

**City of Lathrup Village**  
27400 Southfield Road  
Lathrup Village, MI 48076  
[www.lathrupvillage.org](http://www.lathrupvillage.org) | (248) 557-2600

TO: Mayor & City Council  
FROM: Mike Greene – City Administrator  
DATE: December 15, 2025  
RE: Study Session

**Council Committee/Liaison Assignments – Regular Meeting Agenda Item**

This is a continuation of the discussion that began during the December 1, 2025, Study Session. This topic also encompasses the idea of combining the Tree Committee & Parks/Recreation Committee, as well as the potential of a new Communications/Inclusion Committee.

During the Regular Meeting, the intention is to appoint various Councilmembers to boards/commissions.

- Downtown Development Authority (Alternate) – Mayor Kantor is the de facto Council Liaison
- Planning Commission
- Parks & Recreation
- Tree Committee
- Election Commission
- Southfield School Board
- SEMCOG
- NEW – Lathrup Village Chamber of Commerce
- NEW – Communications/Inclusion Committee

At the previous sessions, the Council Liaisons for the Tree Committee and Parks & Recreation determined it would be best to reach out to the respective boards and gather feedback about the potential combination. Some feedback was read directly at the meeting; however, a couple of members did provide feedback in writing.

Nicole Lowery – P&R Chair

“Bruce in terms of my input on joining with tree committee, while I can see where the suggestion has come from in terms of green space as a topic - I do not think the focuses make sense to combine. Our job dealing with green space and parks is not just about maintaining them which sure I can see the tree committee helping with. Our focus should be to promote and encourage the use of these spaces through events and recreational use the city deems wanted and needed. The tree committee does not have a focus of that but rather the beautification and readiness of said spaces and city as a whole. Again my issues brought up last time with Jason speak to ideas like this. I’m not sure who suggested it but it is not the collaboration and shared work I was talking about and just confirms a lack of vision again as if anything it further dilutes efforts and real need for change just to solve what exactly? Not directing that at you since you said most of council was not interested in the idea anyway but to the general notion of it.”

Roger Lynn – Tree Committee

“Hi Bruce:

Is this true there is talk to merge both the Tree Committee and P&R together? If so, what is the reasoning behind this?

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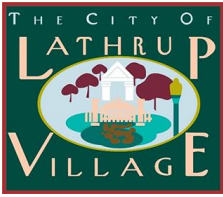
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I signed up to promote and manage LV trees in efforts to enhance our green space and our urban forest. The Tree Committee meetings are strictly to promote LV tree grants and updating tree ordinances in efforts to make them current and to make residents aware of them. I have no interest in P&R and really don't see the similarities unless you are thinking about trees in our park system (?). In any event should there be an overlap such as Arbor Day or Park Planting etc I don't have a problem working together in combine forces with P&R for the betterment of LV.

Though if this is going to be the new direction to merge the 2 organizations, unfortunately, I'll probably be stepping down from the Tree Committee.

I look forward to hearing why 2 distinctly different organizations are being merged in the first place, especially volunteer organizations.

Look forward to your response."

As for the Communications/Inclusion Committee, the discussion needs to continue to see if this committee is warranted and, if so, what it would look like. Back in 2023, resident Charles Hall pitched the idea of an "Accessibility & Inclusion" committee for Lathrup Village; that proposal is included.

#### **Council Meeting Dates & City Observed Holidays – Regular Meeting Agenda Item**

Each December, the City Council approves its upcoming meeting calendar, and the City observed holidays. The proposed calendar is in the regular meeting packet. The calendar sticks with recent years by hosting meetings on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of each month unless it conflicts with an approved holiday.

If the City Council wishes to change its meeting dates/times, this is the time to do it.

#### **Library Service Research Update – TABLED ITEM – Regular Meeting Agenda Item**

At the Council's request, I have inquired to our neighbors in Birmingham, Berkley, Beverly Hills, Pleasant Ridge, and Huntington Woods to see if they are open to contracting with LV or would have the ability to offer one-off memberships. Below is the information I have currently received.

