



SOUTH ORANGE VILLAGE COUNCIL REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Monday, March 24, 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

Mayor Collum opened the meeting 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

2025-059 Resolution Authorizing an Executive Session at the March 24, 2025, Regular Meeting of the South Orange Village Council



A. Matter/ (OPMA Exception)
Executive Session

- Water Utility (Attorney/Client Privilege Matter)
- Village Council Vacancy (Attorney/Client Privilege Matter)
- Redevelopment (Attorney/Client Privilege Matter)
- Police Personnel (Personnel Matter)
- Library (Attorney/Client Privilege Matter)
- Contract Negotiations (Attorney/Client Privilege Matter)

Councilman Brown moved to approve Resolution #2025-059, seconded by Councilmember Greenberg. 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. **Town Hall Discussion: Open Space Trust Fund Increase**

South Orange Village is considering a referendum to increase the Open Space Tax Levy, currently set at \$0.01/per \$100 of assessed value, to support the preservation and enhancement of our parks, recreational facilities, and natural areas. The goal is to provide long-term funding dedicated to park improvements and environmental conservation efforts.



We invite you to share your thoughts and learn more about this proposal on Tuesday, March 25, 7PM - 8:30PM at Baird Community Center in Stage & Screen Room.

B. **Safe Streets for All (SS4A)**

Essex County and South Orange need your input for our "SafeStreets4All" Action Plan, aimed at eliminating roadway deaths and serious injuries. Take the survey to share your experiences using Essex County streets. You can find the link in the news section of our website at southorange.org. The survey closes March 30.

7. **Villager of the Month**

- A. Honoring George Matias as Villager of the Month for March 2025: Councilwoman Jones read the proclamation that recognized George Matias as the Villager of the Month for March 2025 for his outstanding contributions to public safety and community advocacy.

Mr. Matias was presented and thanked the Council for this recognition and stated he will continue to do the work. Mr. Matias encourages the community to do the same.

8. **Board of Health**

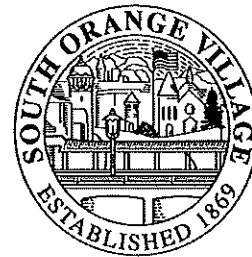
- A. Councilmember Lewis-Chang moved to recess the meeting of the South Orange Village Council and convene as the Board of Health, seconded by Councilwoman Jones. All members were in favor and none opposed.

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 to present the March Board of Health report.

Ms. Davenport provided the following updates:

- A Focus on Women's Health and services
- Communicable and Infectious Diseases update



- National Measles Update
- Childhood Immunizations Update
- Nursing Report – February:
 - Reportable diseases investigated: 3
 - Immunization audits: 13
- Avian Flu H5N1 Update
- Environmental Health:
 - Restaurant inspections: 7
 - NOVs: 2
- Animal Control Update:
 - Rabies Clinic, Saturday, April 5th from 10am - 12pm at the Love My Pup, Love My Park event at Meadowlands Park
- Social Services/ Mental Health – continue to promote Make The Right Call. Also, the search for a new Senior Social worker is in progress.

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 Jones moved to adjourn the meeting of the Board of Health, seconded by Board member Collum. Board President Lewis-Chang adjourned the meeting at approximately 7:40 pm.

Reconvened as Board of Trustees and all members are still present

9. Public Comment

Village Mayor Collum opened the meeting for public comment:

Ed Moore resident of South Orange on behalf of his neighbors expressed concerns regarding the proposed West Montrose grant project that includes removal of trees and installation of bike lanes in this area. Mr. Moore and the neighbors are concerned that with the bike lanes there will be no parking in front of their homes and are upset that there has been is no transparency from the town.

Mayor Collum stated that she has spoken with one of the neighbors who has requested a meeting regarding this matter and she will add him to the list to be notified when the meeting is scheduled. Councilmember Haskins added that he had not remembered there being any discussion on



removing trees for this project. Also, he mentioned there has been many conversation regarding the bike lanes for this project and received positive feedback from the residents. He encouraged the residents the attend the Public Works & Utilities meeting for without a limit time for public comment for continued discussions on this matter.

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 10, 2025 (Councilmember Greenberg is ineligible to vote)

Councilwoman Jones moved to approve the minutes of the meeting held on March 10th, seconded by Councilman Brown.

Roll Call Vote:

Councilman Brown	Yes
Councilmember Greenberg	(not present for this vote)
Councilmember Haskins	Yes
Councilwoman Hilton	Yes
Councilwoman Jones	Yes
Councilmember Lewis-Chang	Yes

Motion carried.

11. Ordinances for First Reading

A. 2025-10 BOND ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR VARIOUS IMPROVEMENTS TO THE WATER UTILITY IN AND BY SOUTH ORANGE VILLAGE, IN THE COUNTY OF ESSEX, NEW JERSEY, APPROPRIATING \$1,000,000 THEREFOR AND AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF \$1,000,000 BONDS OR NOTES OF THE VILLAGE TO FINANCE THE COST THEREOF

Councilmember Haskins moved to adopt Ordinance 2025-10 for first reading/introduction, 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.

Councilwoman Jones moved that the Public Hearing for Ordinance #2025-10, shall be at the Village Council Members meeting on Monday, April 28, 2024 beginning at 7:00 PM. On that date, the Council members may take further action. The Village Clerk is directed to see that this Ordinance is published in the Official Newspaper and posted in an open place in the Municipal Offices. The motion was seconded by Councilman Brown. All members were in favor and none opposed.

