



## **SOUTH ORANGE VILLAGE COUNCIL REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES**

Monday, December 9, 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 - Absent  
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**  
2024-265 Resolution Authorizing an Executive Session at the December 9, 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)
- South Essex Fire Department Personnel (Personnel Matters)

Councilwoman Jones moved to approve Resolution #2024-265, seconded by Councilwoman Hilton. All members were in favor and none opposed.

5. **Reconvene Into Open Session**

**Mayor Collum reconvened the meeting at approximately 7:00 pm:**

**ROLL CALL**

Mayor Collum  
Councilman Brown - Absent  
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. **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](http://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](http://southorange.org) in the news flash section.

B. **South Orange Public Library**

South Orange Public Library is collaborating with MEND-NJ and Bobrow Food Pantry for a FOOD DRIVE to give back and support families in need. Collections will take place at the LIBRARY's BAIRD



BRANCH on Saturdays beginning November 16 through December 21, from 1pm-3pm.

C. **South Orange Health Department**

The Health Department will hold a Free Health Screening Event on Wednesday, December 18th from 12pm-2pm, for the following:

- COVID-19 and Flu Vaccine Clinic
- Free HIV Testing

Registration is strongly recommended, but walk-ins are welcome. To register, please contact Zufall Health at 973-325-2266 ext. 1040.

The Essex County Holiday Food Distribution event will be held on Thursday, December 19th, at the Cherry Blossom Welcome Center in Essex County Branch Brook Park. 1000 turkeys and food boxes will be distributed while supplies last; one box per car/family.

In addition, the South Orange Police Department is hosting a Toy Drive on December 21st. All toys can be dropped off at the Police station until December 18th. Also, the Police Department hosted a coat drive and 200 coats were distributed.

7. **Proclamation**

- A. Proclamation recognizing Cervical Cancer Awareness Month:  
Mayor Collum read the Proclamation recognizing Cervical Cancer Awareness designating the Month of January 2025.

8. **Public Comment**

Village Mayor opened the meeting for public comment:  
Mr. Chris Black resident of South Orange and president of the Founder's Park Conservancy, thanked the Mayor, Council members and everyone that worked on the lease agreement for the new Community Center at the new storage facility located on Valley Street.

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 November 25, 2024 (Councilmember Greenberg is ineligible to vote)

Councilwoman Jones moved to approve the minutes of the meeting held on November 25th, seconded by Councilmember Haskins.



**Roll Call Vote:**

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

Motion carried.

**10. Ordinance for Second Reading**

- A. 2024-22 AN ORDINANCE AMENDING AND RESTATING THE VILLAGE CODE, CHAPTER 143, "FEES," BY AMENDING MEMBERSHIP AND VARIOUS FEES RELATING TO RECREATION PROGRAMS

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

Councilmember Greenberg moved to adopt Ordinance 2024-22 for 2<sup>nd</sup> reading and final adoption, seconded by Councilmember Lewis-Chang.

**Roll Call Vote:**

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

Motion carried.

**11. Resolutions for Consent Agenda**

- A. 2024-266 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING EXECUTION OF SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT WITH AMERICAN WATER OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE, INC. AND WORK ORDERS IN CONNECTION WITH METER CHANGES
- B. 2024-267 RESOLUTION REQUESTING APPROVAL OF ITEMS OF REVENUE AND APPROPRIATION  
N.J.S.A. 40A:4-87
- C. 2024-268 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE HIRING OF PART-TIME SEASONAL EMPLOYEES IN THE DEPARTMENT OF RECREATION AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS FOR SOUTH ORANGE VILLAGE



