



## Governance: A Balanced Model

The Village of Pinehurst’s governance model relies on a balance between:

- Local democracy – a diverse, active, engaged public identifies issues, gives input and feedback, partners with the Village on local matters, and plays an important role in shaping the Village. The public is encouraged to get involved, speak to or submit comments to the Village Council, attend meetings, and vote in municipal elections.
- Village staff – Village staff provide objective, professional advice to council and implement Council’s decisions according to Village policy and principles of effective public service.
- The Mayor and Village Council – the legislative body for the Village, Council has a duty to find consensus while balancing Village-wide considerations. The Mayor leads the Council in strategic and fiscal planning and represents the Village to other governments. The Mayor and Council members each have one vote at Council meetings and a majority vote (by three Council members) is required to go forward with any decision.

## FOR MORE INFORMATION

Village of Pinehurst Municipal Code  
[www.vopnc.org/municipalcode](http://www.vopnc.org/municipalcode)

North Carolina General Statutes  
[www.ncga.state.nc.us](http://www.ncga.state.nc.us)

County & Municipal Government in NC  
[www.sog.unc.edu/pubs/cmga](http://www.sog.unc.edu/pubs/cmga)

Village of Pinehurst Council  
[www.vopnc.org/council](http://www.vopnc.org/council)

Council Meeting Schedule  
[www.vopnc.org/meetings](http://www.vopnc.org/meetings)

Access Council Meeting Agendas  
[www.vopnc.org/agendas](http://www.vopnc.org/agendas)

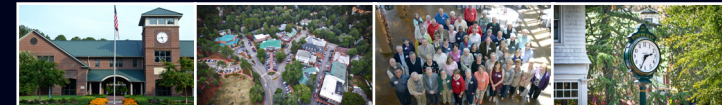
Watch Council Meeting Videos  
[www.vopnc.org/videos](http://www.vopnc.org/videos)

*This learning guide is just one in a series about the Village of Pinehurst. You can find the rest of the series on the Village’s website: [www.vopnc.org/getinvolved](http://www.vopnc.org/getinvolved).*

The Village of Pinehurst  
395 Magnolia Road  
Pinehurst, NC 28374  
910-295-1900  
[www.vopnc.org](http://www.vopnc.org)



## Your guide to DECISION-MAKING & THE VILLAGE



### VILLAGE OF PINEHURST LEARNING SERIES



## Where the Village Gets its Powers

In the state of North Carolina, local government authority comes from local and general laws enacted by the General Assembly. The Village of Pinehurst is governed by (1) its charter, which is a local act of the General Assembly, (2) several general statutes found mostly in Chapter 160A of the North Carolina General Statutes, and (3) local ordinances. The General Assembly takes the position that North Carolina cities should have the authority to exercise the powers, rights, duties, and functions state law gives them.



## Decision-Making & Village Council

Pinehurst Village Council is the governing and legislative body of the Village of Pinehurst. It is made up of the Mayor and four Council members who make decisions on behalf of the Village's residents.

Ideas are brought to Council's attention in the form of proposals, recommendations, and reports from:

- Members of Village Council
- Council advisory bodies
- Residents and businesses
- Village staff

These ideas may then be added to the Council

meeting agenda so Council can consider and discuss them. When Council is considering a program, a new proposal, or an emerging issue, they usually review written recommendations from Village staff and sometimes request public input on the matter. Staff reports are written by staff with expertise in that subject and can present different options for how the Village could proceed, discuss any past decisions on the same matter, and make recommendations to help Council members make their decisions.

In addition to reviewing staff recommendations, Council members also take into consideration:

- Impact on the Village as a whole
- Short-term and long-term implications
- Costs or savings associated with the decision
- Any input from the public, other Council members, or representatives from community or professional organizations
- What other cities have done about similar issues
- The Council's goals and strategic objectives

At the end of every Council meeting, there is time set aside for public comment. If you are unable to attend a meeting, but would like to send your comments to Council, you may email them to the Village Clerk at [clerk@vopnc.org](mailto:clerk@vopnc.org).

## Council's Agendas, Motions & Voting

Village staff, with direction from Council, create agendas for Council meetings. Five days prior to every Council meeting, the agenda and supporting materials for that meeting are made public at [www.vopnc.org](http://www.vopnc.org)

at [vopnc.org/agendas](http://vopnc.org/agendas) so residents can review all the information Council will discuss and decisions that may be made.



During Council meetings, agenda items are discussed and Council members are given the opportunity to ask questions of staff members and to propose their own ideas or suggestions. Once discussion on an item is complete, Council members vote on the item and any related motions. An item can be:

- Approved: Council has approved the item by a majority vote (3 of 5 members approve)
- Denied: Council has denied the item
- Tabled: Council has tabled the discussion of that item until a later date

In some instances, items brought before Council such as informal staff direction, can be approved by consensus rather than a vote.

Once an item has been approved, Village staff are then responsible for implementing it.

All Council meetings are open to the public. Only in special cases, such as when the Council needs to consider confidential information as permitted by law, does the Council temporarily meet in closed session.