12. Ordinance for Second 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

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

Councilwoman Jones moved to adopt Ordinance 2025-03 for second reading/final adoption, 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.

- 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



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

Councilwoman Jones moved to adopt Ordinance 2025-04 for second reading/final adoption, seconded by Councilmember Haskins.

Roll Call Vote:

Councilman Brown	Yes
Councilmember Greenberg	(not present for this vote)
Councilmember Haskins	Yes
Councilwoman Hilton	Yes
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

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

Councilmember Lewis-Chang moved to adopt Ordinance 2025-05 for second reading/final adoption, 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.

- 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

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



Councilwoman Hilton moved to adopt Ordinance 2025-06 for second reading/final adoption, seconded by Councilmember G.

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. Resolutions for Consent Agenda

- A. 2025-060 RESOLUTION TO APPOINT JULIE DORAN, VILLAGE ADMINISTRATOR TO THE MORRIS COUNTY JOINT INSURANCE FUND COMMISSIONER AND PETER TRAVERS, DEPUTY VILLAGE ADMINISTRATOR, AS THE ALTERNATE COMMISSIONER THRU 2025
- B. 2025-061 RESOLUTION OF SUPPORT FROM SOUTH ORANGE VILLAGE COUNCIL AUTHORIZING PARTICIPATION IN THE 2025 SUSTAINABLE JERSEY-PSE&G ENERGY EFFICIENCY PARTNERSHIP PRORGAM
- C. 2025-062 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE HIRING OF PART-TIME SEASONAL EMPLOYEES IN THE DEPARTMENT OF RECREATION AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS FOR SOUTH ORANGE VILLAGE
- D. 2025-063 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE AWARD OF CONTRACT FOR SPRING TREE PLANTING TO NEW JERSEY TREE FOUNDATION IN THE AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$53,756.00
- E. 2025-064 RESOLUTION TO TRANSFER APPROPRIATION RESERVES
- F. 2025-065 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING RENEWAL OF THE PROFESSIONAL SERVICE AGREEMENT WITH ANIMAL CONTROL SOLUTIONS FOR VETERINARIAN AND ANIMAL CONTROL SERVICES

Councilmember Haskins moved to adopt Resolutions #2025-060 through #2025-065 of the Consent Agenda, 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.

14. Village Mayor's Appointment

Mayor Collum made the following appointment to the South Orange Historic Preservation Commission:

- A. 2025-VP02 MAYOR'S APPOINTMENT OF JULIE MCCOURT AS A CLASS B REGULAR MEMBER TO THE SOUTH ORANGE HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION

15. 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 24, 2025. The Village Council members were provided with a copy of the Bills List prior to the meeting for examination.

2025-066 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING PAYMENT OF BILLS AND THE ISSUANCE OF CHECKS FOR THE PERIOD THROUGH MARCH 24, 2025, IN THE TOTAL AMOUNT OF \$7,253,586.88

Councilwoman Hilton moved to approve the Bills List Resolution #2025-066, 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.

16. Village Mayor Report

Mayor Collum discussed the following:

- Administration will be presenting the Open Space Trust Fund meeting on Tuesday, March 25th at 7pm at the Baird Community Center. The public is encouraged to attend.
- The Board of Education municipal partnership meeting held earlier in the day to discussed the school budget. She encouraged parents to pay close attention to these current discussions from the superintendent's office.



- Discussed the process for filling the vacancy for Council member Hilton. The best interest is to bring in someone experience for the short time period. Former board member Stephen Schnall who filled the position previously when Bob Zuckerman left before the end of his term, has agreed to fill the positon once again. There will be a resolution to fill the vacancy at the next meeting.

17. Village Administrator Report

Administrator Doran mentioned the hold for discontinuing water service for those that have not paid their water bills expires the end March. So any residents who have unpaid water bills will be given one more notice with ten days to pay or reach out prior to their water being discontinued.

Also, on Sunday, May 4th, the South Orange Rescue Squad will hold "Sound the Siren 5K Run/Walk". After the walk, kids and adults will be allowed to tour the ambulance, games for kids and free food and drinks. Registration is required at: tinyurl.com/SORSK

18. Village Attorney Report

Mr. Otis mentioned that his office is looking into some public safety initiatives for the governing body's consideration which was asked of them by the Mayor some time ago. Mayor Collum appreciated Mr. Otis and Mr. Rather looking into this matter and hope they could have something for the governing body at the next meeting.

19. 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 announced Transgender Day of Visibility is on Monday, March 31st and there will be a ceremony at the Maplewood Town Hall starting at 6:30 pm. Mayor Collum mentioned there will be a proclamation from South Orange and we will put up our flag.
- E. Councilwoman Jones announced SOPAC's "Share the Love" event on June 12th featuring a performance by Rock and Roll Hall of Famer Darlene Love. This is a fundraising event with a VIP section, the cost for VIP is \$300. For more information, please check out sopacnow.org.



F. Councilmember Lewis-Chang – There was no report.

20. Public Comment

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

21. New Business

There was no new business discussed.

22. Adjournment

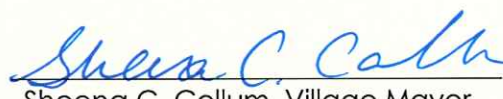
There being no further discussion, Mayor Collum adjourned the meeting at approximately 9:15 pm.

***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://southorangetwpnj.portal.civicclerk.com/event/2912/media>

ATTEST:

SOUTHORANGEVILLAGE


Ojetti E. Davis, Village Clerk


Sheena C. Collum, Village Mayor