

SOUTH ORANGE VILLAGE COUCIL REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Monday, January 13, 2025 - 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 - Absent
Councilmember Haskins
Councilwoman Hartshorn Hilton - Absent
Councilwoman Jones
Councilmember Lewis-Chang
Ms. Doran, Village Administrator
Mr. Rother, Village Counsel
Mr. Otis, Village Counsel - Absent
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**
2025-002 Resolution Authorizing an Executive Session at the January 13, 2025, 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)
- Planning Personnel (Personnel & Attorney/Client Privilege Matter & Contract Negotiation)
- Public Safety Personnel (Attorney/Client Privilege Matter)

Councilmember Lewis-Chang moved to approve Resolution #2025-002, seconded by Councilwoman Jones. 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 - Absent
Councilmember Haskins
Councilwoman Hartshorn Hilton - Absent
Councilwoman Jones
Councilmember Lewis-Chang
Ms. Doran, Village Administrator
Mr. Rother, Village Counsel
Mr. Otis, Village Counsel - Absent
Ms. Davis, Village Clerk

6. **Announcements**

Mayor Collum read the following announcement

A. **South Orange Public Library**

The South Orange Public Library has extended hours at the 298 Walton Avenue location while the Library's Baird Branch is under repair. The Baird branch will remain closed until further notice, please check www.SOPL.org for a complete list of hours and services. All programs will be held at the Walton Avenue location unless otherwise specified.

In addition, Mayor Collum announced upcoming Ribbon Cutting ceremonies at the Game Change and the Craft Club Studio. On



January 20th, the Martin Luther King, Jr celebration will be held at Columbia High School's auditorium from 2-4pm, then the Meadowland Park Conservancy will host their annual MLK Jr. Luminary Lighting at the Skate House from 5-9pm.

7. Proclamation

- A. Proclamation Honoring Amy Dahn for her Service to the South Orange Historic Preservation Commission:
Councilwoman Jones read the proclamation acknowledging Amy Dahn for her significant contributions to the Historic Preservation Commission, her dedication to South orange's historic legacy and her lasting impact on the community.

8. Public Comment

Village Mayor opened the meeting for public comment:
Matthew Finistrella head coach of the Game Changer thanked the South Orange Community for welcoming them in this new location and hopes to have a lasting relationship. Mr. Finistrella invited everyone to the upcoming ribbon cutting ceremony.

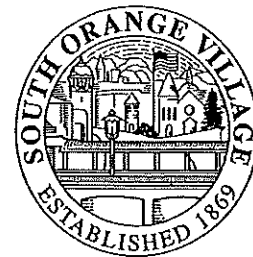
Mayor Collum thanked Mr. Finistrella for investing in the South Orange Community and looks forward to seeing them at the ribbon cutting ceremony.

Michael Parlapiano resident of South Orange shared some data that he gathered on the loss of trees on private properties and expressed his concerns on this matter. Mr. Parlapiano suggested the Council to revisit the new ordinance that was recently adopted to correct mistakes and create incentives for homeowners to replace trees.

Councilmember Haskins mentioned that he had reviewed Mr. Parlapiano's email and the most striking thing was the number of trees that were taken down. Also, he mentioned with the new ordinance there are definitely some challenges but he is optimistic and stated they will see what happens over the first half of the year and will revisit if any changes need to be made. Councilmember Lewis-Chang agreed with Councilmember Haskins comment and she will bring his concerns to the upcoming environment commission meeting.

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 December 23, 2024 (Councilmember Greenberg is ineligible to vote)

Councilman Brown moved to approve the minutes of the meeting held on December 23rd, seconded by Councilwoman Jones.

Roll Call Vote:

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

Motion carried.

