



SOUTH ORANGE VILLAGE COUNCIL REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Monday, October 28, 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
Mr. Rother, Village Counsel
Mr. Otis, Village Counsel
Ms. Davis, Village Clerk

3. Meeting Notice Statement

Village Clerk Davis read the following statement:

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

2024-238 Resolution Authorizing an Executive Session at the October 28, 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 Negotiations)
- Municipal Code (Attorney/Client Privilege Matter)

Councilmember Lewis-Chang moved to approve Resolution #2024-238, seconded by Councilwoman Jones. All members were in favor and none opposed.

5. **Reconvene into Open Session**

Mayor Collum reconvened the meeting at approximately 7pm:

ROLL CALL

Mayor Collum
Councilman Brown
Councilmember Greenberg
Councilmember Haskins
Councilwoman Hartshorn Hilton
Councilwoman Jones
Councilmember Lewis-Chang
Ms. Doran, Village Administrator
Mr. Rother, Village Counsel
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!

B. **New Jersey American Water to Perform Hydrant Flushing in South Orange Village**

New Jersey American Water will perform the annual flushing of the Village of South Orange's distribution system beginning through mid-October. While water mains are being cleaned, it is common for customers to notice short periods of low water pressure or discolored



water. If customers experience temporary water discoloration, New Jersey American Water recommends running the cold water until it is clear. See southorange.org for more detailed information and tips for using water during this period.

C. **Affordable Housing Units and Lottery**

Applications for affordable residential units are now available for the Mosaic at 8 2nd Street in South Orange. Interested applicants may submit a preliminary application at AffordableHomesNewJersey.com. Preliminary applications must be received by December 17, 2024 to join the South Orange Rental Waiting List and be included in the random lottery number drawing. More information can be found on southorange.org in the news flash section.

D. **Village Clerk's Office - 2024 General Election**

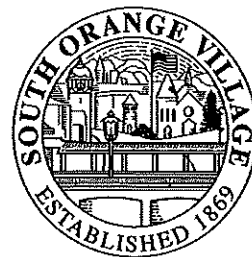
The General Election will be held on Tuesday, November 5, 2024. The polls will be open from 6am to 8pm. Please check your Sample Ballot to locate your polling location or visit the Election page on the Village's website. The Office of the Village Clerk will be open on Election Day from 5am-8pm. If you need assistance, please call (973) 378-7715 ext. 1.

In-Person Early Voting starts October 26th to November 3rd - All registered voters have the option to vote in person at any of the Early Voting locations for the November 5th General Election. For more Election information including the locations for Early Voting and the Secure Ballot Drop Box, please visit our Election page on the Village website at: www.southorange.org or contact the Village Clerk's Office at (973) 378-7715 ext. 1.

In addition, Mayor Collum gave a shout out to South Orange Downtown for the Halloween Costume Contest that was held at Spiotta Park. Also, she enjoyed the outstanding performances that was held for the 75th Anniversary of the South Orange Symphony and the Diwali Fest that took in Maplewood. The Repair Café and the Corn Hole event held over the weekend were also successful events.

7. **Board of Health**

- A. Councilwoman Jones moved to recessed meeting of the South Orange Village Council and convene as the Board of Health, seconded by Councilmember Greenberg. All members were in favor and none opposed.



Roll Call:

Board Member Brown
Board Member Collum
Board Member Greenberg
Board Member Haskins
Board Member Hartshorn Hilton
Board Member Jones
Board President Lewis-Chang

Board of Health President Lewis-Chang introduced Candice Davenport, South Orange Health Officer. Ms. Davenport presented and discussed the following items of the October Health Report:

1. Vaccines for Children Clinic will be held on November 8th, 3:30-6:30pm at Columbia High School
2. The M Factor Shredding the Silence on Menopause Documentary Showing at SOPAC
3. The New South Orange City Health Dashboard
4. Nursing Report for October:
Reportable Disease Investigated: 4
5. Animal Control Solutions – September Monthly Report:
Total Calls: 16; Bite: 1; Stray: 6; Stray Animals Impounded: 4; Euthanasia: 1 and Wildlife: 9
6. Environmental Health – August Report:
Restaurant inspections: 3 and Notice of Violations: 2
7. Social Services/Mental Health:
The Health Department is partnering with the SOMSD to grow the 15 minutes a day campaign. Signs will be posted at each elementary and middle school in South Orange and Maplewood.
8. Make the Right Call
9. Dispose of unused or expired Medication Safely at the permanent drug drop box in the lobby of the South Orange Police Department.



