



**Village Council
Minutes for the Regular Meeting of May 27, 2025
Assembly Hall
395 Magnolia Road
Pinehurst, North Carolina
4:30 p.m.**

The Village of Pinehurst Village Council held a Regular Meeting at 04:30 p.m., Tuesday, May 27, 2025, in the Assembly Hall of Village Hall, 395 Magnolia Road, Pinehurst, North Carolina.

The following were in attendance in Assembly Hall:

Mr. Patrick Pizzella, Mayor
Dr. Jeff Morgan, Councilmember
Ms. Barb Ficklin, Councilmember
Mr. John Taylor, Mayor Pro Tem
Mr. Jack Farrell, Councilmember
Mr. Doug Willardson, Village Manager
Ms. Shannon Konstantinou, Village Clerk
Mr. Josh Dockery, IT Systems Specialist

And approximately 8 members of the audience in attendance, in addition to 5 staff and 2 press.

1. Call to Order.

Mayor Pizzella called the Village Council meeting to order at 04:31 p.m.

2. Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance.

- A. Invocation by Ms. Katie Hoerster, Associate Pastor, of the Pinehurst United Methodist Church**
- B. Pledge of Allegiance by Village Council.**

3. Reports:

Village Manager

- Mr. Doug Willardson reported on the May 23-25, 2025, Sandhills Motoring Expo in Downtown; the June 07, 2025, Kids' Saturday at Given Memorial Library; and the Village's 4th of July celebrations beginning with the Celebrating Independence: Concert and Fireworks on July 03, 2025, at the Pinehurst Harness Track and ending with the Celebrating Independence: Pet Parade and Parade on July 04, 2025, in Downtown. The Village is accepting applications to participate in the parade, so, please, apply through the Parks & Recreation Department or check the "Events" section of vopnc.org for more information.

Village Council

- Mayor Pizzella reported on the recent Pinewild Property Owners' Association meeting; the May 23-25, 2025, Sandhills Motoring Expo in Downtown; the May 21, 2025, Sandhills Metropolitan Planning Organization meeting; and the May 22, 2025, Historic Preservation Commission

meeting.

- Councilmember Morgan reported on the May 28, 2025, Central Pines Regional Council meeting and the June 14, 2025, celebration of Flag Day and the 250th Birthday of the United States Army.
- Mayor Pro Tem Taylor reported on the May 19, 2025, Neighborhood Advisory Committee meeting and the May 21, 2025, Sandhills Metropolitan Planning Organization meeting. Representatives are needed for the Neighborhood Advisory Committee, so, please, apply at [Volunteer Opportunities | Village of Pinehurst, NC](#) if interested.
- Councilmember Ficklin reported on the June 07, 2025, Preservation North Carolina's Pinehurst Ramble. Tickets are available to purchase online at [presnc.org](#).
- Councilmember Farrell reported on the May 23-25, 2025, Sandhills Motoring Expo in Downtown and the recent Fort Bragg Regional Land Use Advisory Commission (RLUAC) meeting in Southern Pines.

4. 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.

A. Approval of Village Council Meeting Minutes

- May 13, 2025, Regular Meeting Minutes
- May 13, 2025, Work Session Minutes
- May 13, 2025, Closed Session Minutes

B. Budget Amendments Report

End of Consent Agenda.

Mayor Pizzella asked that items 4.A. and 4.B. be approved separately so Council may briefly discuss item 4.B.

Upon a motion by Mayor Pro Tem Taylor, seconded by Councilmember Morgan, Council unanimously approved the Item 4.A. of the Consent Agenda by a vote of 5-0.

Council and Mr. Willardson reviewed the memo for item 4.B. and discussed why the budget amendment was needed.

Upon a motion by Councilmember Morgan, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Taylor, Council unanimously approved the Item 4.B. of the Consent Agenda by a vote of 5-0.

5. Public Comments.

Ms. Jacqueline Taylor, Pinehurst resident, read a prepared statement on the importance of the preservation of the natural environment within the Village and in favor of Council amending the ordinance to allow fencing around vegetation to prevent damage from deer.

Mr. Scott and Mrs. Liz Chamberlin, Pinehurst resident, spoke in favor of the importance of the preservation of the natural environment within the Village and of Council amending the ordinance to allow fencing around vegetation to prevent damage from deer.

Mr. Lee Thomas, Pinehurst resident, spoke in favor of Council amending the ordinance to allow fencing around vegetation to prevent damage from deer.

