

SOUTH ORANGE VILLAGE COUNCIL REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Monday, January 27, 2025 - 7:00 PM

Executive Session - 6:15 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

2025-014 Resolution Authorizing an Executive Session at the January 27,



2025, Regular Meeting of the South Orange Village Council

A. Matter/ (OPMA Exception)
Executive Session

- Water Utility (Attorney/Client Privilege Matter)
- Affordable Housing (Attorney/Client Privilege Matter)
- Public Safety (Attorney/Client Privilege Matter)
- South Orange Public Library (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 7:20 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**

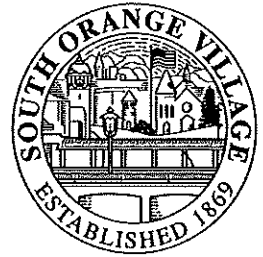
Mayor Collum read the following announcements:

A. **South Orange 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.

B. **Black History Month**

The theme for Black History Month is African Americans and Labor. This theme focuses on the various and profound ways that work and



working of all kinds – free and unfree, skilled and unskilled, vocational and voluntary – intersect with the collective experiences of Black people. Keep an eye out for our weekly Storytime Saturday book readings and children's book list for ages newborn to 10 years, a weekly narrated run/walk in partnership with Erasing Essex's Borders, and an art exhibition at the Pierro Gallery titled "Black Art Unveiled," launching later this month. We are also co-hosting a movie screening of "One of Them Days," starring Maplewood's own SZA, with a special speaker session on February 12th. For a listing of all the upcoming events, check out our South Orange website and click on the "Celebrating Black History Month" banner.

In addition, Mayor Collum announced the passing of Carol Barry-Austin who served numerous roles in the community. Mayor Collum called for a moment of silence in memory of Mrs. Barry-Austin.

Councilmember Greenberg read a statement in remembrance of the International Holocaust Day and regarding the unfortunate occurrence that took place with protestors over the weekend at an event held at Oheb Shalom.

7. Villager of the Month

- A. Honoring South Orange Elks Rent Party Garden:
Councilwoman Jones read the Proclamation honoring the South Orange Elks Rent Garden Party as Villager of the Month for its extraordinary contributions to fighting hunger, fostering community and enriching the lives of our residents.

Chris Dickson and Bob Donnelly both thanked the Mayor and Council and were proud to receive this acknowledgement.

8. Board of Health - Canceled

9. Public Comment

Village Mayor opened the meeting for public comment:

South Orange Police Chief Morillo gave a brief overview and a detail timeline of events that occurred on Sunday, January 26, 2025 at an event held by Oheb Shalom Congregation which resulted in an unfortunate situation with protestors. He stated SOPD are working closely with the State Police, Attorney General Office and the Prosecutor regarding this matter. Chief Morillo explained this is a high stressed situation for the SOPD and he



will be meeting with all the leaders of the local synagogues to discuss how to better prepare for these types events and how the SOPD can offer assistance.

There were many members of the public that expressed their concerns and how upset they were over the situation that took place on January 26th at the Oheb Shalom Congregation. Some described the attacks made by the protestors, there were questions about the Village's permit process and urged the Village Council would pass a resolution endorsing the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance. Most of the public members expressed their level of appreciation to the Mayor, Council and the SOPD for the quick responses.

Mayor Collum mentioned the Village Council had already adopted a Resolution endorsing the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance in 2021. She advised the public if there are any suggestion on where the Council can learn more to become better in the community, feel free to reach out by email as the Council and the SOPD are always open to learn more.

Also, a member of the public expressed concerns about the recent ICE raids and wanted to know what kind of precaution the Village has in place to help protect local families in the community. Mayor Collum stated this issue is very important to the Council and mentioned that Superintendent Bing has informed the municipalities that he is in close contact with the New Jersey Department of Education that has issued guidance to all schools. She has reached out to a nonprofit organization that is a leader in immigrant justice and rights and were the first on the scene with recent raid that happened in Newark. Chief Morillo has been sharing with the Council members information in terms of law enforcement on these policies and suggested if anyone has resources to please share and send to the Clerk's Office at clerksoffice@southorange.org. Chief Morillo mentioned there will be a joint statement with the County Prosecutor for the purpose to calm the community on this national issue.

10. Approval of Minutes

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

- Regular meeting held on January 13, 2025 (Councilmember



Greenberg & Councilwoman Hilton are 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	Present but technical difficulties
Councilmember Greenberg	Abstained
Councilmember Haskins	Yes
Councilwoman Hilton	Abstained
Councilwoman Jones	Yes
Councilmember Lewis-Chang	Yes

Motion carried.

