



Village Council
Minutes for the Work Session of May 12, 2026
Assembly Hall
395 Magnolia Road
Pinehurst, North Carolina
04:30 p.m.

The Village of Pinehurst Village Council held a Work Session Meeting at 05:48 p.m., Tuesday, May 12, 2026, in the Assembly Hall of Village Hall, 395 Magnolia Road, Pinehurst, North Carolina.

The following were present:

Mr. Patrick Pizzella, Mayor

Mr. John Taylor, Mayor Pro Tem

Ms. Barb Ficklin, Councilmember

Mr. Kevin Fitzpatrick, Councilmember

Mr. Doug Willardson, Village Manager

Ms. Shannon Bonecutter, Village Clerk

Ms. JoEllen Richter, IT Technician

And approximately 0 member of the audience in attendance, in addition to 0 staff and 1 press. There were approximately 8 remote views.

1. Call to Order.

Mayor Pizzella called the Village Council Work Session to order at 06:01 p.m.

2. General Business.

A. Overview of Village Support to the Downtown and its Businesses and Events

Mr. Willardson reviewed and discussed a memo providing an overview of the Village's efforts to support the Downtown business community, which include foundational level services like maintenance of public spaces / streets / sidewalks / landscaping, public safety and parking management and targeted services / investments like brickwork repairs / enhancements, the Beautification Grant program supporting improvements on private property, expanded parking opportunities / management / enforcement, sidewalk / pedestrian infrastructure projects, and continued communication / coordination with business owners on improvement and infrastructure projects helping to navigate regulations and minimize disruptions.

The memo further outlines the Village's efforts to support or sponsor community and tourism-oriented events throughout the year such as the St. Patrick's Day Parade (Village), the Farmer's Market (private), Wine Walk (private), the Sandhills Motoring Expo (private), the Independence Day Parade (Village), the U.S. Kids Golf Tournament (private), the Holly Arts Festival (private), Oktoberfest (Village), the BBQ Festival (private), and the Christmas Tree Lighting (Village).

Council verified the uptick in Beautification Grants during FY 2026 was due to the Village proactively working with Downtown property owners to complete improvement projects that were identified for their properties. Council asked Mr. Willardson to consider including a list of the projects completed with Beautification Grant funding in the next Village newsletter.

Council deliberated on ways to increase response to the business and resident surveys, improve the quality / usability of feedback gathered from the surveys, what additional questions to include in the surveys, and whether to adjust the amount of fees collected or the way sponsorships are given for special events.

Council agreed to pursue doing in-person surveys of the Downtown businesses using standardized questions, which should include the topics of the new timed parking restrictions and special events, and to inviting Downtown business owners to come speak at a future meeting after the survey results have been compiled.

Council agreed to pursue including questions on the redevelopment / development of Village Place and Downtown walkability for residents with mobility challenges in the resident surveys.

Council agreed to have Village staff research the amount of fees paid to the Village for special event permits versus the Village's cost of providing services for special events and asked Mr. Willardson to have discussions with event sponsors regarding fees and services to gather feedback.

B. Review of Advisory Board Members and Upcoming Vacancies

Mr. Willardson reviewed and discussed a memo and an Advisory Board Members and Upcoming Vacancies PowerPoint presentation that provided an overview of the current membership, upcoming vacancies, and term limit statuses for the Village's advisory boards and commissions. Mr. Willardson noted the following upcoming vacancies, which the Village will soon begin recruiting volunteers to fill:

- Planning & Zoning Board / Board of Adjustment – 1 (with the possibility of 2 additional over the next several months)
- Historic Preservation Commission – 1 with 1 additional vacancy opening up at the end of May 2026.
- Neighborhood Advisory Committee – 4
- Bicycle & Pedestrian Advisory Committee – 3

Council deliberated on and agreed to reconsider former applicants for the advisory board and commission vacancies in addition to gathering new applications and to discuss the possibility of merging the Bicycle & Pedestrian Advisory Committee with the Neighborhood Advisory Committee in a future Work Session.

C. Discussion of a "Tee of the Village" Awards Program for Recognizing Outstanding Contributions to the Village of Pinehurst

Mayor Pizzella reviewed and discussed his proposal for a "Tee of the Village" award to recognize outstanding contributions to the Village of Pinehurst by both residents and non-residents.

Council deliberated on the award criteria as outlined in the proposed "Tee of the Village" policy and whether a tee is an appropriately significant award or if it is too athletic in nature.

Council agreed to workshop additional ideas on types of awards and names for the awards.

D. Discussion on the Moore County Highway Corridor Overlay District (HCOB)

Mr. Willardson reviewed and discussed a memo on Moore County evaluating potential changes to its Highway Corridor Overlay District as part of the County's ongoing Unified Development Ordinance updates.

Council discussed no one single authority being responsible for the evaluation of roadway needs within Moore County (this authority is spread out amongst NCDOT, Moore County, and the Sandhills Metropolitan Planning Organization).

Council agreed to provide the Village's opinion via a resolution, which will be presented for approval on the May 26, 2026, Regular Meeting agenda.

Council and Mr. Willardson discussed potential upcoming agenda items, which included additional ideas for recognizing outstanding contributions to the Village, applications received for the advisory board and

commission vacancies, the resolution expressing the Village's opinion on the Moore County Highway Corridor Overlay District, whether or not to revisit Resolution 26-21 Opposing Legislation That Limits Local Planning and Zoning Authority, a review of the Council Code of Ethics, updates on the redesign of the Pinehurst Traffic Circle discussions with NCDOT, the Public Hearing on the FY 2027 Budget and Strategic Operating Plan, and the quarterly budget update.

3. Motion to Adjourn.

Upon a motion by Mayor Pro Tem Taylor, seconded by Councilmember Ficklin, Council unanimously approved to adjourn the Work Session by a vote of 4-0 at 06:58 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Shannon Bonecutter
Village Clerk

A recording 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