

SOUTH ORANGE VILLAGE COUNCIL REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Monday, September 23, 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

Acting Mayor Jones 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

2024-222 Resolution Authorizing an Executive Session at the September 23, 2024, Regular Meeting of the South Orange Village Council



A. Matter/ (OPMA Exception)
Executive Session

- Water Utility (Attorney/Client Privilege Matter)
- Baird Community Center (Attorney/Client Privilege Matter)
- SOPAC (Contract Negotiation & Attorney/Client Privilege Matter)

Councilmember Greenberg moved to approve Resolution #2024-222, seconded by Councilwoman Hilton. All members were in favor and none opposed.

5. **Reconvene into Open Session**

Mayor Collum reconvened the meeting at approximately 7 pm:

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 - 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 WATER SYSTEM POTENTIAL SALE
TOWN HALL MEETINGS ANNOUNCED**

South Orange Village has scheduled three Town Hall meetings to discuss the potential sale of the water system to New Jersey American Water (NJAW). These meetings are part of a broader outreach plan aimed at informing and engaging the community before the referendum question appears on the November ballot.

The town hall meetings will be held on:

- Wednesday, September 25, 7 p.m.; virtual meeting
- Wednesday, October 9, 7 p.m.; In-person meeting at the Baird Community Center, 5 Mead Street, 3rd Floor

Links to attend the virtual meetings will be posted on the Village website calendar.

All meetings will be recorded and made available on the website.

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

Water main flushing begins October 6

South Orange N.J. – This month, New Jersey American Water will perform the annual flushing of the Village of South Orange's distribution system to support the continued provision of high-quality, reliable water service. Beginning on October 6 from 9 p.m. to 5 a.m. and lasting for approximately two weeks, the company will clean out any buildup of mineral deposits and sediment inside the pipes.

Hydrant flushing will be performed by New Jersey American Water crews. Flushing involves simultaneously opening fire hydrants in a specific area to create increased water flows. This routine flushing program also includes flushing blow off valves on dead end water mains throughout the system.

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. The following steps are also encouraged:

- Draw water for cooking prior to the flushing period.
- Store a large bottle of water in the refrigerator for drinking.



- Check for discolored water before using the washing machine or dishwasher.
 - If water pressure or water volume seems low after flushing has been completed, check faucet screens for trapped particles.
- New Jersey American Water is contracted by the Village of South Orange to operate and manage its water system. New Jersey American Water, a subsidiary of American Water (NYSE: AWK), is the largest investor-owned water utility in the state, providing high-quality and reliable water and/or wastewater services to approximately 2.8 million people. For more information, visit www.newjerseyamwater.com and follow New Jersey American Water on Twitter and Facebook.

In addition, Mayor Collum thanked Councilwoman Jones, Councilmember Lewis-Chang, Health Officer Davenport and the Community Relation Committee for all their hard work on the South Orange Health Fair & Community Day and the Mental Health Walk that took place on Saturday, September 21, 2024.

7. Board of Health

- A. Councilmember Lewis-Chang moved to recess meeting of the South Orange Village Council and convene as the Board of Health, seconded by Councilwoman Hilton. 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 President Lewis-Chang introduced Candice Davenport, Health Officer. Ms. Davenport presented and discussed the following Health Report for September:

1. Community Day & Health Fair 2024 was held on September 21 at Meadowlands Park. 36 Flu shots were given and 16 Blood pressure screenings.



2. National Preparedness Monday – please visit www.ready.gov
3. Nursing Report for August thru Sept. 20th:
Reportable Disease Investigated: 6
Outbreaks Investigated: 1
Covid-19 Cases Investigated: 3
4. Animal Control Solutions – August Monthly Report:
Total Calls: 22; Bite: 8; Enforcement: 1; Cruelty/Neglect: 1; Stray: 4; Stray Animals Impounded: 3; Rescue Group: 3 and Wildlife: 8
5. Environmental Health – August Report:
Restaurant inspections: 10; Pre-operation inspections: 1
Complaints: 19
Notice of Violations: 2
Summonses: 1
6. 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.
7. Make the Right Call
8. Dispose of unused or expired Medication Safely at the permanent drug drop box in the lobby of the South Orange Police Department.

In response to board questions, Ms. Davenport discussed concerns with regards to increase in deer throughout the Village and provided an update on Covid vaccinations for children.

