

SOUTH ORANGE VILLAGE COUNCIL REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Monday, September 8, 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 6:20 pm:

2. Roll Call

Mayor Collum
Councilman Brown
Councilmember Greenberg
Councilmember Haskins
Councilwoman Jones
Councilmember Lewis-Chang
Councilman Schnall
Ms. Doran, Village Administrator
Mr. Rother, Village Counsel
Mr. Otis, Village Counsel
Ms. Davis, Village Clerk

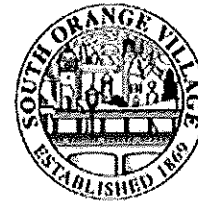
3. Meeting Notice Statement

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

2025-221 Resolution Authorizing an Executive Session at the September 8, 2025, Regular Meeting of the South Orange Village Council



A. Matter/ (OPMA Exception)
Executive Session

- Water Utility (Attorney/Client Privilege Matter)
- General Redevelopment (Attorney/Client Privilege Matter and Contract Negotiations)
- State Health Benefits Plan (Attorney Client/Privilege Matter)
- Long range facilities plan from the School District (Attorney Client/Privilege Matter)
- South Orange Performing Arts Center (Attorney/Client Privilege Matter)
- Potential Litigation (Attorney/Client Privilege Matter)

Councilman Schnall moved to approve Resolution #2025-221 to go into Executive Session, seconded by Councilmember Greenberg. All members were in favor and none opposed.

5. **Reconvene into Open Session**

Mayor Collum reconvened the meeting at approximately 7:10 pm:

ROLL CALL

Mayor Collum
Councilman Brown
Councilmember Greenberg
Councilmember Haskins
Councilwoman Jones
Councilmember Lewis-Chang
Councilman Schnall
Ms. Doran, Village Administrator
Mr. Rother, Village Counsel
Mr. Otis, Village Counsel
Ms. Davis, Village Clerk

6. **Announcements**

Mayor Collum read the following announcements:

A. **South Orange Downtown Farmers Market**

The South Orange Downtown Farmers Market returns for its 34th season and runs every Wednesday through October 29th, rain or shine, in the Sloan Street Parking Lot (12 Sloan Street) — right in the heart of South Orange Downtown. New Hours for 2025: 1 PM – 6 PM

B. **Downtown After Sundown Live Music Series**

South Orange Downtown presents our free live music series,



Downtown After Sundown Saturdays from 6:30 pm-8:30 pm from June to September. It's a fun, casual environment to sit back, relax, and enjoy the sweet sounds of South Orange Downtown in the warm weather with fellow friends and neighbors.

C. **Open Space Trust Fund Ballot Referendum - Attend a Town Hall Discussion**

South Orange Village is considering a referendum to increase the Open Space Trust Fund tax, currently set at \$0.01/per \$100 of assessed value. This fund supports the preservation and enhancement of parks, playing fields, and open spaces by providing dedicated funding that will aid in the preservation of South Orange's natural beauty, promote environmental stewardship, and improve our parks and playing fields. Join us for a Town Hall discussion on Wednesday, October 8 at 7:30pm, The Baird Community Center Stage & Screen Room, 5 Mead Street.

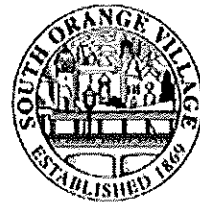
D. **Community Day & the Bus-Bike Parade**

Come and celebrate with South Orange **on Sunday, September 14, from 1–3 PM at the Skate House in Meadowland Park!** Enjoy yoga, inflatables, live music, bike decorating, safety tips, giveaways, and cool treats. The highlight: a Back-to-School Bike Parade with Walk Bike Ride & SOMA Bike Bus - open to kids and adults of all ages on bikes, scooters, strollers, or just walking. Meet neighbors, connect with over **66 organizations and municipal departments**, and dive into the vibrancy of our village!

E. **Transportation and Pedestrian Safety Committee**

We understand your frustration about attending multiple meetings on pedestrian safety. That's why we established a new Council standing committee, the Transportation and Pedestrian Safety Committee (TAPS), as the main forum for these discussions. Our first hybrid meeting is set for Wednesday, September 17th, at 7:00 PM, focusing on Church Street. Starting in 2026, TAPS will hold quarterly meetings. We encourage all residents to join and help shape safer streets for South Orange. For details, please visit the South Orange Calendar.

In addition, Councilmember Lewis-Chang announced the kick off of Electrify SOMA which is a combined group of the South Orange and Maplewood Environmental Commission. They are planning to meeting on Saturday, September 20th, 2:30pm – 4:30 pm at the Maplewood Library to discuss some of the resources for saving energy. Also, the Meadowlands Park Conservancy is hosting a



dance festival on Saturday, September 13th at 2:30 pm, all members of the public are welcome.

