



SOUTH ORANGE VILLAGE COUNCIL REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Monday, July 8, 2024 - 7:00 PM

Virtual Webex Meeting

To access information on how to use WebEx to join the meeting, please click on the following link: <https://www.southorange.org/800/WebEx-FAQs>

ORDER OF BUSINESS

1. **Call Meeting to Order**
Mayor Collum called the meeting to order at approximately 6:15 pm:
2. **Roll Call**
Mayor Collum
Councilman Brown
Councilmember Greenberg
Councilmember Haskins
Councilwoman Hartshorn Hilton
Councilwoman Jones
Councilmember Lewis-Chang
Ms. Doran, Village Administrator – Absent
Mr. Travers, Deputy Village Administrator
Mr. Rother, Village Counsel
Mr. Otis, Village Counsel
Ms. Davis, Village Clerk
3. **Meeting Notice Statement**
Clerk Davis read the following announcement:
In accordance with the Open Public Meeting Act of the State of New Jersey, adequate notice of this meeting has been provided to the official newspapers of the Village, posted on the Village's website and filed in the Office of the Village Clerk indicating that this meeting is being held virtually via Cisco WebEx video conferencing. During a remote meeting, participants, including members of the public may be muted by the host. However, there will be an opportunity for them to participate and speak during the public portion of the meeting where participants will be unmuted at their request. Official action may be taken.
4. **Resolution to go into Executive Session**
2024-181 Resolution Authorizing an Executive Session at the July 8, 2024,



Regular Meeting of the South Orange Village Council

A. Matter/ (OPMA Exception) Executive Session

- Water Utility (Attorney/Client Privilege Matter)
- General Redevelopment (Attorney/Client Privilege Matter & Contract Negotiation)
- HPC Ordinance (Attorney/Client Privilege Matter)
- OPRA (Attorney/Client Privilege Matter)

Councilman Brown moved to approve Resolution #2024-181, seconded by Councilwoman Jones. All members were in favor and none opposed.

5. Reconvene into Open Session

ROLL CALL

Mayor Collum
Councilman Brown
Councilmember Greenberg
Councilmember Haskins
Councilwoman Hartshorn Hilton
Councilwoman Jones
Councilmember Lewis-Chang
Ms. Doran, Village Administrator – Absent
Mr. Travers, Deputy Village Administrator
Mr. Rother, Village Counsel - Absent
Mr. Otis, Village Counsel
Ms. Davis, Village Clerk

6. Announcements

Mayor Collum read the following announcements:

A. South Orange Downtown

Farmers Market - The Farmers Market is back every Wednesday in the Sloan St Lot from 2-7pm. Shop for Jersey Fresh fruits and vegetables, eggs, bread, meats, pickles, olives, soups, homemade ice cream, apple cider, soul food, sweet treats, plus grab and go lunch/dinner options and much more. Exciting new vendors will join the market this season in addition to your returning favorites!

Downtown After Sundown - Join us in Spiotta Park from 6:30PM-8:30PM



every Saturday for Downtown After Sundown. Enjoy live performances from talented local musicians covering several genres including, R&B, soul, flamenco, rock, jazz and more. Grab your favorite lawn chairs, order some delicious takeout from South Orange's finest eateries and let the sweet sounds of South Orange ignite your summer nights.

B. **South Orange Recreation Department**
South Orange Summer Nights Are Back!

Join us on **WEDNESDAYS** this Summer for **Free Fun on Flood's Hill!** Enjoy programming on our summer stage, including the **JULY** Summer Nights Concert Series (starting at 7:30) and **AUGUST** Moonlit Movies (at sundown).

Concerts: July 3, 10, 17, 24, 31

Movies: August 14, 21, 28

Adult Swim Nights at the Pool - Friday, July 12th & August 16, 2024, 5-8pm. Bring your floats & friends & enjoy an evening of live music and dinner poolside! Free for all South Orange residents over 18.

NATIONAL NIGHT OUT - Tuesday, AUGUST 6, Meadowland Park

Join us on Flood's Hill for National Night Out! National Night Out is an annual community-building campaign that promotes police-community partnerships and neighborhood camaraderie:

5-8PM: Free food, inflatables, dunk-a-cop in the dunk tank, giveaways & more!

8-10PM: Movie: Migration

C. **South Orange Public Library**

Have you seen Smokey Bear? In honor of his 80th birthday, Smokey Bear will be making an appearance at 16 downtown locations during the month of July as part of the Smokey Bear Scavenger Hunt.

Come by the Library to pick up a Bear Paw, to get a hand in documenting all located Smokey Bear sightings, complete and return by July 31st to be entered into a raffle for big prizes!