10. Resolutions for Consent Agenda

- A. 2025-003 RESOLUTION EXTENDING DATE TO AWARD CONTRACT FOR THE RENOVATION AND CONSTRUCTION OF THE SOUTH ORANGE MUNICIPAL LIBRARY COMPLEX
- B. 2025-004 RESOLUTION TO AWARD CONTRACT FOR CONCEPTUAL DESIGN & CONSTRUCTION DOCUMENTS ASSOCIATED WITH PLANNING & DESIGN OF THE RENOVATION, REPAIR & IMPROVEMENT OF THE SOUTH ORANGE VINCENT MONELLA BUILDING TO THE BIBER PARTNERSHIP AIA IN AN AMOUNT OF \$186,320.00 FOR PHASE 1 AND 2 OF PROPOSAL
- C. 2025-005 RESOLUTION AWARDED A PROFESSIONAL SERVICE CONTRACT TO PKF O'CONNOR DAVIES TO SERVE AS MUNICIPAL AUDITOR FOR THE YEAR 2025 NOT TO EXCEED \$55,000
- D. 2025-006 RESOLUTION GRANTING AND RATIFYING APPLICATION FOR CANNABIS BUSINESS LICENSE TO OPERATE AS A CLASS 5 CANNABIS RETAILER WITHIN SOUTH ORANGE VILLAGE TO CANNABOY TREEHOUSE, LLC
- E. 2025-007 RESOLUTION OF SOUTH ORANGE VILLAGE, COUNTY OF ESSEX, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, DESIGNATING THE OFFICIAL NEWSPAPERS FOR THE PUBLICATION OF LEGAL NOTICES FOR SOUTH ORANGE VILLAGE
- F. 2025-008 RESOLUTION AWARDED EMERGENCY CONTRACT TO RESTOPROS OF ESSEX, CLIFTON, PATERSON FOR EMERGENCY WORK AT



THE BAIRD DUE TO A RUPTURED SPRINKLER PIPE

- G. 2025-009 RESOLUTION TO CANCEL TAX OVERPAYMENTS AND SMALL BALANCES FROM CALENDAR YEAR 2023
- H. 2025-010 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE HIRING OF PART-TIME SEASONAL EMPLOYEES IN THE DEPARTMENT OF RECREATION AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS FOR SOUTH ORANGE VILLAGE
- I. 2025-011 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AND RATIFYING RENEWAL OF CONTRACT WITH GOVPILOT AT AN ANNUAL COST OF \$38,150.00 FOR THREE YEAR TERM COMMENCING AS OF JANUARY 1, 2025
- J. 2025-012 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AWARD OF NON-FAIR AND OPEN CONTRACTS FOR PROFESSIONAL LEGAL SERVICES
- K. 2025-013 RESOLUTION ADOPTING THE 2025 TEMPORARY BUDGET FOR SOUTH ORANGE VILLAGE

Councilmember Haskins moved to adopt Resolutions #2025-003 through #2025-013 of the Consent Agenda, seconded by Councilwoman Jones.

Roll Call Vote:

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

Motion carried.

11. Village Mayor Report

Mayor Collum stated that she would really love to see everyone come out for the two town's MLK Celebration as it falls on inauguration day and felt this is the time for the two communities to come together, be inspired and enjoy the beautiful light show by the Meadowlands Park Conservancy. Also, she briefly discussed a resolution for the Affordable Housing Obligation that will be on the next agenda for the Council's approval.

12. Village Administrator Report

Ms. Doran briefly discussed a \$100K grant that the Village received in coordination with Essex County for Safe Streets. The County hosted a kick off meeting with various municipalities that will be participating in the grant. The planning process will consist of creating a plan called vision zero for pedestrian and vehicular safety plan which is proposed to be completed in



an 18-month time frame.

13. Village Attorney Report

There was no report.

14. Council Members Reports

- A. Councilman Brown
- B. Councilmember Greenberg - Absent
- C. Councilmember Haskins – There was no report.
- D. Councilwoman Hartshorn Hilton - Absent
- E. Councilwoman Jones mentioned she and Councilmember Lewis-Chang have been working with the NPP coordinators on traffic calming measures in the Seton Village area. She just wanted to inform the community in the next few months there will be some advertisement in regards to these measures to install blinking pedestrian signage and some solar powered speed display. She will continue to provide updates.
- F. Councilmember Lewis-Chang – There was no report.

15. Public Comment

Village Mayor opened the meeting for public comment: Robert Radliff resident of South Orange expressed concerns regarding overnight parking and tickets on Randolph Place from the SOPD. He explained some cars were placed on a no ticketing list and its creating a problem for residents on this street with parking at Mountain Station. He has brought this issue up to the SOPD but has not received a response so he wanted to bring it to the Council's attention.

Mayor Collum thanked Mr. Radliff for informing them and she will circle back to the police department and someone from Administration will follow up with him.

16. New Business

There was no new business.

17. Adjournment

There being no further discussion, Mayor Collum adjourned the meeting at approximately 7:45 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://southorangenjwpnj.portal.civicclerk.com/event/2902/media>

ATTEST:

SOUTHORANGEVILLAGE

Ojetti E. Davis, Village Clerk

Sheena C. Collum, Village Mayor