7. Public Comment

Village Mayor opened the meeting for public comment:

Jessica Miller resident of Hixon place expressed concerns about the school district budget issues and the need to prioritize the proposed long range facility projects. Ms. Miller felt it is important for the Board of School Estimate and the Village Council members to have an extensive conversation with the school district regarding this matter.

Mayor Collum thanked Ms. Miller for her comment and mentioned this was a surprise to her as well. She has not been able to get the full understanding but plan to soon. Also, glad the school district is doing strategic and financial planning but seems to be a quick when they are still completing another \$200 million facility project. So, along with the council members review the plan and try to get more information to share with the public at a future council meeting.

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 August 18, 2025 (Councilmember Greenberg is ineligible to vote)

Councilmember Lewis-Chang moved to approve the minutes of the meeting held on August 18th, seconded by Councilmember Haskins.

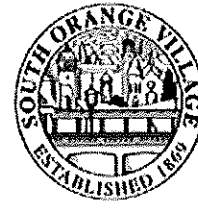
Roll Call Vote:

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

Motion carried.

9. Ordinances for First Reading

A. 2025-21 AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING HANDICAPPED PARKING FOR GIOVANNA ROSE NIRO RESIDING AT 183 TICHENOR AVENUE, SOUTH ORANGE, AND THE AMENDMENT OF CODE CHAPTER 340-38, SUBSECTION B



Councilmember Greenberg moved to adopt Ordinance 2025-21 for first reading/introduction, seconded by Councilmember Haskins.

Roll Call Vote:

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

Motion carried.

Councilwoman Jones moved that the Public Hearing for Ordinance #2025-21, shall be at the Village Council Members meeting on Monday, October 13, 2025 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 Councilmember Lewis-Chang. All members were in favor and none opposed.

10. Ordinance for Second Reading

- A. 2025-20 BOND ORDINANCE AMENDING THE PROJECT DESCRIPTION SET FORTH IN SECTION 3(D)(1) OF BOND ORDINANCE #2024-08 OF SOUTH ORANGE VILLAGE, IN THE COUNTY OF ESSEX, NEW JERSEY, FINALLY ADOPTED APRIL 8, 2024

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

Councilman Schnall moved to adopt Ordinance 2025-20 for second reading/Final Adoption, seconded by Councilmember Greenberg.

Roll Call Vote:

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

Motion carried.

11. Resolutions for Consent Agenda



- A. 2025-222 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE HIRING OF A PART-TIME CROSSING GUARD FOR THE SOUTH ORANGE POLICE DEPARTMENT
- B. 2025-223 RESOLUTION REQUESTING APPROVAL OF ITEMS OF REVENUE AND APPROPRIATION N.J.S.A 40A:4-87
- C. 2025-224 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE TAX COLLECTOR TO REFUND DUPLICATE TAX PAYMENTS
- D. 2025-225 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CANCELLATION OF TAXES FOR 311 CENTRE STREET
- E. 2025-226 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CANCELLATION OF TAXES FOR 184 HILL DRIVE
- F. 2025-227 RESOLUTION OF SOUTH ORANGE VILLAGE, IN THE COUNTY OF ESSEX, NEW JERSEY, RESCINDING RESOLUTION 2025-179 AND NAMING 58 SOUTH ORANGE LLC AS CONDITIONAL REDEVELOPER FOR PROPERTY KNOWN AS BLOCK 1902, LOT 1 (58 CHURCH STREET) AND AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF A CONDITIONAL REDEVELOPMENT AGREEMENT WITH RESPECT THERETO
- G. 2025-228 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE AWARD OF CONTRACT BY BUY BOARD COOPERATIVE CONTRACT #679-22 TO SUPERIOR RECREATIONAL PRODUCTS FOR THE PURCHASE NINE(9) CANTILEVER UMBRELLAS WITH INSTALLATION FOR THE PETER S CONNOR POOL IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$85,066.48
- H. 2025-229 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE HIRING OF PART-TIME SEASONAL EMPLOYEES IN THE DEPARTMENT OF RECREATION AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS FOR SOUTH ORANGE VILLAGE
- I. 2025-230 RESOLUTION ACCEPTING AND AUTHORIZING THE PROPOSAL AND AGREEMENT OF BEACON PLANNING AND CONSULTING SERVICES, LLC FOR PROFESSIONAL SERVICES FOR CONSULTING SERVICES FOR A REDEVELOPMENT PROJECT REVIEW FOR 164-& 168 VALLEY STREET NOT TO EXCEED \$17,000
- J. 2025-231 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE ACCEPTANCE OF THE NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH (NJDOH), OFFICE OF LOCAL PUBLIC HEALTH, STRENGTHENING LOCAL PUBLIC HEALTH CAPACITY 2025-2026 GRANT AWARD

Councilman Schnall moved to adopt the Resolutions #2025-222 through #2025-231 of the Consent Agenda, seconded by Councilwoman Jones.