Mr. Chamberlin, also, expressed concern over the fines being levied against residents using temporary fencing to prevent damage from deer. Council agreed to have Mr. Willardson instruct staff to pause levying fines for temporary fencing until an amendment to the fencing ordinance may be considered. Mr.

Willardson stated staff are currently working on an amendment to the fencing ordinance and he anticipates being able to have further discussion on this amendment with Council at a meeting in June 2025.

6. **Resolutions.**

A. **Consider Resolution 25-15 Reappointment of Ms. Angelique Fabiani to the Historic Preservation Commission.**

Mr. Willardson spoke in favor of Ms. Angelique Fabiani's reappointment to the Historic Preservation Commission. Mr. Willardson's comments were seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Taylor.

Ms. Fabiani provided background on her time living in Pinehurst and serving on the Historic Preservation Commission and expressed a desire to continue serving on the Commission.

Upon a motion by Councilmember Ficklin, seconded by Councilmember Farrell, Council unanimously approved Resolution 25-15 Reappointment of Ms. Angelique Fabiani to the Historic Preservation Commission effective June 01, 2025, to serve at the pleasure of the Council until the end of her term on May 31, 2027, by a vote of 5-0.

Mayor Pizzella iterated the importance of residents volunteering to serve on the Village's Advisory Boards.

RESOLUTION #25-15:

A RESOLUTION REGARDING A REAPPOINTMENT TO THE HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION

THAT WHEREAS, the Village of Pinehurst has established an Historic Preservation Commission as authorized by North Carolina General Statutes, Chapter 160D, Article 303; and

WHEREAS, the term of Ms. Angelique Fabiani will expire on May 31st, 2025; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Fabiani and the Village Council of Pinehurst are desirous of her continuing to serve as a member of the Historic Preservation Commission for an additional term.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Village Council of the Village of Pinehurst, North Carolina in a Regular Meeting assembled this 27th day of May 2025 that the following appointment is hereby made to the Historic Preservation Commission for the term indicated:

Ms. Angelique Fabiani is reappointed as a member of the Historic Preservation Commission effective June 01, 2025, to serve at the pleasure of the Council until the end of her term on May 31, 2027.

THIS RESOLUTION passed and adopted this 27th day of May 2025.

7. **Public Hearing.**

A. **FY 2026 Budget Public Hearing**

Upon a motion by Councilmember Farrell, seconded by Councilmember Ficklin, Council unanimously approved to recess the Regular Meeting and enter into the Public Hearing by a vote of 5-0 at 05:04 p.m.

Mr. Willardson reviewed a Presentation of the Proposed FY 2026 Strategic Operating Plan Public Hearing PowerPoint presentation highlighting Council's Strategic Direction, FY 2026 General Fund Budget Overview, Changes from the Budget Work Session, FY 2026 General Fund Revenues, FY 2026 General Fund Expenditures, FY 2026 Significant Operating, FY 2026 Significant Capital,

SMPO Special Revenue Fund, and Public Input and Questions.

Council and Mr. Willardson discussed a more detailed breakdown of the Enterprise Fleet Management program being provided in a crossover sheet compiled by Ms. Dana Van Nostrand, Financial Services Director, that will be shared with Council; the Village's 100% employee healthcare coverage as compared to other nearby communities; deliberated on whether the General Fund Balance justifies a \$0.005 or \$0.11 reduction in the property tax rate (from \$0.225 to \$0.22 or from \$0.225 to \$0.115); and agreed on the need for a continued focus on reduction in expenditures. Mr. Willardson stated the prudent course to take would be maintaining a tax rate of \$0.225 to provide residents with stability and to help facilitate their ability to plan.

Mayor Pizzella asked if any member of the audience wished to speak. None came forward.

Upon a motion by Mayor Pro Tem Taylor, seconded by Councilmember Ficklin, Council unanimously approved to adjourn the Public Hearing and re-enter the Regular Meeting by a vote of 5-0 at 05:41 p.m.

Upon a motion by Mayor Pizzella, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Taylor, Council denied reducing the property tax rate for FY 2026 from \$0.225 to \$0.22 by a vote of 2-3 with Councilmembers Morgan, Ficklin, and Farrell dissenting.

8. Ordinances.

A. Consider Ordinance 25-08 Amending the Library Expansion Capital Project Fund Budget

Ms. Dana Van Nostrand, Financial Services Director, reviewed a memo detailing the proposed amendments to the Library Expansion Capital Project Fund.