- D. 2024-269 RESOLUTION ADOPTING AND UPDATING THE SOUTH ORANGE VILLAGE PERSONNEL POLICY AND PROCEDURE MANUAL/EMPLOYEE HANDBOOK
- E. 2024-270 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING EXECUTION OF 98-YEAR LEASE OF GROUND FLOOR SPACE LOCATED AT 317 VALLEY STREET, SOUTH ORANGE TO BE USED AS A COMMUNITY CENTER
- F. 2024-271 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE HIRING OF A PART-TIME CLERK IN THE TAX DEPARTMENT
- G. 2024-272 RESOLUTION AWARDING CONTRACT FOR REPAIR/RENOVATION TO THE SOUTH ORANGE POOL PAVILLION TO VMF CONSTRUCTION IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$40,710.00
- H. 2024-273 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE PURCHASE OF ONE EVIDENCE CABINET REQUIRED AS THE POLICE DEPARTMENT IS GOING THRU ACCREDITATION THRU SPACESAVER UNDER THE SOURCEWELL COOPERATIVE PRICING COUNCIL CONTRACT #110923-SPC #091423-KII IN THE AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$8,299.89
- I. 2024-274 RESOLUTION AWARDING contract FOR CONSTRUCTION OF A DAIS IN THE COUNCIL MEETING ROOM TO EPIC MILLWORK, LLC IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$40,300.00
- J. 2024-275 RESOLUTION REAPPOINTING OJETTI E. DAVIS TO THE POSITION OF VILLAGE CLERK
- K. 2024-276 RESOLUTION REAPPOINTING IRMA WEIR TO THE POSITION OF TAX COLLECTOR

Councilwoman Jones moved to adopt Resolutions #2024-266 through 274 of the Consent Agenda, seconded by Councilmember Greenberg.

**Roll Call Vote:**

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

Motion carried.

**The following Resolutions of the Consent Agenda were pulled for Separate Action:**

2024-275 RESOLUTION REAPPOINTING OJETTI E. DAVIS TO THE POSITION



OF VILLAGE CLERK:

Councilmember Lewis-Chang moved to adopt Resolution #2024-275, seconded by Councilwoman Hilton.

**Roll Call Vote:**

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

Motion carried.

2024-276 RESOLUTION REAPPOINTING IRMA WEIR TO THE POSITION OF TAX COLLECTOR:

Councilmember Greenberg moved to adopt Resolution #2024-274, seconded by Councilwoman Hilton.

**Roll Call Vote:**

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

Motion carried.

The Mayor and Councilmembers expressed gratitude and thanked both the Village Clerk and Tax Collector for all their hard work and receiving tenure.

**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 December 9, 2024. The Village Council members were provided with a copy of the Bills List prior to the meeting for examination.

2024-277 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING PAYMENT OF BILLS AND THE ISSUANCE OF CHECKS FOR THE PERIOD THROUGH DECEMBER 9, 2024, IN THE TOTAL AMOUNT OF \$1,854,458.16.



Councilwoman Hilton moved to approve Resolution #2024-277 of the Bills List, seconded by Councilmember Lewis-Chang.

**Roll Call Vote:**

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

Motion carried.

**13. Village Mayor Report**

Mayor Collum acknowledge the passing of Melanie Troncone former Animal Control Officer and Dispatcher for the Village. This was a tragic loss and Administration will be working with the family to install a bench in her memory.

Also, Mayor Collum discussed the State Legislation is in the process of redesigning the ballot and we will be sending a letter in support of the new design. She recently attended the first meeting for Affordable Housing and soon the Council will have a resolution before them to adopt the new Housing and Fair Share Plan. There will be an update on the water utility sale at the next meeting.

**14. Village Administrator Report**

Ms. Doran announced there is a drop box for recycling batteries and a clothing box at the DPW yard. For more information, please visit the Village website.

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

**16. Council Members Reports**

- A. Councilman Brown - Absent
- B. Councilmember Greenberg – There was no report.
- C. Councilmember Haskins – There was no report.
- D. Councilwoman Hartshorn Hilton mentioned the Library bid opening is scheduled for December 10<sup>th</sup> at 10am. All bids are due prior to that time.
- E. Councilwoman Jones mentioned she attended the Essex County



Historic Holiday House Tour in Cedar Grove, Montclair , Bloomfield and most excited for the one home in South Orange on Blanchard Road.

F. Councilmember Lewis-Chang – There was no report.

**17. Public Comment**

Village Mayor opened the meeting for public comment:

A resident of South Orange on behalf of the neighbors of Second Street raised concerns with regards to accidents and speeding on this street. They are requesting blinking stop sign and a children at play sign to help with the speeding in this area of Second Street between Prospect and Academy Street.

Mayor Collum thanked the resident for bringing this concern the Village Council and she will follow up with the Police Department on this matter.

**18. New Business**

There was no new business discussed.

**19. Adjournment**

There being no further discussion, Mayor Collum adjourned the meeting at approximately 7:55 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/2552/media>

ATTEST:

TOWNSHIP OF SOUTHORANGEVILLAGE

  
Ojetta E. Davis, Village Clerk

  
Sheena C. Collum, Village Mayor