It's Shark Week! Watch out of SOPL's Sharkie at the community pool on Wednesday, the 10th at 4pm. She'll be reading stories and splashing around in the kiddie pool. Visit the library for more movies, books, and information about sharks for all ages.

D. **South Orange Village and New Jersey American Water Request**
Residents to Limit Outdoor Watering

Residents Asked to Begin Conserving Water Now to Avoid Possible



Summer Restriction Later

Given the recent consecutive days of hot, dry weather, the Village of South Orange and New Jersey American Water, which operates and maintains the water system, is asking residents to voluntarily limit their outdoor watering now to potentially avoid more stringent summertime restrictions of water usage.

Limiting outdoor water usage now will help the company manage a finite supply of water, and customers will still be able to maintain their lawns and gardens. The guidelines are provided below:

Outdoor Conservation Guidelines:

- Water early or late in the day to minimize evaporation.
- Generally, lawns only require one inch of water per week, most coming from precipitation and dew or by watering **two times per week at a maximum**.
- Raise the level of your lawnmower blade to avoid lawn burnout and the need for watering.
- Avoid adding new plants or sod to your landscape during this time of excessively hot and dry weather.

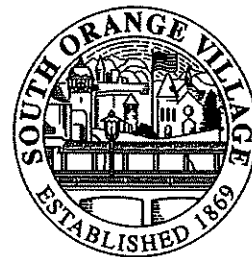
Additional tips and information on wise water use can be found on New Jersey American Water's website at www.newjerseyamwater.com under Water and Wastewater Information and the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection's Water Conservation Website.

7. Public Comment

Village Mayor opened the meeting for public comment:

Mr. Ben Vitale resident of South Orange had many questions concerning the proposed Ordinance of the Water Sale. Also, Sam Difalco on behalf of the national organization for food and water watch had a number of concerns regarding the Water Sale Ordinance that included rate increase and public financing. Mayor Collum explained this process is a starting point, there is no commitment at this time. She asked Mr. Vitale to email all of his questions to the Village Council and the response will be provided to him.

Josh, South Orange Resident had concerns around the pool and the cut down of the trees at the small pool and now there is no shade in the area. Mr. Travers mentioned they are aware of the situation and currently working on a solution.



8. Approval of Minutes

- A. The Village Clerk is requesting the Council members' approval of the minutes for the following meeting:

- Regular meeting held on June 24, 2024 (Councilwoman Hilton and Councilwoman Jones are ineligible to vote)

Councilmember Haskins moved to approve the minutes of the meeting held on June 24th, seconded by Councilmember Lewis-Chang.

Roll Call Vote:

Councilman Brown	Yes
Councilmember Greenberg	Yes
Councilmember Haskins	Yes
Councilwoman Hilton	Abstained
Councilwoman Jones	Abstained
Councilmember Lewis-Chang	Yes

Motion carried.

9. Ordinances for First Reading

- A. 2024-15 AN ORDINANCE OF SOUTH ORANGE VILLAGE ADVANCING THE SALE OF THE VILLAGE'S WATER SYSTEM AND AUTHORIZING A PROPOSAL TO BE PRINTED ON THE BALLOT FOR CONSIDERATION BY THE VOTERS WITHIN THE VILLAGE AT THE GENERAL ELECTION ON NOVEMBER 5, 2024 PROVIDING FOR THE SALE OF THE VILLAGE'S WATER SYSTEM TO NEW JERSEY AMERICAN WATER, INC.

Mayor Collum and Mr. Otis both provided a high level overview of the proposed Ordinance that include the ballot question for the November General Election, the bid process, statute and time constraints and sale options.

Councilwoman Jones moved to adopt Ordinance #2024-15 for first reading/Introduction, seconded by Councilwoman Greenberg.

Roll Call Vote:

Councilman Brown	Yes
Councilmember Greenberg	Yes
Councilmember Haskins	No
Councilwoman Hilton	No
Councilwoman Jones	Yes



Councilmember Lewis-Chang Yes
Motion carried.

Councilwoman Jones moved that the Public Hearing for Ordinance #2024-15, shall be at the Village Council Members Meeting on Monday, August 12, 2024 beginning at 7:00 PM. On that date, the Councilmembers may take further action. The Village Clerk is directed to see that this Ordinance is published in the Official Newspaper and posted in an open place in the Municipal Offices. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Lewis-Chang. All members were in favor and none opposed

