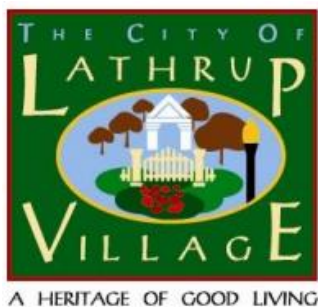




City Council Special Meeting

Monday, August 24, 2026, at 6:00 PM

27400 Southfield Road, Lathrup Village, Michigan 48076

1. **Call to Order** by Mayor Pro Tem Garrett at 6:03 pm

2. **Roll Call**

Present: Garrett, Jennings, Sousanis, Hammond

Absent: Kantor

Also Present: City Administrator Greene, Clerk Emanuel, City Attorney Baker

Moved by Councilmember Hammond, seconded by Councilmember Sousanis to excuse Mayor Kantor's absence from this meeting.

Yes: Garrett, Jennings, Sousanis, Hammond

No: n/a

Absent: Kantor

Motion Carried

3. **Pledge of Allegiance**

4. **Approval of Agenda**

Moved by Councilmember Hammond, seconded by Councilmember Sousanis to approve the agenda.

Yes: Garrett, Jennings, Sousanis, Hammond

No: n/a

Absent: Kantor

Motion Carried

5. **Public Comments for Items on the Agenda**

Rick Wisz expressed in part: about getting the right streets sealed, and that some on the schedule don't need it and others not on it (the list) really need it.

Ms. Carter, Lathrup Blvd. expressed in part: wanting to understand the crack sealing program, she feels she is charged for things the City is supposed to take care of (last year she paid for a sidewalk), she came from Detroit, and thought this would be a better community, and she expressed that she is upset about the water bill rates and not getting a letter about the rate changes that effect the basic living costs.

Kenneth Carter expressed, in part: that he is upset that there was no notification of the increase in water bills and thought that Council and Administration are not paying attention or do not care.

Autum Sousanis, expressed in part: about having attended past DDA meetings, the DDA current funds versus the City's deficit, a past fundraising with Main Street and the DDA in 2023, and then nothing happening with the Parks/playgrounds, and about the proposed recycled rubber tire material for the playground floor that she believes is toxic and that would need maintenance every two years costing about \$15,000 each treatment to maintain it.

Jonathan Tara expressed in part: about the health concerns and general air pollution from the proposed rubberized playground surface, along with the City being near the freeway, it is the rubber that comes off the tires that is a big pollution concern as well.

Ralph Watts expressed his concern about recent increases in the water bill that place a significant financial burden on residents, especially those living on fixed incomes, and he respectfully asks City Council to explain, reconsider, and explore redoing these rates,

6. Action Requests - For Consideration / Approval

A. TABLED ITEM - Request to Approve Deposit for Municipal Park Playscape Project

Moved by Councilmember Hammond, seconded by Councilmember Jennings to remove the item from the table.

Yes: Garrett, Jennings, Sousanis, Hammond

No: n/a

Absent: Kantor

Motion Carried

Moved by Councilmember Hammond, seconded by Councilmember Jennings to approve a Municipal Park Playscape Project deposit with Sinclair Recreation, LLC in the amount of \$141,935.94.

Yes: Sousanis, Hammond, Jennings

No: Garrett

Absent: Kantor

Motion Failed

B. TABLED ITEM - Request to Approve Fiscal Year 2027 Street Crack Sealing Program

Moved by Councilmember Jennings, seconded by Councilmember Hammond to remove the item from the table.

Yes: Garrett, Jennings, Sousanis, Hammond

No: n/a
Absent: Kantor
Motion Carried

Moved by Councilmember Jennings, seconded by Councilmember Sousanis to approve Scodeller Construction, Inc. for the Fiscal Year 2027 Crack Sealing Program with the inclusion of additional streets, for a total estimated cost of \$55,000.

Yes: Garrett, Jennings, Sousanis, Hammond
No: n/a
Absent: Kantor
Motion carried

7. **Public Comment** (Speakers are limited to 3 minutes)

Ms. Carter, expressed in part: she thinks this City Council is continuing to put the residents of Lathrup Village in the hole, she is going to look up what the City Administrator, Clerk, and Attorney are paid, neighbors can't walk due to branches that are down blocking the sidewalk and there is no chipping, this used to be a nice community, but it has been going down and no one is listening to the Community.

