



SOUTH ORANGE VILLAGE COUNCIL REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Monday, February 10, 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

2025-022 Resolution Authorizing an Executive Session at the February 10, 2025, Regular Meeting of the South Orange Village Council



A. Matter/ (OPMA Exception)
Executive Session

- Water Utility (Attorney/Client Privilege Matter)
- Redevelopment (Attorney/Client Privilege Matter)
- SOPAC (Attorney/Client Privilege Matter & Contract Negotiations)

Councilwoman Hilton moved to approve Resolution #2025-022, seconded by Councilmember Lewis-Chang. All members were in favor and none opposed.

5. **Reconvene into Open Session**

Mayor Collum reconvened the meeting at approximately 7:10 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. **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.

B. **South Orange Public Library**

Celebrate Black history with ***Sew It! Workshop at the Library***. On Thursday February 13th at 4pm tweens and teens are invited to learn the technique of sewing to make their own **Black Panther Sleep Mask**. Ms. Ellen, of *Sew It! Workshop* will be leading this, followed by a brief presentation on Ruth E. Carter, the first Black woman to win an Oscar in design which was for Black Panther film. Registration is required, visit www.sopl.org for more details.

In addition, Mayor Collum announced Opening Night of the Pierro Gallery at the Baird with Black Art Unveiled on February 19th at 6:30pm. Also, she gave a shout out to Joe Foligno Director of DPW and the DPW workers for all their hard work in keeping the roads safe.

7. **Annual Budget Presentations**

A. South Orange Downtown – Presented by Melissa Hodge, Executive Director and Lisa Szulewski, Events & Marketing Coordinator

Ms. Hodge and Ms. Szulewski gave an overview of the following:

- 2024 Recap & 2025 Plans
- 2025 Proposed Budget

Some of the items discussed included the following:

- Small Business Growth highlighting new businesses, expansions and coming soon;
- 2025 Business Enrichment & Networking Event
- Downtown Beautification
- Placemaking Downtown
- Marketing & Promotions
- Downtown on Display with 40 Business Featured
- Community Events
- FY25 Proposed Budget

Ms. Hodge discussed the loss of 6 board members and the 6 new members, grant spending, friendship circle and advocacy expense.

Mayor Collum and the Council members thanked Ms. Hodge and Ms. Szulewski on a great presentation and all their hard work with



South Orange Downtown and sometimes with those businesses not in their district.

B. South Orange Environmental Commission – Presented by Kathleen Grant, Chair:

Ms. Grant presented and discussed the following topics:

- Some of what the SOEC is Doing
- Community Connections
- Commentary – What Now for Climate under Trump? Act Locally
- South Orange Greenhouse Gas Emissions
- What Can Local Government Do?
- Climate Superfund Act
- Budget Request

Ms. Grant discussed public survey and their partnership with Seton Hall University. Mayor Collum requested the SOEC create an environmental best practices for redevelopment and new developments and would like to partner with them on an upcoming series of community meetings to discuss the open space tax and investment fund. Ms. Grant stated they would love to join the conversation and thanked Mayor Collum for the invitation.

8. Public Comment

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

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 January 27, 2025 (All Council members are eligible to vote)

Councilwoman Hilton moved to approve the minutes of the meeting held on January 27th, 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.

10. Ordinances for First Reading

- A. 2025-01 AN ORDINANCE OF SOUTH ORANGE VILLAGE, APPROVING AND ADOPTING AN UPDATED MUNICIPAL CODE, FULLY INCLUDING ALL ORDINANCES ENACTED FROM MARCH 25, 2024 THROUGH JANUARY 31, 2025

Councilwoman Jones moved to adopt Ordinance 2025-01 for first reading and introduction, 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

- B. 2025-02 BOND ORDINANCE PROVIDING A SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATION OF \$1,000,000 FOR RENOVATIONS TO THE VILLAGE LIBRARY FACILITIES IN AND BY SOUTH ORANGE VILLAGE, IN THE COUNTY OF ESSEX, NEW JERSEY, AND AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF \$1,000,000 BONDS OR NOTES OF THE VILLAGE TO FINANCE THE COST THEREOF

Councilwoman Hilton moved to adopt Ordinance 2025-02 for first reading and introduction, seconded by Councilman Brown.

Roll Call Vote:

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

Councilmember Greenberg moved that the Public Hearing for Ordinances #2025-01 and 2025-02, shall be at the Village Council Members meeting on Monday, March 10, 2024 beginning at 7:00 PM.



On that date, the Council members 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.