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 Jones moved to adjourn the meeting of the Board of Health, seconded by Board member Collum. 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:

1. Julia & Evan Flath residents of South Orange, expressed concerns regarding dust, lead and asbestos from construction work and felt there is a lack of enforcement and responsibility among the building and health department. In response, Ms. Doran stated that she has met with both the Building and Health department regarding these concerns and is confident that they are communicating with each other. A new code enforcement officer has been hired and this will help with the report a concerns matters as well.
2. Erika Malinosky and Ritu Pancholy thanked the Mayor and Village Council for their consideration for the Ranked Choice Voting Resolution list on the Consent Agenda. In response, Mayor Collum thanked Ms. Malinosky and Ms. Pancholy for working with her on the resolution.
3. Ronald Thompson South Orange Business Owner was concerned with the NJ Transit buses parking in front of his building and the nearby businesses for the last 8 months. He stated this issue is a hardship for his older clients in trying to find close parking spaces and asked if the buses can be re-routed to another location. In response, Mayor Collum apologized for the inconvenience to the businesses in the area and appreciates their patience. The businesses should see a change in the traffic pattern soon as they are currently working on a new traffic plan.

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 September 9, 2024 (All Council members are eligible to vote)

Councilman Brown moved to approve the minutes of the meeting held on September 9th, seconded by Councilmember Greenberg.

Roll Call Vote:

Councilman Brown	Yes
Councilmember Greenberg	Yes
Councilmember Haskins	Yes
Councilwoman Hilton	Yes
Councilwoman Jones	Yes



Councilmember Lewis-Chang Yes
Motion carried

10. Resolutions for Consent Agenda

- A. 2024-223 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE HIRING OF PART-TIME CROSSING GUARDS FOR THE SOUTH ORANGE POLICE DEPARTMENT
- B. 2024-224 RESOLUTION ACCEPTING PROPOSAL OF DRESDNER ROBIN TO PROVIDE CONTINUING PROFESSIONAL SERVICES FOR THE IMPROVEMENT OF THE CAMERON TENNIS COURTS PROJECT IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$107,110.00
- C. 2024-225 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE HIRING OF PART-TIME SEASONAL EMPLOYEES IN THE DEPARTMENT OF RECREATION AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS FOR SOUTH ORANGE VILLAGE
- D. 2024-226 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING CHANGE ORDER #1 FOR A PLUS STRIPING INC FOR INSTALLATION OF FIBERGLASS MESH DUE TO SURFACE CRACKS AT THE SOUTH ORANGE BAIRD TENNIS, PICKLE BALL AND BASKETBALL COURT PROJECT REFLECTING A NET INCREASE OF \$8,900.00 TO THE ORIGINAL CONTRACT AMOUNT
- E. 2024-227 RESOLUTION EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR S.1622 AND A.4042, PENDING LEGISLATION ENTITLED "MUNICIPAL & SCHOOL BOARD VOTING OPTIONS ACT", WHICH WOULD AUTHORIZE THE USE OF RANKED CHOICE VOTING IN MUNICIPAL AND SCHOOL BOARD ELECTIONS

Councilwoman Hilton moved to adopt the Resolutions of the Consent Agenda #2024-223 through #2024-226, 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.

Resolution for Separate Action:

Councilmember Haskins moved to adopt the Resolution #2024-227 of the Consent Agenda for separate action, 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.

11. 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 September 23, 2024. The Village Council members were provided with a copy of the Bills List prior to the meeting for examination.

2024-228 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING PAYMENT OF BILLS AND THE
ISSUANCE OF CHECKS FOR THE PERIOD THROUGH SEPTEMBER 23, 2024,
IN THE TOTAL AMOUNT OF \$2,480,063.91

Councilwoman Hilton moved to adopt the Resolution #2024-228 of
the Bills List, 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.

12. Village Mayor Report

Mayor Collum thanked all of her colleagues and members of the community who expressed their condolences on the passing of her grandmother who was 102 years old.

Mayor Collum encouraged all residents to attend the final two (2) Community meetings scheduled for Wednesday, September 25th at 7pm (Virtually) and October 9th at 7pm (In-Person at Baird Community Center) for the discussion on the Water System Referendum.



13. **Village Administrator Report** – There was no report.

14. **Village Attorney Report** – There was no report.

15. **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 announced the Pierro Gallery Opening will be held on Tuesday, October 1st – 6:30 and Hola Fest will be held on Saturday, October 5th; both events will be held at the Baird Community Center.
- F. Councilmember Lewis-Chang – There was no report.

16. **Public Comment**

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

17. **New Business**

There was no new business discussed.

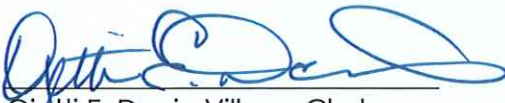
18. **Adjournment**

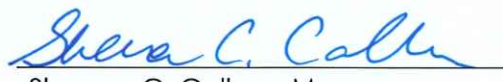
There being no further discussion, Mayor Collum adjourned the meeting at approximately 8:10 pm.

***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/2585/media>

ATTEST:

TOWNSHIP OF SOUTHORANGEVILLAGE


Ojetti E. Davis, Village Clerk


Sheena C. Collum, Mayor