the following public comment by email: "I have posted a post in Nextdoor Neighborhood that now has over 200 comments due to the speeding occurring on Forrest Drive. It is extremely out of control, dangerous, and no one cares. I would like to be present at the meeting. Something must be done. Sidewalks are a must and it's actually not even fair to have the trail connected to our neighborhood without sidewalks. Make people slow down. This is insane to me."
- Michael and Brenda Xeroteris, Idlewild Road, submitted the following public comment by email: "I am writing to complain about the lack of enforcement of our laws (speeding, running stop signs, and operating vehicles with helmets or proper licenses) in my neighborhood and around the Village of Pinehurst. This has been an ongoing problem; however, the critical nature has increased with more people at home, out of school, college and work that are practicing social distancing with more outdoor activities. It is beyond my understanding why this problem cannot be really resolved with formal citizen and officer presence, education and enforcement and we consequently find ourselves obliged to write this letter. We fear that someone is going to get hurt or have an

accident because of motorists violating speed limits and road signage or a child gets injured as their parents allows them to disrespect the laws of North Carolina and play in the streets without proper protective gear and or operating vehicles under age, or not licensed for the road. Or an unsuspecting motorist injures a child that is racing down a hill on the wrong side of the road with or without PPE or parent supervision using the road as a personal playground. It is important in this time of personal crisis to have increased police visibility, to educate children of our laws and proper rules for playing in the road (bicycle riding and walking) and wearing of helmets, and to recognize good behavior, and enforce our laws. Increased citizen patrols and officer presence also enhances safety and has been proven to reduce crime. It takes a Village and as long as we're all working together this problem can be sorted out at once. Most of our speed limits for the residential neighborhoods is 25 mph; which is fine; however, when cars are doing 35-40 mph with more people walking, riding bicycles, walking pets, driving golf carts, playing in the streets etc. it is not safe. The speed limit of 25 mph may be safe for St. Andrews and Lake Forest Drive and similar roads; however, on smaller neighborhood auxiliary streets with hills, curves, no sidewalks, blind curves and steep driveways and more outside activities occurring with children playing on the roadways it is not safe especially when drivers are not driving for conditions and unless things improve should be lowered to 15 mph. I would hate to see more signage, speed bumps, or sidewalks or lowering of speed limits as these costs dollars and ruins the Village feel; however, something must be done."

9. Regular Meeting and Enter a Closed Session.

Upon a motion by Councilmember Boesch, seconded by Councilmember Hogeman, Council unanimously approved to recess the special meeting and enter into a closed session, pursuant to NCGS §143-318.11(a)(4), for Village Council to discuss economic development matters involving a prospective new business or the expansion of an existing business or industry, by a vote of 5-0.

10. Motion to Adjourn the Closed Session and Re-enter the Regular Meeting.

Upon a motion by Councilmember Boesch, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Davis, Council unanimously approved to adjourn the closed session and re-enter the regular meeting, by a vote of 5-0.

11. Motion to Adjourn.

Upon a motion by Mayor Pro Tem Davis, seconded by Councilmember Hogeman, Council unanimously approved to adjourn the regular meeting by a vote of 5-0 at 8:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Beth Dunn,
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