



**Village Council  
Minutes for the Work Session of June 23, 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 05:59 p.m., Tuesday, June 23, 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  
Ms. Shannon Bonecutter, Village Clerk  
Mr. Josh Dockery, 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 06:06 p.m.

**2. General Business.**

**A. Discussion Regarding Village's Communication Strategies and Outlets**

Mr. Willardson reviewed a Communications Review PowerPoint presentation outlining Analytics and Trends, Maintenance, Other Communication Platforms, and The Future and Expected Trends.

Council deliberated highlighting events involving and actions taken by Council on the website more; adopting a more assertive / dynamic communications style via the website (especially regarding upcoming Village events and the use of MY VOP); how to bridge the gap between preferred communication sources amongst different age groups; taking a more disciplined approach to sending out communications to residents; and ways to eliminate or merge redundant communication outlets.

Council discussed potential topics to include in the upcoming newsletter, how the information kiosk Downtown is maintained, how to encourage resident use of MY VOP, how to leverage the Neighborhood Advisory Committee and Senior Advisory Committee representatives and their communication networks to distribute Village information, partnering with a North Carolina based AI consultant for updates / modifications to the Village's website and communication tools, and Councilmembers helping to recruit representatives for the vacancies on the Neighborhood Advisory Committee.

Council asked Mr. Willardson to provide more data on resident usage of the various communication platforms and tools.

**B. Discussion of the Village's Fence Regulations and Protection of Foliage**

Mr. Willardson reviewed and discussed a memo outlining options to address the increase in deer protection barriers being installed by homeowners throughout the Village.

Council deliberated the options presented and agreed to consider an amendment to the Pinehurst Development Ordinance to allow the type of deer fencing illustrated in Option 2: Heavy-Gauge Wire with Coated Stakes.

Councilmember Fitzpatrick provided data from the No.6 Community Survey, which has had 110 responses so far, that shows 56% of the community's residents do not feel there is a deer problem in their neighborhood and that no active measures need to be taken.

**C. Review FY27 Capital Projects**

Mr. Willardson reviewed and discussed a FY27 Capital Projects Overview PowerPoint presentation highlighting the Theater Building Parking Spaces, Downtown Brick Sidewalk Replacement, Library Expansion and Archives, Stormwater Master Plan Implementation, Library Sidewalk Connections, Fire Truck Replacement, Multi-Modal Transportation Plan Implementation, Police Vehicle Replacements, and Garbage Truck Replacements.

Council agreed to move the start time of the July 28, 2026, meeting to 04:00 p.m. due to the 2026 U.S. Kids Golf World Championship Parade of Nations, which starts at 06:00 p.m.

Council noted the upcoming July 4<sup>th</sup> events and the July 14, 2026, reception recognizing all former and current Mayors and Councilmembers in honor of the 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the United States.

Council verified with Mr. Willardson that efforts to recruit volunteers for the advisory board vacancies is ongoing and that nominations for the Historic Preservation Commission vacancies may be presented to Council at the July 14, 2026, meeting.

Council and Mr. Willardson discussed potential upcoming agenda items, which included a report on the grants awarded by the Beautification Committee, an update on the Tufts Archives renovation, an update on the most recent Pinehurst Traffic Circle meetings with NCDOT, and an update on the Pinewild Phase 4 development.

**3. Motion to Adjourn.**

Upon a motion by Mayor Pro Tem Taylor, seconded by Councilmember Hooper, Council unanimously approved to adjourn the Work Session by a vote of 5-0 at 07:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Shannon Bonecutter

Village Clerk

*A recording of this meeting is located on the Village website: [www.vopnc.org](http://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*