11. Resolutions for Consent Agenda

- A. 2025-023 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING CHANGE ORDER #1 - FOR VMF CONSTRUCTION FOR REMOVAL AND DISPOSAL OF EXISTING EPOXY FLOORING THROUGHOUT WORK AREA FOR A NET INCREASE OF \$9,625.00 TO THE ORIGINAL CONTRACT AMOUNT
- B. 2025-024 RESOLUTION APPROVING THE HIRING OF PART-TIME, SEASONAL EMPLOYEE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS FOR SOUTH ORANGE VILLAGE
- C. 2025-025 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING EXECUTION OF A CERTIFICATE OF COMPLETION FOR BLOCK 1006, LOTS 1, 2, 3, 9, 10, 11, 13 AND 14 UPON WHICH MULTI-UNIT, MULTI-FAMILY RESIDENTIAL AND AFFORDABLE HOUSING UNITS AND RELATED SITE IMPROVEMENTS HAVE BEEN CONSTRUCTED
- D. 2025-026 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE AWARD OF CONTRACT BY ESCNJ COOPERATIVE TO HANNON FLOORS FOR THE PURCHASE OF FLOORING DAMAGED FROM SPRINKLER LEAK AT BAIRD CENTER IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$17,775.24
- E. 2025-027 RESOLUTION AWARDING CONTRACT FOR REPAIRS TO BAIRD CENTER DUE TO WATER DAMAGE FROM SPRINKLER TO VMF CONSTRUCTION IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$28,335.00
- F. 2025-028 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE HIRING OF PART-TIME SEASONAL EMPLOYEES IN THE DEPARTMENT OF RECREATION AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS FOR SOUTH ORANGE VILLAGE
- G. 2025-029 **[PULLED]** RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING EXECUTION OF A SALES AGREEMENT AND SUCH OTHER DOCUMENTS AND ACTIONS NECESSARY OR RELATED TO THE SALE OF THE SOUTH ORANGE WATER SYSTEM TO NEW JERSEY-AMERICAN WATER COMPANY, INC. AS APPROVED BY THE LEGAL VOTERS OF SOUTH ORANGE VILLAGE ON NOVEMBER 5, 2024 AND SALE AND ASSIGNMENT OF DESIGNS, PLANS AND PERMITS FOR CREST DRIVE STANDPIPE REPLACEMENT PROJECT **[PULLED]**



- H. 2025-030 RESOLUTION OF SOUTH ORANGE VILLAGE, IN THE COUNTY OF ESSEX, NEW JERSEY AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF A SECOND AMENDMENT TO THE REDEVELOPMENT AGREEMENT BY AND BETWEEN VALLEY STREET SOUTH ORANGE URBAN RENEWAL, LLC AND SOUTH ORANGE VILLAGE AND AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF A CERTIFICATE OF COMPLETION FOR VALLEY STREET SOUTH ORANGE URBAN RENEWAL, LLC
- I. 2025-031 RESOLUTION TO SUPPORT PUBLISHING LEGAL NOTICES ON OFFICIAL GOVERNMENT WEBSITES
- J. 2025-032 RESOLUTION AWARDED RENEWAL OF CONTRACT TO MIELE'S CONCESSIONS AS THE FOOD SERVICE VENDOR FOR THE SOUTH ORANGE MUNICIPAL SWIMMING POOL FOR CALENDAR YEAR 2025
- K. 2025-033 RESOLUTION APPROVING THE HIRING OF PART-TIME, WATER UTILITY CONSULTANT IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATION FOR SOUTH ORANGE VILLAGE
- L. 2025-034 RESOLUTION OF SUPPORT FROM THE SOUTH ORANGE VILLAGE COUNCIL AUTHORIZING THE SUSTAINABLE JERSEY GRANT APPLICATION
- M. 2025-035 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING RENEWAL OF ENTERPRISE DOCUMENT AND DATA MANAGEMENT SERVICES AGREEMENT WITH FILEBANK INC. UNDER THE KEYSTONE PURCHASING NETWORK FOR 2025 IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$24,302.12

Councilwoman Jones moved to adopt the Consent Agenda with Resolutions #2025-023 through #2025-035 and with the exception of Resolution #2025-029 which was pulled, seconded by Councilwoman Hilton.

Roll Call Vote:

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

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 February 10, 2025. The Village Council members were provided with a copy of the Bills List prior to the meeting for examination.

2025-036 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING PAYMENT OF BILLS AND THE ISSUANCE OF CHECKS FOR THE PERIOD THROUGH FEBRUARY 10, 2025, IN THE TOTAL AMOUNT OF \$7,852,508.08

Councilwoman Hilton moved to approved the Bills List Resolution #2025-036, 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

13. Village Mayor Report

There was no report.

14. Village Administrator Report

Administrator Doran briefly discussed the repairs to the front of the building at the Baird caused by a pipe that burst. They are hoping the work will be completed by the end of March.

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 thanked the Council members, Administrator Doran and Ellen Malgieri for their time, diligence and patience with this year's budget meeting. She thanked the Library Board as well on the library budget.
- E. Councilwoman Jones reports were tabled to the next meeting:

- Historic Preservation Commission



- Community Relations Committee

- F. Councilmember Lewis-Chang apologized to the public for those that did not get a chance to the register for the community garden this year, it sold very quickly. She acknowledged Councilwoman Jones and Melissa and Lisa of South Orange Downtown for a great start up for Black History Month.

Mayor Collum asked Administrator Doran to look into the possibility of expanding the community garden to allow for more public members to register for a spot.

17. Public Comment

Village Mayor opened the meeting for public comment:

Tonia Moore resident of South Orange, thanked Mayor Collum for reflecting on the importance of the library and to the Councilwoman Hilton for her vision for the library.

Hildy Karp president of the Library Board, thanked the Mayor and Council members for voting on the Library Ordinance. Also, she thanked Administrator Doran, Ellen Malgieri and Jill Faherty Library Director for their hard work as well.

Mayor Collum appreciated both Ms. Moore and Ms. Karp for their kind words and all the friends of the library community.

18. New Business

There was no new business discussed.

19. Adjournment

There being no further discussion, Mayor Collum adjourned the meeting at approximately 8:30 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://southorangenj.gov/civics/civics.aspx?ID=2906>

ATTEST:

SOUTHORANGEVILLAGE


Ojetti E. Davis, Village Clerk


Sheena C. Collum, Village Mayor