

SOUTH ORANGE VILLAGE COUNCIL REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Monday, March 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 - Absent
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

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

2025-048 Resolution Authorizing an Executive Session at the March 10, 2025, Regular Meeting of the South Orange Village Council



A. Matter/ (OPMA Exception)
Executive Session

- Water Utility (Attorney/Client Privilege Matter)
- Budget (Attorney/Client Privilege Matter)
- Police Personnel (Personnel Matter)

Councilwoman Hilton moved to approve Resolution #2025-048, 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 7:15 pm:

ROLL CALL

Mayor Collum
Councilman Brown
Councilmember Greenberg - Absent
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 announcement:

A. **Water Administration Department**

In accordance with the NJ Department of Community Affairs, the Winter Termination Prevention Program ends on March 15th and water shut-offs for non-payments/delinquencies begin. All established notice guidelines must be followed, including proper notice, holiday, weekend and medical emergency exclusions. Written notice of termination must be delivered at least 10 days before service is shut off.

In addition, Councilwoman Jones announced Walk Bike Ride will hold a hybrid community meeting on March 17th at 7:30 pm at the Baird Community Center to discuss the Essex County Safe Streets Action Plan. All residents are encouraged to attend.



Mayor Collum mentioned along with the Township of Maplewood's Mayor Nancy Adam, they did a joint proclamation for Women's History Month. On Wednesday, March 12th at 6:30 pm they will be honoring Unsung Sherioes of South Orange and Maplewood. This event will be heled at the South Orange Performing Arts Center (SOPAC).

7. Public Comment

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

8. 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 24, 2025 (Councilwoman Hilton is ineligible to vote)

Councilman Brown moved to approve the minutes of the meeting held on February 24th, seconded by Councilmember Lewis-Chang.

Roll Call Vote:

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

Motion carried.

9. Ordinances for First Reading

A. 2025-07 BOND ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR THE LOCAL UNIT'S ALLOCABLE SHARE OF CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS FOR THE JOINT MEETING OF ESSEX AND UNION COUNTIES, BY AND IN SOUTH ORANGE VILLAGE, IN THE COUNTY OF ESSEX, STATE OF NEW JERSEY (THE "LOCAL UNIT"); APPROPRIATING \$740,000 THEREFOR AND AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF \$740,000 BONDS OR NOTES TO FINANCE THE COST THEREOF

Councilwoman Hilton moved to adopt Ordinance 2025-07 for first reading/introduction, seconded by Councilmember Haskins.

Roll Call Vote:



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

Motion carried.

B. 2025-08 ORDINANCE TO EXCEED THE MUNICIPAL BUDGET APPROPRIATION LIMITS AND TO ESTABLISH A CAP BANK (N.J.S.A. 40A: 4-45.14) FOR CALENDAR YEAR 2025

Councilwoman Hilton moved to adopt Ordinance 2025-08 for first reading/introduction, seconded by Councilwoman Jones.

Roll Call Vote:

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

Motion carried.

C. 2025-09 BOND ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR VARIOUS CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS IN AND BY SOUTH ORANGE VILLAGE, IN THE COUNTY OF ESSEX, NEW JERSEY, APPROPRIATING \$6,388,595 THEREFOR AND AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF \$4,807,250 BONDS OR NOTES OF THE VILLAGE TO FINANCE PART OF THE COST THEREOF

Councilmember Haskins moved to adopt Ordinance 2025-09 for first reading/introduction, seconded by Councilwoman Hilton.

Roll Call Vote:

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

Motion carried.



Councilwoman Jones moved that the Public Hearing for Ordinances #2025-07, 2025-08 and 2025-09, shall be at the Village Council Members meeting on Monday, April 14, 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 Councilwoman Hilton. All members were in favor and none opposed.

10. Ordinance for Second 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

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

Councilwoman Hilton moved to adopt Ordinance 2025-01 for second reading/final adoption, seconded by Councilman Brown.

Roll Call Vote:

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

Motion carried.

- 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

PUBLIC HEARING: Members of the Library Board, Foundation of the Library and Friends of the Library all expressed their appreciation to the Mayor and Village Council Members for the consideration of adopting this Bond Ordinance for the South Orange Public Library.



Councilwoman Hilton moved to adopt Ordinance 2025-02 for second reading/final adoption, seconded by Councilman Brown.

Roll Call Vote:

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

Motion carried.