Rick Wisz expressed in part: that he would like Giffels Webster to be at the meeting and explain the scale and why streets are rated that way (regarding the Crack sealing), and he is concerned about the playscape \$15,000 every two-year maintenance fee.

Timothy Hillman, expressed in part: his thanks for a thorough discussion of the playscape; he would like to understand Mayor Pro Tem Garrett's reason for voting no on the playscape; he agrees with Laurie Kunz about the dual water meters comment last week.

Autumn Sousanis, expressed in part: thanks for the discussion and to Mayor Pro Tem Garrett for voting the playscape down, thank you for the discussion, and that the City should be searching for other things, and she referenced that a lady has found grants for Sarrackwood Park.

Jonathan Tara expressed in part: thanks to Council for saving us from ourselves and not having PA 33 on the ballot again this year, noting that it failed in other communities and have to find a way to fund their Police and Fire Departments; he is afraid we will lose the Library in November, and we need to get the communication better so people will understand.

8. **Mayor and Council Comments**

Mayor Pro Tem Garrett discussed in part:

- Why she voted no is because she does consider who voted for her, and hears the money on the line that we might not get back, and with higher water bills, she cannot fathom that.

- She does listen to the residents, in the 15 years that she has been on Council for free, and when she saw people were suffering with Gas and now water and when she opened her own bill as a resident she was shocked, out gate \$85 before she touches a faucet -- to vote on play structure even if the possibility is strong that they will get the money back, she doesn't want her legacy to be – to out price people out of their homes not willing to play with people's livelihood, she saw how it affected her, her neighbors, and she wants residents to age in place and in her heart and soul, can't take a chance of not getting the money back
- Councilmember Sousanis is leading the Communications and Engagement Committee; the information about the Water Bill and Branches (chipping stopping) has been in the newsletter and discussed since May
- Health concerns of the recycled rubber tire playground mat/ground surface concerned her too, as well as where the \$15,000 every two years maintenance money would come from?
- Loves mailers (so everyone gets the letter to their home), but where is the money coming from to do that?

Councilmember Jennings discussed in part:

- Wanted to go further about exploring options about the playground and the materials, but voted yes; he always stands for decisions made on all of us as a whole
- Light post Red River: can staff look into it?

Councilmember Hammond discussed in part:

- He voted yes to be able to continue the conversation and to potentially not lose the funding from the grant, hopeful we could continue the conversation. This kills that grant; we still have to figure out what we will do with the other parks in the City
- To Mr. Carter, the fee on the Consumer's bill of \$6.00 goes to millions of people all over the state versus the water fee going for our infrastructure only going to the residents of this small City
- The cost of maintaining the water and sewer has increased because it gets older, and if neglected it becomes more expensive had a \$200,000 deficit from the fees that the City has for Water treatment and delivery, if we did not raise the rates, we would have had to pay from the General Fund and cut \$200,000 from other stuff in the City, and people would come and be upset about that too, he lives here and pays the bills as well – context matters, this is not as simple as black and white
- To Mr. Tara, glad you brought up PA33, that made it so we didn't face last year what others faced, we said it would be a 1 year thing, and figured out because of the nature of the road bonds account we were able to reduce the amount by 1 mill so the tax burden on residents is reduced, we reduced this year compared to last year, unfortunately cut services like chipping

Councilmember Sousanis discussed in part:

- Clarify Crack Sealing: unlike the Sidewalk program, residents are not being asked to directly seal the cracks in front of their house; it is a planned budgeted item to try to preserve the roads
- Branches(chipping) communicated the way we communicate now (newsletter/website); the letter (that was mailed) about the lead situation everyone read and questioned why they received it; it costs a lot of money to send letters to everyone
- Surprised by the vote, but cast a yes with real concerns, but thought they would get a chance to address more of his concerns (as the process continued), but also seem to be hearing the answer would be the same, and likely would have voted no in the future; he agrees it doesn't have to be dead, just different
- Water bill - thought about having a Town Hall, but we ended up having a Town Hall about millages, but the last Study Session meeting turned into a Public discussion - dialogue; it turned into a mini meeting about the Town Hall, easy to do, small-scale Town Hall regularly might be a good tool

9. Adjourn

Moved by Councilmember Jennings, seconded by Councilmember Sousanis to adjourn the meeting at 7:30 pm.