



SOUTH ORANGE VILLAGE COUNCIL REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Monday, April 14, 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

Acting Mayor Jones 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

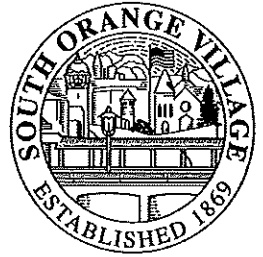
3. Meeting Notice Statement

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

2025-067 Resolution Authorizing an Executive Session at the April 14, 2025, Regular Meeting of the South Orange Village Council



A. Matter/ (OPMA Exception)
Executive Session

- Water Utility (Attorney/Client Privilege Matter)
- Library (Attorney/Client Privilege Matter)
- Personnel/Union Negotiations (Attorney/Client Privilege Matter)
- Contract Process (Attorney/Client Privilege Matter)

Councilmember Greenberg moved to approve Resolution #2025-067, seconded by Councilmember Haskins. All members were in favor and none opposed.

5. **Reconvene into Open Session**

Mayor Collum reconvened the meeting at approximately 7pm:

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. **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.



B. **SOPAC Celebrates: Share the Love – June 12!**

Join the South Orange Performing Arts Center for an unforgettable night featuring **Rock & Roll Hall-of-Famer Darlene Love**, a VIP cocktail reception, and a lively afterparty! They'll honor outstanding community changemakers and celebrate the next generation of talent. Your support keeps SOPAC thriving—bringing world-class performances and transformative arts education to our community. **Get your tickets now at sopacnow.org.**

C. **The South Orange Rescue Squad's "Sound The Siren" 5K Run / Walk**

Sunday, May 4th, 2025 at 9 am: 5K Run (with optional 1.3 mile walking route)

10 am: Kids Fun Run (free!) & EMS Community Open House (free!)

After the 5K, kids and adults alike can tour the ambulances, equipment and headquarters of the Rescue Squad and learn about EMS in South Orange and Maplewood. Free food and beverages will be provided, as well as activities and games for kids. Register now for discounted pricing: tinyurl.com/SORS5K

D. **SOMA Two Towns for All Ages**

Repair Café - Sunday, April 27th; 2pm to 5pm at the Baird Center. To make an appointment, please call: 973-763-6391

7. **Villager of the Month**

- A. Honoring Hannah Zollman as Villager of the Month for April 2025: Councilwoman Jones read the proclamation honoring Hannah Zollman as Village of the Month for her outstanding contributions for her community building, volunteerism and local engagement.

8. **Proclamation**

- A. Proclamation celebrating Arbor Day 2025: Councilmember Haskins read the proclamation proclaiming Friday, April 25, 2025 as Arbor Day in the Village and urges all citizens to celebrate Arbor Day and support the efforts to protect our trees and woodlands.
- B. Proclamation Recognizing National Public Health Week: Councilmember Lewis-Chang read the proclamation which acknowledged the week of April 7-13, 2025 as National Public Health Week in South Orange and calls upon the residents to observe the week by helping our families, friends, neighbors, co-workers and leaders to recognize the contributions of public health.



9. Public Comment

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

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 March 24, 2025 (All Council members are eligible to vote)

Councilwoman Hilton moved to approve the minutes of the meeting held on March 24th, 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.

11. Ordinances for Second 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

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

Councilmember Lewis-Chang moved to adopt Ordinance 2025-07 for second reading/final adoption, seconded by Councilmember Haskins.

Roll Call Vote:

Councilman Brown	Yes
Councilmember Greenberg	Yes



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

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

Councilwoman Hilton moved to adopt Ordinance 2025-08 for second reading/final adoption, 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
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

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

Councilmember Haskins moved to adopt Ordinance 2025-09 for second reading/final adoption, 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



Motion carried.