- **Beverly Hills** – contracts with the City of Birmingham. At one point in time (City Manager believes during the mid-90s), a library services millage was approved for 1 mill. The contract with the library states that they receive an annual payment (paid quarterly) equal to whatever amount the millage generates, which accounts for Headlee rollbacks. The millage has been renewed several times since then, with the most recent being in 2020. The millage rate is currently 0.7731, which generates about \$645,000 a year.
- **Pleasant Ridge** – contracts with Huntington Woods. It costs them ~\$50,000 annually (inflation-adjusted). Their contract has been in place for 20+ years. The PR City Manager highly doubts they would have been given that price today. PR has a voted-upon library millage that covers its costs for this service, which is renewed every 5 years. It's written into the contract that if the millage vote fails, library service for PR is canceled immediately.
- **Berkley** – no longer sells individual cards for library access.
  - **Has offered to take Lathrup Village via contract. They are proposing offering library services for an annual cost of \$95,000 per year, with a 3% annual increase.**
  - **Berkley could take the City under contract as of July 1, 2026**

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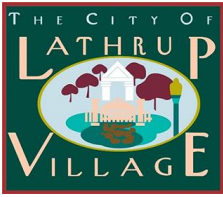
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- **Troy** – Public Library offers individuals the ability to purchase library cards for \$200 per year. Purchasing a card allows an individual to receive full privileges at the Troy Public Library and the rest of the Suburban Library Cooperative Libraries.
- **Southfield** – The Library Board started its discussion about the City’s request at the November Board meeting. They are gathering more information about both questions. Our Library contact will share more information when they have it.
- **Ferndale** – LV residents can obtain a non-resident card for \$100 per year. It gives cardholders the same rights as Ferndale residents, including access to their library of things, hotspots, and video game collections.
- **Royal Oak** – LV residents can obtain a non-resident card for \$125 per year. The Library Director will approach the contracting idea with their Library Board during their December meeting.
- **Birmingham** – does not sell library cards or memberships. Patrons who wish to use Birmingham services must be registered users with an in-network library (Troy cardholders or a Library Network member) or a resident, employee, or property owner in our service area of Birmingham, Beverly Hills, Bloomfield Hills, or Bingham Farms.
  - Birmingham works with three neighboring communities that contract for library services. Residents in these communities are essentially paying an annual fee through their property taxes to use library services; they are not represented on the library board, and they have no claim to the building or its contents should the community withdraw from the contract.
  - Historically, they have set individual rates for each community based on negotiations with the Village or City councils. Here's a preview of their per capita funding for each community and a comparison for the Lathrup Village population to give you a range of costs that they would be comfortable negotiating for library services here:

	Population	Annual Taxes Collected	Per Person
Beverly Hills	10,584	\$ 621,870	\$ 58.76
Bloomfield Hills (City)	4,460	\$ 358,600	\$ 80.40
Bingham Farms	1,124	\$ 136,930	\$ 121.82
Birmingham	21,813	\$ 4,654,595	\$ 213.39
Lathrup Village	4,088	\$ 240,210.88	\$ 58.76
		\$ 328,675.20	\$ 80.40
		\$ 498,000.16	\$ 121.82
		\$ 872,338.32	\$ 213.39

### Study Session Recordings

This is a continuation of the November 24, 2025, Study Session discussion. If the Council wishes to proceed with recording the sessions, the City will need to determine in which manner to record the meetings and how to fund the additional recordings.

If the City were to utilize the service of LVTV to record the sessions in the Meeting Place, with the same quality (video/audio) presently, it is anticipated that it would cost ~\$6,500 extra per fiscal year. Another option could include utilizing an existing City cell phone and purchasing \$100-200 worth of accessories (tripod/microphone) and recording sessions that way; however, it is anticipated that the quality (video/audio) would be diminished. These would not be live videos; they would be recorded and uploaded to the City’s YouTube Channel in the following days. If the City wanted to

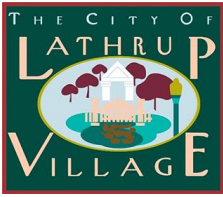
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utilize live recordings, we could do so either via Facebook or Microsoft TEAMS. However, as previously discussed, we will not have staff available to manage the live recordings, and if there are issues, they would not be immediately addressed.

Study session recordings were a prompt on the Michigan Manager Listserv recently, and the limited results showed that the majority of communities do not record these types of meetings for similar reasons as the Council has previously discussed, notably that discussion is more open and active when a camera is not recording.

#### Responding Communities

Record Study/Work Sessions: Shoreline

Do Not Record Work Sessions: Hastings, Coldwater, Caledonia Township, Plainfield Township, Farmington Hills, Ann Arbor, Spring Lake Township

During the 11/24 Study Session, staff were asked to reach out to Listserv communities to see if they have general public record their meetings. The communities that provided feedback all shared similar information: while they do not record their study/work sessions, it is rare to have a member of the public want to record their meetings (outside of some local media), especially as no formal action items take place; they do not stop any member from doing so. Some of the communities have very similar rules/regulations providing guidelines for those who are recording.

#### Council Rules & Procedures Review

As we have a new member elected to Council, it is in the Council's best interest to conduct a review of its Rules & Procedures as a refresher for all parties on the expectations during Council meetings.

#### Regular Meeting Agenda Items

This topic is to discuss any other items listed on the regular meeting agenda.

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