

SOUTH ORANGE VILLAGE COUNCIL REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Monday, February 24, 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 - Absent
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

2025-037 Resolution Authorizing an Executive Session at the February 24, 2025, Regular Meeting of the South Orange Village Council



A. Matter/ (OPMA Exception)
Executive Session

- Water Utility (Attorney/Client Privilege Matter)
- Redevelopment updates (Attorney/Client Privilege Matter & Contract Negotiation)
- Federal appropriation (Attorney/Client Privilege Matter)
- Library (Attorney/Client Privilege Matter)
- SOPAC Contract (Contract Negotiations)

Councilwoman Jones moved to approve Resolution #2025-037 seconded by Councilmember Greenberg. 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 - Absent
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**

South Orange is hosting a series of exciting events to celebrate Black History Month in collaboration with various community organizations. These festivities aim to educate, connect, and honor the rich history and culture of the Black community. We thank our community partners for their creativity and effort in crafting a vibrant event lineup! Additionally, we want to recognize the dedicated volunteers whose passion and commitment have helped launch this initiative.



Please visit the South Orange website and click on the "Celebrating Black History Month" banner.

B. Crossing Guard Appreciation Week

Join us for the 3rd Annual SOMa Crossing Guard Appreciation Week from March 3-7! This week is dedicated to showing gratitude to our local crossing guards, who help keep our streets safe in all kinds of weather. We encourage the community to express their appreciation with a token of thanks, such as a handmade card, a poster, a hot drink, a treat, or simply a heartfelt "thank you." In addition, the guards will be honored with an appreciation breakfast hosted by JESPY House in collaboration with Walk Bike Ride South Orange. They will receive gift cards courtesy of the Police Departments and 7-Eleven.

In addition, Mayor Collum mentioned that March is Women's History month! To view a list of events, please visit somawomen.org.

7. Board of Health

- A. Councilmember Lewis-Chang moved to recess the meeting of the South Orange Village Council and convene as the Board of Health at approximately 7:05pm, seconded by Councilmember Haskins. 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 gave a report on the following:

- Health Officer Updates
 - February is Heart Health Month
 - Communicable and Infectious Disease Update
 - Measles cases in New Jersey
- Nursing Update
 - Reportable disease investigated: 3
 - Immunization Audits: 2



- Avian Influenza H5N1 update and steps to reduce risk
 - Zufall Health at the Baird, starting March 12th
- Environmental Health Update:
 - Restaurant inspections: 9
 - Complaints: 5
 - NOVs (Notice of Violations): 1
 - Summonses: 2
- Animal Control Update
 - Reminder of dog and cat licensing deadline: March 1, 2025

Ms. Davenport mentioned the Health Department is continuing with promoting "Make the Right Call" and "Parents spending 15 minutes per day with their children can improve their health and wellbeing."

In response to board questions, Ms. Davenport discussed the conflicting information between the State and Federal Department of Health and stated the local health departments are following the State guidelines.

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 Greenberg moved to adjourn the meeting of the Board of Health, seconded by Board member Collum. Board President Lewis-Chang adjourned the meeting at approximately 7:20 pm.

Reconvened as Board of Trustees and all members are still present

8. Annual Budget Presentations

- A. Community Coalition on Race – Presented by Nancy Gagnier Executive Director and Anita Gundanna Chair of the Board. Ms. Gagnier acknowledged the loss of one of their founding members Carol Barry-Austin and read a tribute that is posted on their website. Ms. Gagnier's presentation included the following:
 - Introducing New Staff



- Serving South Orange in 2024 with Building Community, Anti-racism, Advocacy, Racial Justice and Developing Understanding
- Fundraising and Grants 2024
- Collaborations and Media beyond SOMA
- Serving South Orange in 2025 by engaging the community in learning, developing understanding and building relationships
- 2025 Budget that includes projected expenses and projected income

Mayor Collum thanked both Ms. Gagnier and Ms. Gundanna for all the work they do throughout the community and asked if they could provide a status update on the Wealth Gap Equalizer Program.

B. South Orange Performing Arts Center – Presented by Lana Rogachevskaya Executive Director and Aida Jones Chair of the Board. Ms. Rogachevskaya presented the 2024 Year End Review and 2025 Budget:

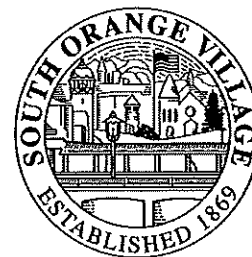
- Cultural Impact
- Social & Educational Impact
- Community – SOPAC supports SOMA Organizations
- Economic Impact
- 20th Anniversary Season
- Facility & Financial Context
- Grant Funding
- Immediate Facility Needs
- 2025 Budget Income and Budget Expenses

Also, Ms. Rogachevskaya discussed the calculations on number of attendees and replacement for HVAC system.

Mayor Collum thanked Ms. Rogachevskaya and Ms. Jones for their presentation. She mentioned that Councilwoman Jones and herself are liaison on the SOPAC Board and will share any updates with the Council Members.

