

SOUTH ORANGE VILLAGE COUNCIL REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Monday, November 24, 2025 - 7:00 PM
(In-Person/Hybrid Meeting)
South Orange Baird Community Center
5 Mead Street - 3rd Floor Meeting Room

Executive Session - 6:15 PM
Virtual Zoom Meeting

To access information on how to use Zoom to join the meeting, please click on the following link: <https://southorange.org/800/Zoom-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 - **Absent**
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 Zoom 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**

2025-279 Resolution Authorizing an Executive Session at the November 24, 2025, Regular Meeting of the South Orange Village Council

A. Matter/ (OPMA Exception)
Executive Session

- General Redevelopment Updates (Contract Negotiation)
- SOPAC (Contract Negotiation)
- Personnel (Personnel Matter)
- Open Space Trust Fund (Attorney/Client Privilege Matter)
- 133 Fairview Avenue (Attorney/Client Privilege Matter)
- Litigation (Attorney/Client Privilege Matter)

Councilman Schnall moved to approve Resolution #2025-279 to go into Executive Session, seconded by Councilman Brown. All members were in favor and none opposed.

5. **Reconvene into Open Session**

Mayor Collum reconvened the meeting at approximately 7:05 pm:

ROLL CALL

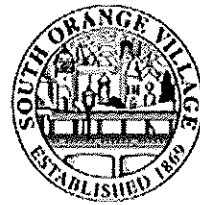
Mayor Collum
Councilman Brown
Councilmember Greenberg - **Absent**
Councilmember Haskins - **Absent**
Councilwoman Jones
Councilmember Lewis-Chang
Councilman Schnall
Ms. Doran, Village Administrator
Mr. Rother, Village Counsel - **Absent**
Mr. Otis, Village Counsel
Ms. Davis, Village Clerk

6. **Announcements**

Mayor Collum read the following announcements:

A. **Town Hall Discussion - Accessory Dwelling Units**

South Orange Village will hold a Virtual Town Hall meeting on Wednesday, December 3, 2025, at 7pm to discuss the Accessory Dwelling Units. Residents will be able to learn more, talk openly and offer feedback on related topics:



- Overview of ADU Ordinance allowances
- Discussions about process and cost
- Success stories and case studies
- How to apply for an ADU on your property
- A&A with Village Professionals and Admin

For more information and examples, please visit the Village website at: <https://southorange.org/960/Accessory-Dwelling-Units>. The meeting link can be found on the Village calendar at: <https://www.southorange.org/>

B. **South Orange Performing Arts Center (SOPAC)**

SOPAC will present its 2025 Annual Giants of Jazz Concert on Saturday, November 29, 2025, at 7:30 pm, honoring the incomparable Paquito D'Rivera. Recognized as one of the greatest living musicians, Paquito's long and distinguished career spans both the worlds of jazz and classical music. For ticket information, visit the SOPAC website: <https://www.sopacnow.org/events/giants-of-jazz-2025/>

Additional Announcements:

Councilwoman Jones announced the following: Watershed Literary Events presents: A Tribute to Two Poetry Citizens & An Open Mic on Sunday, Dec 7 at 3 PM at The Skate House (Mead St & Meadowbrook Ln, South Orange) as we honor two remarkable poets — Paul Rabinowitz, and Frank Rubino — whose words and work have enriched the poetry community for years. Anyone interested in reading ONE poem should sign up at the beginning of the program. In the interest of time, we will limit the number of readers to twelve, so the first twelve to sign up will participate.

Free and open to the public! Presented by the South Orange Department of Recreation & Cultural Affairs and the Meadowland Park Conservancy. See more at southorange.org/870/Watershed-Literary-Events

Councilmember Lewis-Chang congratulated the Police Department on the turkey give ways and encouraged residents to continue supporting local food banks.

Councilman Brown congratulated the Flag Football Team on a successful season for both the boys and girl teams.



Mayor Collum thanked all those that attended her birthday party with a purpose celebration in partnership with the Foundation for the Library. They raised approximately \$110,000 to support the South Orange Public Library building construction project.