The full presentation of the Board of Health can be found on the Village's website at: <https://southorange.org/167/Health-and-Animal-Control>

There being no further discussion, Board member Collum moved to adjourn the meeting of the Board of Health, seconded by Board member Greenberg. Board President Lewis-Chang adjourned the meeting at approximately 7:35 pm.

Reconvened as Board of Trustees and all members are still present

8. Public Comment

Village Mayor opened the meeting for public comment:

Mr. Chris Black resident of South Orange and President of the Founders Park Conservancy, expressed his concerns regarding the new Community Center located at Storage Platform has not been available to the community.

Mayor Collum explained that the Village Administrator and the Village Attorneys have been working to get the legal documents in order for the Community Center to be available soon.

9. Approval of Minutes

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

- Regular meeting held on October 14, 2024 (All Council members are eligible to vote)

Councilwoman Hilton moved to approve the minutes of the meeting held on October 14th, seconded by Councilmember Haskins.

Roll Call Vote:

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



10. Presentation

- A. South Orange Environmental Commission:
Kathleen Grant Chair of the Environment Commission presented and discussed the following:
- Who We Are – Commissioners/Green Team
 - Mission
 - Why This Work Matters
 - Transition to a Green New Economy
 - Nature-Based Solutions
 - Some of What the SOEC is Doing
 - How Can We Partner Together?

Mayor Collum thanked Ms. Grant and the Environmental Commission for this presentation and suggested, if they have relationships with other environmental commissions or green teams, that they work with them on storm water management. She would like to see us become one of the first regional storm water management utilities or agencies. The Councilmembers thanked Ms. Grant for the presentation and for stepping into the leadership role.

11. Ordinances for First Reading

- A. 2024-20 AN ORDINANCE OF SOUTH ORANGE VILLAGE AMENDING AND RESTATING VILLAGE CODE CHAPTER 334 – TREES AND SHRUBBERY IN ITS ENTIRETY AND AMENDING VILLAGE CODE CHAPTER 185 – LAND DEVELOPMENT, ARTICLE XVI – IMPROVEMENTS AND DESIGN STANDARDS, SECTION 185-100 – SHADE TREES, LANDSCAPING AND PLANTING STRIPS

Greer Patras Village Planner and William Kurzenberger of Topology presented the proposed amended Tree Ordinance and discussed the following:

- Introduction – Intent of the Ordinance
- Ordinance Overview – Goals
- Ordinance Overview – Objections
- Ordinance Overview – Replacement
- Ordinance Overview – Fees
- Ordinance Overview – Process
- Ordinance Overview – Site Plan & Zoning
- Staffing & Administration
- Master Plan Consistency



- Timeline and Next Steps

The Mayor and Councilmembers discussed the process and fees. Mayor Collum suggested a flow chart to make it easy for the residents to understand the proposed rates and it should specify where the money is going.

Councilwoman Jones moved to adopt Ordinance #2024-20 for first reading/Introduction, seconded by Councilmember Lewis-Chang.

Roll Call Vote:

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

Motion carried.

B. 2024-21 AN ORDINANCE OF SOUTH ORANGE VILLAGE, AUTHORIZING THE REVISION OF THE 2025 MUNICIPAL ELECTION DATE FROM MAY TO NOVEMBER

Councilwoman Hilton moved to adopt Ordinance #2024-21 for first reading/Introduction, 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.

Councilwoman Jones moved that the Public Hearing for Ordinances #2024-20 and 2024-21, shall be at the Village Council Members Meeting on Monday, November 25, 2024 beginning at 7:00 PM. On that date, the Councilmembers may take further action. The Village Clerk is directed to see that these Ordinances are published in the Official Newspaper and posted in an open place in the Municipal Offices. The motion was seconded by Councilmembers Lewis-Chang. All members were in favor and none opposed.