10. Resolutions for Consent Agenda

- A. 2024-182 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE HIRING OF PART-TIME SEASONAL EMPLOYEES IN THE DEPARTMENT OF RECREATION AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS FOR SOUTH ORANGE VILLAGE
- B. 2024-183 RESOLUTION CERTIFYING THE SOUTH ORANGE VILLAGE COUNCIL'S RECEIPT AND REVIEW OF THE 2023 ANNUAL AUDIT REPORT
- C. 2024-184 RESOLUTION ACCEPTING THE CORRECTIVE ACTION PLAN FOR THE 2023 ANNUAL AUDIT REPORT
- D. 2024-185 RESOLUTION AWARDED A CONTRACT TO PLYMOUTH ENVIRONMENTAL CO., INC. FOR NON-OCCUPIED SUB-8 ASBESTOS ABATEMENT PROJECT SOUTH ORANGE LIBRARY IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$181,000.00
- E. 2024-186 RESOLUTION REQUESTING STATE AND FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVES TO IMPROVE NJ TRANSIT AND AMTRAK SERVICES

Councilwoman Hilton moved to adopt the Resolutions #2024-182 through 2024-186 of the Consent Agenda, seconded by Councilmember Haskins.

Roll Call Vote:

Councilman Brown	Yes
Councilmember Greenberg	Yes
Councilmember Haskins	Yes
Councilwoman Hilton	Yes
Councilwoman Jones	Yes
Councilmember Lewis-Chang	Yes

Motion carried.

11. Resolution for Separate Action



- A. 2024-187 RESOLUTION ADOPTING THE SOUTH ORANGE VILLAGE CENTER ALLIANCE D/B/A SOUTH ORANGE DOWNTOWN FY 2024 OPERATING BUDGET

PUBLIC HEARING: There were no questions or comments from the public.

Councilwoman Hilton moved to adopt the Resolution #2024-187, seconded by Councilmember Haskins.

Roll Call Vote:

Councilman Brown	Yes
Councilmember Greenberg	Yes
Councilmember Haskins	Yes
Councilwoman Hilton	Yes
Councilwoman Jones	Yes
Councilmember Lewis-Chang	Yes

Motion carried.

12. Approval of Bills

- A. Councilwoman Hartshorn Hilton, Chair of the Finance and Capital Projects Committee presents the Bills List audited by the Village Treasurer dated July 8, 2024. The Village Council members were provided with a copy of the Bills List prior to the meeting for examination.

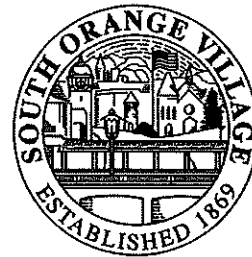
2024-188 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING PAYMENT OF BILLS AND THE ISSUANCE OF CHECKS FOR THE PERIOD THROUGH JULY 8, 2024, IN THE TOTAL AMOUNT OF \$7,668,484.12

Councilwoman Hilton moved to adopt the Resolution #2024-188 of the Bills List, seconded by Councilwoman Jones.

Roll Call Vote:

Councilman Brown	Yes
Councilmember Greenberg	Yes
Councilmember Haskins	Yes
Councilwoman Hilton	Yes
Councilwoman Jones	Yes
Councilmember Lewis-Chang	Yes

Motion carried.



13. Village Mayor Report

There was no report.

14. Village Administrator Report

Mr. Travers mentioned there was an error in the Gaslight in regards to the 3rd quarter Tax due date. The correct due date is August 1st.

15. Village Attorney Report

There was no report.

16. Council Members Reports

A. Councilman Brown – There was no report

B. Councilmember Greenberg – There was no report

C. Councilmember Haskins – There was no report

D. **Councilwoman Hartshorn Hilton**

- Library Construction Update – The plans are being finalized, the asbestos cleanup is anticipated to be completed by July 15th. After that's complete, the plans have to be sent to Trenton for approval.
- Active Older Adult Recreation Classes – There are tons of new programming scheduled for September and thanks to the Recreation Staff for all their hard work.

E. Councilwoman Jones – There was no report

F. Councilmember Lewis-Chang – There was no report

17. Public Comment

Village Mayor opened the meeting for public comment:
There were no questions or comments from the public.

18. New Business

There was no new business.

19. Adjournment

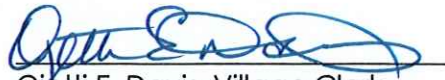
There being no further discussion, Mayor Collum adjourned the meeting at approximately 8:05 pm.

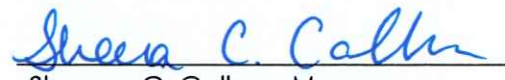
***These minutes are a summary and the actual statements can be found on the video located on the Village's website at the following link:**
<https://southorangenetwpnj.portal.civicclerk.com/event/2547/media>



ATTEST:

TOWNSHIP OF SOUTHORANGEVILLAGE


Ojetti E. Davis, Village Clerk


Sheena C. Collum, Mayor