C. YouthNet – Presented by Diane Malloy Executive director and Camilla Finch Teitelman, Board Chair. They discussed the following of their presentation:

- Middle School Clubs
- Internship/Mentor Programs at Columbia High School
- Open Gym Session at Columbia High School with Co-Sponsors Maplewood PD and South Orange PD



- New Programming – Mental Health Initiative
- Funding Expenses
- 2024 Grant Awards
- 2024-25 Fundraising Campaign
- Celebrating 16 Years and going strong serving the Community providing opportunities for thousands of middle school and high school students and offering scholarships and financial aid to ensure ALL students can participate

Mayor Collum thanked Ms. Malloy and Ms. Teitelman for all of their community service and suggested they send Administrator Doran information on Volunteering to be added in the quarterly Gaslight Edition.

9. Public Comment

Village Mayor opened the meeting for public comment:

Rick Kalish resident of South Orange, asked the board for their support on the Resolution that's on tonight's agenda supporting New Jersey's Climate Superfund Act. Mr. Kalish stated the bill would make the largest fossil fuel corporations pay for their share of damages caused by the climate change.

Mayor Collum thanked Mr. Kalish for his comment. She mentioned this issue was brought to the Village Council by Kathleen Grant, Chair of the South Orange Environmental Commission. Ms. Grant coordinated with our Village Attorney to draft a resolution in which the Council is in full support of.

10. Approval of Minutes

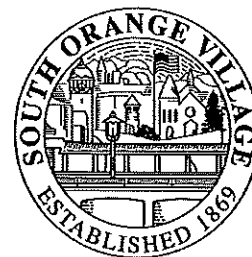
A. The Village Clerk is requesting the Council members' approval of the minutes for the following meeting:

- Regular meeting held on February 10, 2025 (All Council members are eligible to vote)

Councilmember Greenberg moved to approve the minutes of the meeting held on February 10th, seconded by Councilmember Lewis-Chang.

Roll Call Vote:

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



Councilwoman Jones Yes
Councilmember Lewis-Chang Yes
Motion carried.

11. Ordinances for First Reading

- A. 2025-03 AN ORDINANCE GRANTING MUNICIPAL CONSENT TO NEW JERSEY-AMERICAN WATER COMPANY, INC. TO PROVIDE WATER SERVICE AND THE CONSTRUCTION, EXPANSION AND MAINTENANCE OF WATER FACILITIES IN THE PUBLIC RIGHT OF WAY IN SOUTH ORANGE VILLAGE IN ORDER TO FURNISH WATER SERVICE WITHIN THE BOUNDARIES OF THE VILLAGE

Councilmember Greenberg moved to adopt Ordinance 2025-03 for first reading/introduction, seconded by Councilwoman Jones.

Roll Call Vote:

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

- B. 2025-04 AN ORDINANCE OF SOUTH ORANGE VILLAGE AMENDING AND RESTATING VILLAGE CODE CHAPTER 146 FILMING, SECTION 5 - FEES AND AMENDING AND RESTATING CHAPTER 143 FEES, SECTION 10 - FIRE PREVENTION BY THE ADDITION OF A FEE FOR TYPE 1-4 UNIFORM FIRE CODE PERMIT APPLICATION FEES REQUIRING INSPECTIONS OUTSIDE OF REGULAR BUSINESS HOURS

Councilmember Greenberg moved to adopt Ordinance 2025-04 for first reading/introduction, seconded by Councilman Brown.

Roll Call Vote:

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



C. 2025-05 AN ORDINANCE OF SOUTH ORANGE VILLAGE AMENDING
AND RESTATING VILLAGE CODE CHAPTER 157 FIRE PREVENTION,
SECTION 7 – TECHNICAL AMENDMENTS

Councilmember Lewis-Chang moved to adopt Ordinance 2025-05
for first reading/introduction, seconded by Councilmember
Greenberg.

Roll Call Vote:

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

Motion carried.

D. 2025-06 AN ORDINANCE APPROPRIATING \$120,000.00 IN THE
GENERAL CAPITAL FUND FOR THE UNDERTAKING OF RENOVATIONS
TO AND FURNISHINGS FOR THE MUNICIPAL BUILDING

Councilmember Haskins moved to adopt Ordinance 2025-06 for first
reading/introduction, seconded by Councilmember Lewis-Chang.

Roll Call Vote:

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

Motion carried.

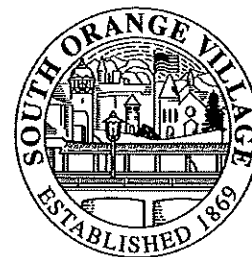
Councilwoman Jones moved that the Public Hearing for Ordinances
#2025-03, 2025-04, 2025-05 and 2025-06, shall be at the Village
Council Members meeting on Monday, March 24, 2024 beginning at
7:00 PM. On that date, the Council members may take further
action. The Village Clerk is directed to see that these Ordinances are
published in the Official Newspaper and posted in an open place in
the Municipal Offices. The motion was seconded by



Councilmembers Haskins. All members were in favor and none opposed.