12. Resolutions for Consent Agenda

- A. 2025-068 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CANCELLATION OF SEWER CHARGES RELATED TO PARCEL 2107/29 AKA 159 WARD PLACE
- B. 2025-069 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING TAX COLLECTOR TO TRANSFER UNCLAIMED REDEMPTION FUNDS TO THE CURRENT FUND
- C. 2025-070 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING HIRING OF A POLICE OFFICER FOR THE SOUTH ORANGE POLICE DEPARTMENT
- D. 2025-071 RESOLUTION AMENDING PROPOSAL OF DRESDNER ROBIN TO PROVIDE ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES TO COMPLETE SITE INVESTIGATIONS AS REQUIRED BY NJDEP GREEN ACRES FOR THE IMPROVEMENT OF THE CAMERON TENNIS COURTS PROJECT IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$48,800
- E. 2025-072 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE HIRING OF PART-TIME SEASONAL EMPLOYEES IN THE DEPARTMENT OF RECREATION AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS FOR SOUTH ORANGE VILLAGE
- F. 2025-073 RESOLUTION ACCEPTING AND AUTHORIZING THE PROPOSAL AND AGREEMENT OF TOPOLOGY NJ LLC. FOR PROFESSIONAL SERVICES FOR ADVISORY COMPLIANCE MEMORANDUM AND VACANT LAND ADJUSTMENT REPORT
- G. 2025-074 RESOLUTION ACCEPTING AND AUTHORIZING THE PROPOSAL AND AGREEMENT OF TOPOLOGY NJ LLC. FOR PROFESSIONAL SERVICES PREPARING AND PRESENTING HOUSING ELEMENT AND FAIR SHARE PLAN REPORT
- H. 2025-075 RESOLUTION AWARDED THE CONTRACT TO GROVE CONTRACTING LLC, THE LOWEST BIDDER FOR RENOVATION AND CONSTRUCTION OF THE SOUTH ORANGE LIBRARY IN THE AMOUNT OF \$14,120,000
- I. 2025-076 RESOLUTION APPROVING THE HIRING OF PART-TIME EMPLOYEE IN THE PLANNING/ZONING DEPARTMENT FOR SOUTH ORANGE VILLAGE
- J. 2025-077 RESOLUTION STATING THAT THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE NEW JERSEY LOCAL BUDGET LAW (N.J.S.A. 40A:4-1, ET SEQ.) HAVE BEEN SATISFIED AND AUTHORIZING THE 2025 MUNICIPAL BUDGET FOR SOUTH ORANGE VILLAGE TO BE READ BY TITLE ONLY
- K. 2025-078 RESOLUTION AWARDED EMERGENCY CONTRACT TO VAN CLEEF ENGINEERING FOR EMERGENCY SURVEY, DESIGN AND



CONSTRUCTION SERVICES FOR THE REPAIR OF A COLLAPSED PRIVATE SANITARY SEWER MAIN SERVICING HOMES ON LENOX PLACE

Councilwoman Jones moved to adopt Resolutions #2025-068 through #2025-078 of the Consent Agenda, 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

Motion carried.

13. Resolution for Separate Action

- A. 2025-079 RESOLUTION ADOPTING THE 2025 MUNICIPAL BUDGET FOR SOUTH ORANGE VILLAGE

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

Councilwoman Hilton moved to adopt the 2025 Municipal Budget Resolutions #2025-079, seconded by Councilmember H.

Roll Call Vote:

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

Motion carried.

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



2025-080 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING PAYMENT OF BILLS AND THE
ISSUANCE OF CHECKS FOR THE PERIOD THROUGH APRIL 14, 2025, IN
THE TOTAL AMOUNT OF \$16,841,586.55

Councilwoman Hilton moved to approve the Bills List Resolution
#2025-080, 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.

At this time, Mayor Collum gave the Council members and staff the
opportunity to say pardoning words to Councilwoman Hilton.
Councilwoman Hilton and her husband are moving out of South
Orange and therefore she had to resign as a Council member.
Mayor Collum, Council members, Administrator Doran, Village
Attorney Mr. Otis and Village Clerk Davis all wished Councilwoman
Hilton well and she will be missed by all!

Councilwoman Hilton read a statement that she prepared and
thanked everyone for the lovely kind words, she was overwhelmed
with admiration, appreciation and felt very fortunate to have had
the opportunity to serve the community.

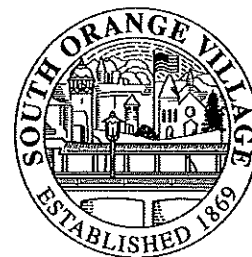
Mayor Collum officially accepted the resignation of Councilwoman
Hilton.