12. Resolutions for Consent Agenda



- A. 2024-239 RESOLUTION REQUESTING APPROVAL OF ITEMS OF REVENUE AND APPROPRIATION
N.J.S.A. 40A:4-87
- B. 2024-240 RESOLUTION ADOPTING THE TOWNSHIP OF SOUTH ORANGE 2025 MUNICIPAL HOLIDAY CALENDAR
- C. 2024-241 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE 2025 ANNUAL MEETING SCHEDULE FOR THE SOUTH ORANGE VILLAGE COUNCIL
- D. 2024-242 RESOLUTION PERMITTING A FIREWORKS DISPLAY ON NOVEMBER 2, 2024 AT 6:30 PM BY SETON HALL UNIVERSITY
- E. 2024-243 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE HIRING OF PART-TIME SEASONAL EMPLOYEES IN THE DEPARTMENT OF RECREATION AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS FOR SOUTH ORANGE VILLAGE
- F. 2024-244 RESOLUTION ENTERING A PARTNERSHIP WITH THE SOUTH ORANGE MAPLEWOOD BASEBALL BOOSTERS, A NOT FOR PROFIT, 501C3, ORGANIZATION WITH THE MISSION OF SUPPORTING THE BASEBALL AND SOFTBALL LEAGUES OF SOUTH ORANGE AND MAPLEWOOD

Councilman Brown moved to approve the Resolutions #2024-239 through 2024-244 with the exception of Resolution #2024-242 Stricken from the record, 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.

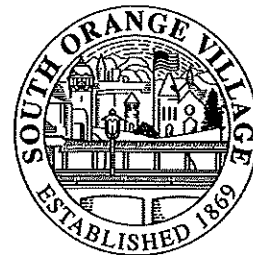
13. Village Mayor's Appointment

Mayor Collum made the following appointment to the South Orange Public Library:

- A. 2024-VP06 VILLAGE MAYOR'S APPOINTMENT OF JANINE POUTRE AS A REGULAR MEMBER TRUSTEE TO THE SOUTH ORANGE PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD

14. 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 October 28, 2024. The Village Council members were provided with a copy of the Bills List prior to the meeting for examination.

2024-245 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING PAYMENT OF BILLS AND THE ISSUANCE OF CHECKS FOR THE PERIOD THROUGH OCTOBER 28, 2024, IN THE TOTAL AMOUNT OF \$2,582,045.28

Councilwoman Hilton moved to approve Resolution #2024-245 of the Bills List, 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.

15. Village Mayor Report

Mayor Collum mentioned with the Election only a week and a day away, they are still answering questions concerning the water and encouraged anyone wanting more information to visit the Village website. The Department of Community Affairs published the obligation numbers for Affordable Housing in which the numbers are much higher than she anticipated. The next step will be to pass a resolution early next year. Also, she has been meeting with Mayor Adams of Maplewood, the Superintendent and the Public Safety Director to discuss pedestrian safety initiatives. This is a great partnership with more information to come in the near future. Lastly, it's Fire Prevention Month and the South Orange Essex Fire Department has been doing demonstrations at various events. On Sunday, November 3rd, SEFD will be holding a Chili Cook-Off at the Maplewood Fire Station.

16. Village Administrator Report

- 2024 DCA Best Practices Survey:
Ms. Doran described the categories and scores of the Best Practice Survey. This year's survey required answers from various departments. Based on the score, the Village will be receiving 100% State Aide for 2025.



17. Village Attorney Report

Mr. Otis mentioned that he is in the process of preparing an Ordinance pertaining to Pay to Play Laws.

18. 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 – There was no report.
- E. Councilwoman Jones mentioned the Artist Studio tour will happened Saturday, November 2nd and Sunday, November 3rd. The Community Relation Committee are moving their meetings to in person at the Baird starting tomorrow October 29th at 7pm.
- F. Councilmember Lewis-Chang – the Seton Village Community Planning Day is scheduled for November 2nd at Carter Park from 10 am to 12 pm.

19. Public Comment

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

20. New Business

There was no new business discussed.

21. Adjournment

There being no further discussion, Mayor Collum adjourned the meeting at approximately 9:40 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://southorangelwpnj.portal.civicclerk.com/event/2587/media>

ATTEST:

TOWNSHIP OF SOUTHORANGEVILLAGE


Ojetti E. Davis, Village Clerk


Sheena C. Collum, Mayor