



**Village Council
Minutes for the Work Session of June 09, 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 05:51 p.m., Tuesday, June 09, 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. Jeramy Hooper, Councilmember

Mr. Doug Willardson, Village Manager
Mr. Carlton Cole, Assistant Village Manager
Mr. Dan Hartzog, Village Attorney
Ms. Shannon Bonecutter, Village Clerk
Mr. Paul Conners, IT Specialist

And approximately 0 members of the audience in attendance, in addition to 2 staff and 1 press. There were approximately 12 remote views.

1. Call to Order.

Mayor Pizzella called the Village Council Work Session to order at 06:03 p.m.

2. General Business.

A. Review Renderings of the Tufts Archives Renovation

Mr. Willardson and Ms. Audrey Moriarty, Library Services & Archives Director, reviewed and discussed conceptual floor plans and exterior elevations for the Tufts Archives renovation that retain the existing building footprint apart from a proposed patio on the rear of the building.

Council deliberated relocating the proposed restroom facilities to the opposite side of the building so access from Tufts Park / Village Green is possible, building a standalone restroom facility, whether the cost of expanding the building footprint is justified for the amount of additional space that will be provided, and whether an alternative fire suppression system (similar to what is used in museums) would be feasible.

Council verified the intention is to relocate the Welcome Center to the Archives from its current location at the Theater Building, asked that the specific location for the Welcome Center be noted on the plans for the Archives, and confirmed that the majority of the proposed changes to the exterior elevations are being done to bring the building into ADA compliance.

Ms. Moriarty noted the plans will also need to be updated to reflect the installation of a dumb waiter or elevator and that the Village is working with the architect to design the installation of interactive, digital displays.

Council asked Mr. Willardson to research options for the restrooms, fire suppression system, and building expansion and to provide a report on the costs associated with each of his findings.

Mr. Willardson verified the intention is for the new Given Memorial Library to be completed by March 2027 and to begin work on the renovation of the Tufts Archives building as soon as the contents are relocated. Mr. Willardson noted bids for the renovation work will be solicited in January 2027.

B. Discussion Regarding Revisions to the Village Council Code of Ethics

Mr. Willardson reviewed and discussed a draft revised Village Council Code of Ethics document and asked Council to provide feedback on the most recent revisions, specifically Section 8. Enforcement and Accountability.

Council spoke in favor of the draft revised Village Council Code of Ethics and asked Mr. Dan Hartzog, Village Attorney, to provide feedback as well.

Mr. Hartzog proposed the following revisions:

- SECTION 1. COMPLIANCE WITH LAW

Council members shall uphold and comply with all applicable laws. They shall be guided not only by the letter of the law, but by its spirit, ~~seeking always to act in a manner that strengthens public confidence in government.~~

Nothing in this Code shall be interpreted to prohibit Council members from expressing dissenting opinions, engaging in public debate, communicating with constituents, or criticizing policies, decisions, or governmental actions, provided such conduct remains consistent with applicable law ~~and the standards of professionalism and integrity set forth herein.~~

- Replace shall or must with should when not referring to a specific law / statute / ordinance.

Mr. Hartzog stated he would do an additional review of the draft and provide Council with his recommended revisions.

Council deliberated what constitutes a public record versus a personal opinion / private record, the process for handling complaints made against any member of Council, what differentiates an ethical violation versus a criminal violation, and the removal process for a member of Council (a quasi-judicial, common-law process known as amotion).

Council agreed to consider a final draft revision of the Village Council Code of Ethics document at an upcoming meeting and asked that a redline version be provided for review as well.

Council agreed to add a Conflict of Interest / Ethics Reminder section to each Regular Meeting agenda with the following language included in this section:

Does any Council member have a known conflict of interest or other circumstance that could impair their impartiality regarding any matter before the Council today?

If so, please disclose the conflict. Council members with a conflict should refrain from participating in the matter. If a Council member believes recusal is not required, they should disclose the nature of the conflict and the basis for their participation.

Council asked for an update on the business survey. Mr. Willardson noted the final version of the business survey was sent out earlier today and that contact information for each of the businesses will be provided to Council so appointments may be set to conduct the survey in person. Mr. Willardson stated the surveys were being delivered via email and hard copies were being mailed only if an email address for the business is not on file.

3. Closed Session.

A. Closed Session Pursuant to N.C.G.S. § 143-318.11(a)(3) to Consult with the Village Attorney Regarding Legal Issues Associated with Potential Administrative Proceedings and Enforcement Matters

Upon a motion by Mayor Pro Tem Taylor, seconded by Councilmember Ficklin, Council unanimously approved to enter the Closed Session pursuant to NCGS § 143-318.11(a)(3) to consult with an attorney employed or retained by the public body in order to preserve the attorney-client privilege between the attorney and the public body, which privilege is hereby acknowledged. Further, the public body may consider and give instructions to an attorney concerning the handling or settlement of a claim, judicial action, mediation, arbitration, or administrative procedure by a vote of 5-0 at 07:22 p.m.

Upon a motion by Mayor Pro Tem Taylor, seconded by Councilmember Ficklin, Council unanimously approved to adjourn the Closed Session and re-enter the Work Session by a vote of 5-0 at 08:26 p.m.

4. 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 5-0 at 08:26 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