15. Resolution for Separate Action

- A. 2025-081 RESOLUTION APPOINTING STEPHEN SCHNALL TO THE
VILLAGE COUNCIL TO FILL A VACANCY AS PROVIDED IN ARTICLE 2.4
OF THE CHARTER OF SOUTH ORANGE VILLAGE

Councilmember Greenberg moved to adopt Resolution #2025-081
appointing Stephen Schnall to the Village Council to fill a vacancy,
seconded by Councilmember Lewis-Chang.

Roll Call Vote:



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

Motion carried.

16. Village Mayor Report

Mayor Collum discussed the following:

- Joined the gubernatorial candidate Stephen Fulop as his running mate. She has not left her duties as Mayor nor is she planning to step down. Should they win the General Election in November, then the necessary steps will be taken.
- Affordable Housing compliance update – in the process of creating the Housing Element Fair Share Plan, the deadline is the end of June. This plan will need to be review and adopted by the Planning Board prior to the adoption by the Village Council. The goal is to be the 1st municipality to adopt the Housing Element Fair Share Plan.
- Redevelopment updates – Continuing conversation with the NJ Transit Lot and advancement of Phase 2 of the River Green way project.
- Chief Morillo will be retiring and it is the intention to make Deputy Chief Dolinac the Acting Chief for now as they move forward in the process.
- The Village received a Local Recreation Grant for \$82,000 and 2 Grants secured by the South Orange Police Department for a Comprehensive Traffic Safety Program and Distracted Driving Crackdown Grant.
- Summer hours for non-essential personnel will begin May 1st through September 30th. There will be late night Wednesday until 7pm and offices will close on Fridays at 1pm.
- The 2nd week of May is Municipal Appreciation Week to celebrate the Municipal Staff for their dedicated work.

17. Village Administrator Report

Administrator Doran discussed some the Village's Health Grants that were pulled back by the Federal Government and how the Village is managing this setback. She thanked the residents for the patience with the ongoing road work throughout the town. The road work on Lenox Avenue is scheduled start in May. The pool construction work is on schedule and near



completion. Ms. Doran will follow up with the County on the completion of the sidewalk work on Valley Street.

18. Village Attorney Report

There was no report.

19. Council Members Reports

- A. Councilman Brown
- B. Councilmember Greenberg mentioned she will have a full update on the Planning & Economic Development Committee at the next Council meeting.
- C. Councilmember Haskins briefly discussed the Open Space Trust Fund meeting that was hosted by Deputy Administrator Travers. There were many public members that attended. It was very informative and hopes to hold another meeting with more public input. Also, there is a Grove Park Conservancy on the rise, more information to come in the future.
- D. Councilwoman Jones mentioned the Historic Preservation Commission joined a meeting with the Montrose Park Historic District to discuss self-designation of their properties for local landmark. Also, the Historic Preservation Commission is looking for members that are truly interested in history. If anyone is interested in joining the HPC, please send an email to sjones@southorange.org. The SPAC Podcast is now live and it's called South Orange Our Voices. She encourages everyone to check it out, the first is with Mayor Collum and Councilman Brown.

Councilman Schnall briefly discussed the closing of Cinema Labs which leaves SOPAC in difficult challenging space. On June 12th, SOPAC will celebrate the Share the Love event feature Rock & Roll Hall of Famer Darlene Love. He encourages everyone to attend and support SOPAC.

- E. Councilmember Lewis-Chang wanted to let everyone know that Health Officer Davenport wanted to thanked both South Orange and Maplewood for the difficult week with the grants that were pulled back by the Federal Government. She is very grateful for all the support. Also, she reminded the community that April 15th is Earth Day and the month of April is National Autism Awareness Month. Lastly, she was invited to spend 4th & 5th periods at Columbia High School by the Environmental Club and Friday, April 25th. She will be



talking and listening to them about the nature of environmental work.

20. Public Comment

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

21. New Business

Mayor Collum mentioned she will be circulating committee assignments out to everyone with our new member Councilman Schnall. The reorganization meeting is in May and this will be the opportunity to try a new committee.

22. Adjournment

There being no further discussion, Mayor Collum adjourned the meeting at approximately 8:40 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/2914/media>

ATTEST:

SOUTH ORANGE VILLAGE


Ojetti E. Davis, Village Clerk


Sheena C. Collum, Village Mayor