Council and Ms. Van Nostrand discussed policies regarding the handling of restricted donation funds.

Upon a motion by Councilmember Farrell, seconded by Councilmember Morgan, Council unanimously approved Ordinance 25-08 Amending the Library Expansion Capital Project Fund Budget by a vote of 5-0.

ORDINANCE #25-08:

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE LIBRARY EXPANSION CAPITAL PROJECT FUND BUDGET FOR THE VILLAGE OF PINEHURST, NORTH CAROLINA.

THAT WHEREAS, the Village adopted Ordinance #22-06 establishing the Library Expansion Capital Project Fund for the design and construction of an expansion of the Given Memorial Library and Tufts Archives building located on Cherokee Road; and

WHEREAS, the Village adopted Ordinances #23-12, #24-10, and #24-13 amending the Library Expansion Capital Project Fund budget; and

WHEREAS, the Village appropriated \$2,800,000 to be transferred from the General Fund to the Library Expansion Capital Project Fund in the FY 2026 budget ordinance #24-11 to fund construction costs for the new library building; and

WHEREAS, the Village has received a donation restricted for the new library that is not an estimated revenue source in the current Library Expansion Capital Project Fund budget; and

WHEREAS, the Library Expansion Capital Project Fund budget needs to be amended to increase the appropriations and estimated revenues for these items and.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED AND ESTABLISHED by the Governing Body of the Village of Pinehurst, North Carolina, that pursuant to Section 13.2 of Chapter 159 of the General Statutes of North Carolina, the Library Expansion Capital Project Fund is amended as follows:

SECTION 1. The expenditure appropriations for the project are amended as follows:

<u>Account No.</u>	<u>Account Name</u>	<u>Current Budget</u>	<u>Amendment</u>	<u>Amended Budget</u>
50-80-615-7600	Capital Outlay: Design Costs	\$ 610,000	\$ 0	\$ 610,000
50-80-615-7601	Capital Outlay: Construction Costs	<u>810,000</u>	<u>2,980,500</u>	<u>3,790,500</u>
	TOTAL	<u>\$1,420,000</u>	\$2,980,500	\$4,400,500

SECTION 2. The revenues anticipated to be available to complete this project are amended as follows:

<u>Account No.</u>	<u>Account Name</u>	<u>Current Budget</u>	<u>Amendment</u>	<u>Amended Budget</u>
50-80-120-3890	Investment Income	\$ 20,000	\$ 180,000	\$ 200,000
50-80-120-3882	Restricted Donations	0	500	500
50-80-190-3910	Transfer from General Fund	<u>1,400,000</u>	<u>2,800,500</u>	<u>4,200,000</u>
	TOTAL	<u>\$1,420,000</u>	\$2,980,500	\$4,400,500

SECTION 3. The Village Manager is hereby authorized to transfer appropriations between line items in the Library Expansion Capital Project Fund up to \$10,000 with an official report of such transfers made at the next regular meeting of the Village Council.

SECTION 4. Copies of this capital project ordinance shall be furnished to the Village Clerk, Village Manager, and Financial Services Director for direction in carrying out this project.

THIS ORDINANCE passed and adopted this 27th day of May 2025.

9. General Business.

A. Accept the Resignation of Michael Newman as Village Attorney

Mr. Willardson reviewed a memo detailing Mr. Michael Newman's resignation, spoke highly of Mr. Newman's service to the Village for the past 21 years, and thanked Mr. Newman for his service.

Council also spoke highly of Mr. Newman's service to the Village and his extensive knowledge of municipal law that has informed his advice to the Village, thanked Mr. Newman for his service, and wished him well.

Upon a motion by Mayor Pro Tem Taylor, seconded by Councilmember Ficklin, Council unanimously approved to accept the resignation of Mr. Michael Newman as Village Attorney effective 90 days from May 15, 2025 (August 13, 2025) by a vote of 5-0.

10. Other Business.

Upon a motion by Councilmember Morgan, seconded by Mayor Pizzella, Council denied reducing the property tax rate for FY 2026 from \$0.225 to \$0.115 by a vote of 2-3 with Mayor Pro Tem Taylor and Councilmembers Ficklin and Farrell dissenting.

11. Motion to Adjourn.

Upon a motion by Mayor Pro Tem Taylor, seconded by Councilmember Morgan, Council unanimously approved to adjourn the Regular Meeting by a vote of 5-0 at 05:56 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Shannon Konstantinou

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