11. Resolutions for Consent Agenda

- A. 2025-049 RESOLUTION OF THE GOVERNING BODY CERTIFICATION OF COMPLIANCE WITH THE UNITED STATES EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY COMMISSION'S
- B. 2025-050 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE HIRING OF PART-TIME SEASONAL EMPLOYEES IN THE DEPARTMENT OF RECREATION AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS FOR SOUTH ORANGE VILLAGE
- C. 2025-051 RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING A MUNICIPAL ALLIANCE COMMITTEE AND AUTHORIZING SUBMISSION OF A STRATEGIC PLAN IN SUPPORT OF AN APPLICATION FOR A MUNICIPAL ALLIANCE GRANT
- D. 2025-052 RESOLUTION AMENDING RESOLUTION 2025-012 AUTHORIZING AWARD OF NON-FAIR AND OPEN CONTRACTS FOR PROFESSIONAL LEGAL SERVICES TO INCLUDE AWARDS TO MCMANIMON, SCOTLAND & BAUMANN AS REDEVELOPMENT AND LABOR COUNSEL AND APPRUZZESE, MCDERMOTT, MASTRO AND MURPHY AS LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT COUNSEL
- E. 2025-053 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING HIRING OF A POLICE OFFICER FOR THE SOUTH ORANGE POLICE DEPARTMENT
- F. 2025-054 RESOLUTION AWARDING PROFESSIONAL SERVICE CONTRACT TO PHOENIX CONSULTING GROUP AND AUTHORIZING EXECUTION OF MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING WITH TOWNSHIP OF MAPLEWOOD TO SPLIT, EVENLY, THE COST ASSOCIATED WITH THE PHOENIX CONSULTING GROUP CONTRACT NOT TO EXCEED \$16,500
- G. 2025-055 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING EXECUTION OF AN AGREEMENT FOR PREVENTIVE MAINTENANCE OF THE BAIRD COMMUNITY CENTER ELEVATOR IN AN AMOUNT OF \$13,224.00 PER YEAR.



- H. 2025-056 RESOLUTION APPOINTING ALISON OXMAN AS A REGULAR MEMBER TO THE SOUTH ORANGE ZONING BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT

Councilmember Lewis-Chang moved to approve Resolutions #2025-049 through #2025-056 of the Consent Agenda, seconded by Councilwoman Jones.

Roll Call Vote:

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

Motion carried.

12. Resolution for Separate Action

- A. 2025-057 RESOLUTION INTRODUCING THE 2025 MUNICIPAL BUDGET FOR SOUTH ORANGE VILLAGE

• BUDGET PRESENTATION:

Mayor Collum gave a brief overview of this year's proposed budget and acknowledge Ms. Doran for all her hard work. Administrator Doran detailed presentation of the proposed South Orange Village Fiscal Year 2025 Budget included the following:

- Budget Planning Objectives
- Village Priorities and Budget Implications
- FY'25 Budget Realities
- Where Does Your Tax Dollar Go?
- FY'25 Budget Overview
- Where Do Local Revenues Come From?
- How will Your Tax Dollars Be Allocated?
- Major Drivers of Budget Change Year Over Year +/- \$25,000*
- 2025 Capital Budget Highlights
- Financial Outlook: A Closer Look
- Financial Outlook: Revenue Sources – A Closer
- 2025 Proposed Budget – Next Steps:
 - March 24: Public Comment on Introduced (Council Meeting)



- o March 25: OSTF Referendum Town Hall (Baird Center – In Person)
- o April 14: Public Comment and Final Passage (Council Meeting)

The full presentation of the 2025 Budget can be found on the Village's website at: <https://southorange.org/156/Budget-Financial-Documents>

Councilwoman Hilton moved to approve Resolution #2025-057 for Budget Introduction, seconded by Councilmember Haskins.

Roll Call Vote:

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

Motion carried.

13. Village Mayor's Appointment

Mayor Collum made the following appointment to the South Orange Environmental Commission:

- A. 2025-VP01 VILLAGE MAYOR'S APPOINTMENT OF JULIANNA GARREFFA AS AN ALTERNATE MEMBER TO THE SOUTH ORANGE ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

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

2025-058 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING PAYMENT OF BILLS AND THE ISSUANCE OF CHECKS FOR THE PERIOD THROUGH MARCH 10, 2025, IN THE TOTAL AMOUNT OF \$2,444,479.18

Councilwoman Hilton moved to approve the Bills List Resolution #2025-058, seconded by Councilman Brown.

Roll Call Vote:

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

Motion carried.

15. **Village Mayor Report** - There was no report.
16. **Village Administrator Report** - There was no report.
17. **Village Attorney Report** - There was no report.
18. **Council Members Reports**
 - A. Councilman Brown - There was no report.
 - B. Councilmember Greenberg - Absent
 - C. Councilmember Haskins - There was no report.
 - D. Councilwoman Hartshorn Hilton - There was no report.
 - E. Councilwoman Jones - There was no report.
 - F. Councilmember Lewis-Chang - There was no report.

19. **Public Comment**

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

20. **New Business**

There was no new business discussed.

21. **Adjournment**

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

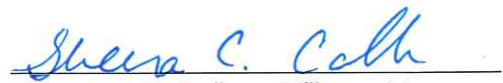
***These minutes are a summary and the actual statements can be found on the video located on the Village's website at the following link:**

<https://southorangenjwpnj.portal.civicclerk.com/event/2910/media>

ATTEST:

SOUTHORANGEVILLAGE


Ojetti E. Davis, Village Clerk


Sheena C. Collum, Village Mayor