Roll Call Vote:

Councilman Brown	Yes
Councilmember Greenberg	Yes
Councilmember Haskins	Yes



Councilwoman Jones Yes
Councilmember Lewis-Chang Yes
Councilman Schnall Yes
Motion carried.

12. Village Mayor Appointment

- A. 2025-VP04 VILLAGE MAYOR'S DESIGNATION OF THE OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT COORDINATOR AND DEPUTY EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT COORDINATORS FOR THE SOUTH ORANGE VILLAGE:

Mayor Collum designated the following:

- Scott Egelberg, Municipal Emergency Management Coordinator
- Joseph Alvarez, Municipal Deputy Emergency Management Coordinator
- Sheena C. Collum, Deputy Municipal Emergency Management Coordinator
- Julie Doran, Deputy Municipal Emergency Management Coordinator
- Steven Dolinac, Deputy Municipal Emergency Management Coordinator
- Anthony Greci, Deputy Municipal Emergency Management Coordinator
- Victor Rothstein, Deputy Municipal Emergency Management Coordinator

13. Approval of Bills

- A. Councilman Schnall, Chair of the Finance and Capital Projects Committee, presents the Bills List audited by the Village Treasurer, dated September 8, 2025. The Village Council members were provided with a copy of the Bills List prior to the meeting for examination.

2025-232 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING PAYMENT OF BILLS AND THE ISSUANCE OF CHECKS FOR THE PERIOD THROUGH SEPTEMBER 8, 2025, IN THE TOTAL AMOUNT OF \$16,603,652.87

Councilman Schnall moved to adopt the Bills List Resolution #2025-232, seconded by Councilmember Lewis-Chang.

Roll Call Vote:



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

Motion carried.

14. Village Mayor Report

Mayor Collum discussed the following:

- The State's plan to increase health benefits up to 36.5%, which will be a huge impact to our municipal employee;
- Affordable Housing – South Orange was the 1st in the State to adopt the 4th Round Housing Element and Fair Share Plan without any objections
- Redevelopment Projects – on going conversation with NJ Transit and developers but unfortunately no movement at this time and preliminary discussions with Merida on the north side of 4th & Valley
- Ice Agents were spotted in Maplewood; Mayor Collum will keep the community posted and mentioned we will get through this together as a community
- Welcomed all students of the South Orange Maplewood School District and Seton Hall University back to school

15. Village Administrator Report

Administrator Doran mentioned the road work on Montrose Avenue is now complete and the bike lane symbols will be installed next week.

The next Village Council meeting scheduled for September 29th, will be an in-person/hybrid meeting at the Baird Community Center in the 3rd floor meeting room. The virtual portion of the meeting moving forward will be through the Zoom platform.

16. Village Attorney Report

There was no report.

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 Jones announced SOMA Two Towns For All Ages introduced the Age Advantage Discount Card for ages 62 and over



for use at local business. For more information on how to receive the card, sign up on the website at:

<https://www.somatwotownsforallages.org/age-advantage-discount-card>

The Recreation Committee is discussing increases in fees. There will be more information at the October meeting.

- E. Councilmember Lewis-Chang - There was no report.
- F. Councilman Schnall - There was no report.

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 discussed.

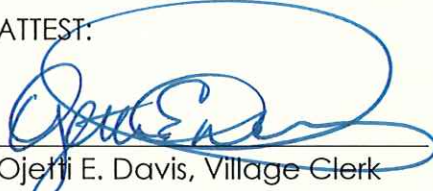
20. Adjournment

There being no further discussion, Mayor Collum adjourned the meeting at approximately 7:45 pm.

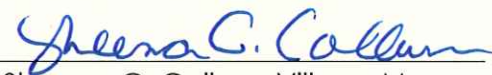
***These minutes are a summary and the actual statements can be found on the video located on the Village's website at the following link:**

<https://southorangenetwpnj.portal.civicclerk.com/event/2934/media>

ATTEST:


Ojerli E. Davis, Village Clerk

SOUTH ORANGE VILLAGE


Sheena C. Collum, Village Mayor