11. Resolutions for Consent Agenda

- A. 2025-015 RESOLUTION AWARDED EMERGENCY CONTRACT TO SCORE SPRAY FOAM FOR EMERGENCY WORK AT THE BAIRD DUE TO A RUPTURED SPRINKLER PIPE
- B. 2025-016 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A CONTRACT WITH CHRIS HENRY SPORTS INSTRUCTION LLC FOR BASEBALL AND SOFTBALL INSTRUCTION AND CAMPS BEGINNING MARCH 2025 - MARCH 2026 FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF RECREATION AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS
- C. 2025-017 RESOLUTION OF THE VILLAGE COUNCIL OF SOUTH ORANGE VILLAGE COMMITTING TO FOURTH ROUND PRESENT AND PROSPECTIVE NEED AFFORDABLE HOUSING OBLIGATIONS
- D. 2025-018 RESOLUTIONS AUTHORIZING THE AWARD OF CONTRACT BY NJ STATE CONTRACT NJ: 17-FLEET-00776 TO ALL TRAFFIC SOLUTIONS FOR TRAFFIC CALMING EQUIPMENT IN THE AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$6,749.06
- E. 2025-019 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A CONTRACT WITH NATIONAL HIGHWAY PRODUCTS TO PURCHASE TRAFFIC CALMING EQUIPMENT FOR NPP UNDER THE SOMERSET COUNTY CO-OP CONTRACT # CC-0099-24, TRAFFIC CONTROL SIGNS, SUPPORTS & HARDWARE DEVICES IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$32,484.37
- F. 2025-020 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING EXECUTION OF A MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING WITH MEETING ESSENTIAL NEEDS WITH DIGNITY, INC. ("MEND") AND SOMA TWO TOWNS FOR ALL AGES (A PROGRAM ADMINISTERED BY SOUTH ORANGE VILLAGE ON BEHALF OF SOUTH ORANGE AND MAPLEWOOD)



Councilwoman Hilton moved to adopt Resolutions #2025-015 through #2025-020 of the Consent Agenda, 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.

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 January 27, 2025. The Village Council members were provided with a copy of the Bills List prior to the meeting for examination.

2025-021 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING PAYMENT OF BILLS AND THE ISSUANCE OF CHECKS FOR THE PERIOD THROUGH JANUARY 27, 2025, IN THE TOTAL AMOUNT OF \$7,727,351.09

Councilwoman Hilton moved to adopt the Bills List Resolution #2025-021, 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.

13. Village Mayor Report

Mayor Collum mentioned the Lunar Festival was outstanding. She gave a special shout out to Susan Haig and the South Orange Symphony as she was excited to be an honorary performer with the Symphony. She encourages everyone to make donations to the southorangesymphony.org, the donations allow for the free performances



in the community.

Mayor Collum discussed this past busy weekend with what happened at Oheb Shalom. She received a lot of overwhelming support in regards to the event from throughout the State. Some of those that reached out were from Congresswoman Mikie Cheryl, Senator Andy Kim, Mayor of Bloomfield, Assemblywoman Tucker and Assemblywoman Hall. The sincerity was felt from all the calls and grateful for all the support as the Village works through these challenges in making sure the community is safe for all.

Mayor Collum congratulated the Village Administrator on a wonderful job putting together the department budget presentations.

14. Village Administrator Report

Administrator Doran briefly discussed the 1st meeting of the department budget presentation where 6 Department Heads presented. The 2nd meeting is scheduled for Saturday, February 1st at 9am and the remaining Department Heads will present at that time. The recordings of the presentations can be found on the Village's website. The outside organizations will be presenting their budget presentation in February.

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
- E. Councilwoman Jones deferred her reports to the next meeting.

- Historic Preservation Commission
- Community Relations Committee

- F. Councilmember Lewis-Chang

17. Public Comment

Village Mayor opened the meeting for public comment:
Mr. Cittone member of the public urged the Council to take more action when it comes to the protestors or he will send a letter to the US Attorney



Office because he felt his federal statute has been violated.

18. New Business

There was no new business discussed.

19. Adjournment

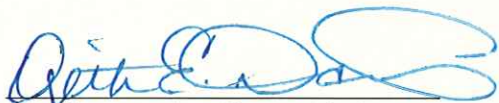
There being no further discussion, Mayor Collum adjourned the meeting at approximately 9:45 pm.

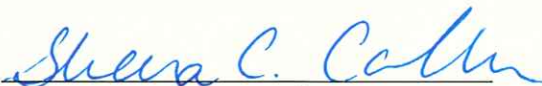
***These minutes are a summary and the actual statements can be found on the video located on the Village's website at the following link:**

<https://southorangenetwpnj.portal.civicclerk.com/event/2904/media>

ATTEST:

SOUTHORANGEVILLAGE


Ojeri E. Davis, Village Clerk


Sheena C. Collum, Village Mayor