7. Board of Health

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

Roll Call:

Board Member Brown
Board Member Collum
Board Member Greenberg - **Absent**
Board Member Haskins - **Absent**
Board Member Jones
Board Member Schnall
Board President Lewis-Chang
Candice Davenport, Health Officer

Board President Lewis-Chang called the Board of Health meeting to order at approximately 7:10 pm and introduced Ms. Candice Davenport, Health Officer. Ms. Davenport presented and discussed the following monthly report:

- Fact checked on Vaccines and Autism with Scientists have repeatedly found no link between vaccines and autism, no single root cause of autism likely genetics and environmental influences. The increase is likely due to heightened awareness, improved screening and updated diagnostic criteria.
- Essex County December locations for vaccines for children
- QR Codes for The School District of South Orange & Maplewood Community Resource Guide, The Food & Health Equity Coalition of Essex County, MEND Hunger Relief Network and NJ Snap (see full presentation)
- The Health Department: collection SOMA resources for SNAP Recipients, for more information contact:
sohealthdept@southorange.org
- Get Covered NJ is New Jersey's Official Health Insurance marketplace and open enrollment began November 1. For more information visit: www.nj.gov/getcoverednj or www.njfamilycare.dhs.state.nj.us



- Nursing Updates
 - Reportable diseases investigated: 0
 - Health Screenings: 11
 - 2025 Gratitude Graffiti Project and local official stops
 - Make The Right Call
- Environmental Health Update:
 - Restaurant inspections: 4
 - Pre-operation inspections: 4
 - Re-inspection: 2
 - Complaints: 3
 - NOVs: 6
 - Animal bites: 1
 - List of Health Department Licenses
- Animal Control Update from Animal Control Solution:
 - Total Calls: 19
 - Bites: 3
 - Enforcement: 1
 - Other: 1
 - Stray: 4
 - Stray Animals Impounded: 2
 - Wildlife: 8

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>

In response to board's questions, Ms. Davenport discussed enrollment for the gratitude project and the importance of not approaching any wildlife animals.

Mayor Collum thanked Ms. Davenport for doing a wonderful job presenting at the NJ League of Municipalities and receiving an award from the Health Association.

There being no further discussion, Board member Collum moved to adjourn the meeting of the Board of Health, seconded by Board member Schnall. Board President Lewis-Chang adjourned the meeting at approximately 7:25 pm.

Reconvened as Board of Trustees and all members are still present

8. Proclamations



- A. Proclamation recognizing American Diabetes & Lung Cancer Awareness Month:

Councilmember Lewis-Chang read the proclamation that recognized November 2025 as American Diabetes Month and Lung Cancer Awareness Month in South Orange and encouraged all residents to join in community efforts to raise awareness, support research, and promote education toward the prevention and early detection of these diseases.

- B. Proclamation celebrating "Movember" 2025:

Councilman Brown read the proclamation which celebrates November 2025 as Movember in South Orange and encouraged all residents to promote men's health awareness, support preventive care, and stand together in the effort to improve the health and well-being of men and boys in our community.

9. Public Comment

Village Mayor opened the meeting for public comment:

Resident of South Ridgewood Road expressed his concerns with the lack of notification for the road work that happened on Lenox Avenue near his home. He suggested that a better effort to inform the public on road projects.

Ms. Doran stated it was her understanding the notification had gone out but not sure of the radius. Neighborhood group from Lenox Ave were heavily involved with the plans for several years by attending the Health & Public Safety Committee along with the Public Works & Utility Committee meetings. The construction on Lenox was designed to slow down traffic. There have been some calls concerning the school bus turn and she has asked the Village Engineer to inspect and observe during the school pick up and drop off hours.

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 November 10, 2025 (All Councilmember are eligible to vote)



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

Roll Call Vote:

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

Motion carried.

11. Ordinances for First Reading

- A. 2025-25 AN ORDINANCE OF SOUTH ORANGE VILLAGE AMENDING AND RESTATING VILLAGE CODE CHAPTER 291 SOLID WASTE DISPOSAL, SECTION 2(B) – USE OF FACILITY AND AMENDING AND RESTATING CHAPTER 143 FEES, SECTION 26 – SOLID WASTE DISPOSAL

Councilmember Lewis-Chang moved to adopt Ordinance 2025-25 for first reading/introduction, seconded by Councilman Brown.