12. Resolutions for Consent Agenda

- A. 2025-038 RESOLUTION APPROVING THE HIRING OF PART-TIME, EMPLOYEE IN THE BUILDING DEPARTMENT FOR SOUTH ORANGE VILLAGE
- B. 2025-039 RESOLUTION ACCEPTING ADDITIONAL FUNDING THROUGH THE ENHANCING LOCAL PUBLIC HEALTH INFRASTRUCTURE GRANT FROM THE NEW JERSEY ASSOCIATION OF CITY AND COUNTY HEALTH OFFICIALS
- C. 2025-040 RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING CALENDAR YEAR 2025 SEWER USER CHARGE
- D. 2025-041 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
- E. 2025-042 RESOLUTION OF SOUTH ORANGE VILLAGE, IN THE COUNTY OF ESSEX, NEW JERSEY, AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF AN AMENDED AND RESTATED REDEVELOPMENT AGREEMENT WITH 181 CHURCH STREET DEVELOPMENT LLC AND 185 CHURCH STREET DEVELOPMENT LLC FOR THE REDEVELOPMENT OF CERTAIN PROPERTY IDENTIFIED AS BLOCK 2301, LOTS 21, 42, 43 AND 44 ON THE TAX MAPS OF THE VILLAGE
- F. 2025-043 RESOLUTION APPOINTING REPRESENTATIVES TO THE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT PROGRAM FOR THE PROGRAM YEAR 2025
- G. 2025-044 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE HIRING OF PART-TIME SEASONAL EMPLOYEES IN THE DEPARTMENT OF RECREATION AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS FOR SOUTH ORANGE VILLAGE
- H. 2025-045 RESOLUTION SUPPORTING NJ CLIMATE SUPERFUND ACT
- I. 2025-046 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING EXECUTION OF LETTER OF INTENT TO PARTICIPATE IN THE ESSEX COUNTY HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN/UPDATE AND APPOINTING REPRESENTATIVES TO SERVE AS PLANNING POINT OF CONTACTS



Councilwoman Jones moved to approve Resolutions #2025-038 through #2025-046 of the Consent Agenda, seconded by Councilmember Haskins.

Roll Call Vote:

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

Motion carried.

13. 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 24, 2025. The Village Council members were provided with a copy of the Bills List prior to the meeting for examination.

2025-047 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING PAYMENT OF BILLS AND THE ISSUANCE OF CHECKS FOR THE PERIOD THROUGH FEBRUARY 24, 2025, IN THE TOTAL AMOUNT OF \$6,304,570.67

Councilwoman Jones moved to approve the Bills List Resolution #2025-047, seconded by Councilmember Haskins.

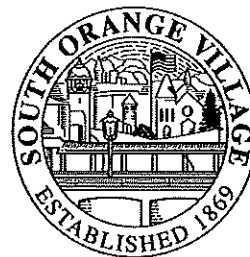
Roll Call Vote:

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

Motion carried.

14. Village Mayor Report

Mayor Collum mentioned the top current priority is the budget. Administration and the Department Heads along with the Village Council all have been working very hard to have the budget on for introduction at the 1st March meeting. She briefly discussed the issues that are going on in the Federal Government and its impact on our community which



issues such as health, school districts and funding. Also, working on the Housing element and Fair Share Plans to be adopted in the future.

15. Village Administrator Report

Administrator Doran discussed working on securing a planning grant for Safe Streets for ALL along with the County. The 1st phase is to gather data. There will be 2 community meetings and a survey that can be found on the Village's website and social media platforms.

16. Village Attorney Report

Mr. Otis briefly discussed immigration. He mentioned it was important to know that ICE Agents cannot enter your home without consent and the proper warrant which must say either United States District Court or Superior Court of New Jersey.

17. 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 - Absent
- E. **Councilwoman Jones**
 - Historic Preservation Commission is collaborating with the Montrose Historic District regarding self-designating of properties. There will be a community meeting in the near future.
 - Community Relations Committee has started planning for Community Day scheduled for Sunday, September 21st. if anyone would like to join the committee, please send her an email at sjones@southorange.org.

Councilwoman Jones also thanks Stephanie Lawson-Muhammad, Dr. Bugg-Levine and Councilwoman Lewis-Chang for their participation during the events of Black History Month.

- F. Councilmember Lewis-Chang gave a shout out to Matt Gray and the Recreation Crew for their help with the Community Garden Orientation.

18. Public Comment

Village Mayor opened the meeting for public comment:



There were no questions or comments from the public.

19. New Business

There was no new business.

20. Adjournment

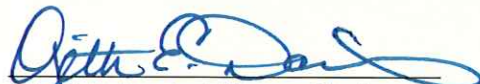
There being no further discussion, Mayor Collum adjourned the meeting at approximately 9:15 pm.

***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/2906/media>

ATTEST:

SOUTHORANGEVILLAGE


Ojetti E. Davis, Village Clerk


Sheena C. Collum, Village Mayor