Roll Call Vote:

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

Motion carried.

Councilwoman Jones moved that the Public Hearing for Ordinance #2025-25, shall be at the Village Council Members meeting on Monday, December 22, 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.

12. Resolutions for Consent Agenda

- A. 2025-280 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE HIRING OF A PART-TIME CROSSING GUARD FOR THE SOUTH ORANGE POLICE DEPARTMENT
- B. 2025-281 RESOLUTION REQUESTING APPROVAL OF ITEMS OF REVENUE AND APPROPRIATION N.J.S.A. 40A:4-87 - FOR ENHANCING LOCAL PUBLIC HEALTH INFRASTRUCTURE GRANT



- C. 2025-282 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE DONATION OF USED VILLAGE PROPERTY TO HUNTERDON COUNTY 911 CENTER
- D. 2025-283 RESOLUTION AWARDING A CONTRACT WITHOUT COMPETITIVE BIDDING TO GABEL ASSOCIATES FOR ENERGY CONSULTING SERVICES IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$10,000.00
- E. 2025-284 RESOLUTION REQUESTING APPROVAL OF ITEMS OF REVENUE AND APPROPRIATION N.J.S.A. 40A:4-87
- F. 2025-285 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE HIRING OF PART-TIME SEASONAL EMPLOYEES IN THE DEPARTMENT OF RECREATION AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS FOR SOUTH ORANGE VILLAGE
- G. 2025-286 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AND RATIFYING RENEWAL OF CONTRACT FOR EXTRAORDINARY UNSPECIFIED SERVICES TO CIVICPLUS AT AN ANNUAL COST OF \$52,371.59

Councilman Schnall moved to adopt the Resolutions #2025-280 through #2025-286 of the Consent Agenda, seconded by Councilman Brown.

Roll Call Vote:

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

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

2025-287 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING PAYMENT OF BILLS AND THE ISSUANCE OF CHECKS FOR THE PERIOD THROUGH NOVEMBER 24, 2025, IN THE TOTAL AMOUNT OF \$11,449,095.60

Councilman Schnall moved to adopt the Bills List Resolution #2025-278, 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.

14. Village Mayor Report

There was no report.

15. Village Administrator Report

Ms. Doran mentioned there are a lot of Black Friday Holiday Sales going on throughout South orange downtown and Irvington Avenue. A holiday guide on the specials can be found on southorangedowntown.org or setonvillage.org. Metered parking is free during the holiday season South Orange Police Department is holding a toy drive through December 17th and a collection box is in the lobby of the headquarters.

16. Village Attorney Report

There was no report.

17. Council Members Reports

- A. Councilman Brown - There was no report.
- B. Councilmember Greenberg - Absent
- C. Councilmember Haskins - Absent
- D. Councilwoman Jones talked about the communication tools the Village uses such as the quarterly Gaslight Edition, emails, alerts and especially for construction, website and social media. If there are other communication that people think might be helpful, send a direct email to sjones@southorange.org
- E. Councilmember Lewis-Chang - There was no report.
- F. Councilman Schnall thanked the Council for the welcome and allowing in to jump back in during the last 7 months. He mentioned they have fun but get a lot of working done and helping the residents at the same time. He appreciated the Council members and was happy to be apart for the all the work they do for the community.

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

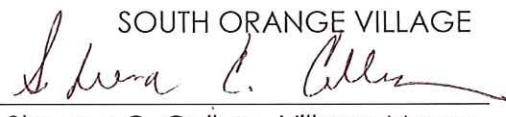
There being no further discussion, Councilmember Lewis-Chang moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Councilwoman Jones. Mayor Collum adjourned the meeting at approximately 7:50 pm.

***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/2943/media>

ATTEST:


Ojetti E. Davis, Village Clerk

SOUTH ORANGE VILLAGE

Sheena C. Collum, Village Mayor