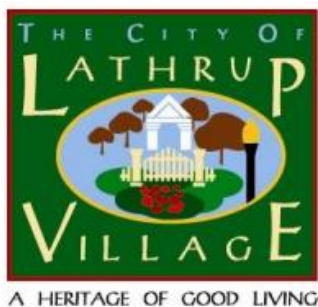




City Council Special Meeting

Monday, August 03, 2026 at 6:00 PM

27400 Southfield Road, Lathrup Village, Michigan 48076

1. **Call to Order** by Mayor Kantor at 6:00 PM
2. **Roll Call**

Present: Kantor, Garrett, Jennings, Hammond, Sousanis

Also Present: CA Greene, Attorney Baker, DDA Bloom, DDA Kennedy

3. **Pledge of Allegiance**
4. **Approval of Agenda**

Moved by Councilmember Hammond, seconded by Councilmember Jennings, to approve the Special Meeting Agenda with the tabling of item 6.B (First Reading – Ordinance #2026-01).

Yes: Kantor, Garrett, Jennings, Hammond, Sousanis

No: N/a

Motion Massed

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

Jonathan Terra – Is the meeting being live-streamed? Wishes all “Council Meetings” were live-streamed. Comments on chipping service, thank you for admitting you made a mistake and considering bringing it back. One day per month service versus finishing all the chipping within the City.

Diane Damskey – Municipal Park Playscape and the City’s financial constraints. How is the City going to find \$200,000 if the City is getting rid of services or considering more reductions?

Rick Wisz – Municipal Park grant and the conflicting spending timelines. Why has this not been studied more?

Diane Anderson – Park development and the need for more parks designed for older children. What childhood psychologist did the City consult to determine the parks?

Benjerman – Property has an extensive amount of trees, and did the City consider storms? What financial benefit does the apartment development give the City? Greenspaces: the parks should be enhanced.

6. **Action Requests - For Consideration / Approval**
 - a. **Request to Approve Resolution #2026-14 - MNRTF Municipal Park Playscape Development Project Agreement**

Moved by Mayor Pro-Tem Garrett, seconded by Councilmember Hammond to approve Resolution #2026-14 – MNRTF Municipal Park Playscape Development Project Agreement.

Yes: Kantor, Garrett, Jennings, Hammond, Sousanis

No: N/a

Motion Massed

~~b. First Reading Ordinance #2026-01 An Ordinance to Amend the City of Lathrup Village Code of Ordinances at Chapter 77. Urban Redevelopment, Article III. Workforce Housing PILOT, by Amending Section 77-57, Duration and Recorded Restrictive Covenant, to Provide Authority-Aided Mortgage Extension Exemptions~~

7. Discussion Items

a. Chipping Services

Council and staff discussed the financial impact and service impact of once-a-month chipping services with the City.

- Councilmember Hammond noted that a once-a-month service would cost over \$25,000 with a narrow budget.
- Councilmember Sousanis noted that if we knew of a \$25,000 budget item to get cut during the budget process, would we have considered it?
- Council discussed the option of as-needed service and storm pick-up.
- Councilmember Sousanis – Should we consider a six-month trial period?
- Councilmember Hammond – What if the trial period doesn't come close to hitting the need?
- Mayor Kantor – Leaning towards more of a case-by-case basis. Get the quote and consider a one-time larger expense.
- What would be considered a storm? Who would make that call?
- If we make a chipping program too complicated, the City would run into additional issues.
- No current consensus.
- Can the City get a definition of what would be considered an emergency?

b. Sarrackwood Park

- Mayor Kantor noted that he was mistaken at the last meeting that the playscape wasn't as rusted as he initially thought. Functionally, the equipment is still usable, but it looks bad.
- Councilmember Sousanis noted that he understands Parks & Rec is hopeful to get a grant in the future, but the playscape is used, and the thistle needs to get under control, with an investment of woodchips. Would be willing to communicate with volunteer groups to try and get the thistle under control and fundraise.
- Councilmember Jennings – what can we do to get the thistle under control?
- Councilmember Hammond – the money and cardboard would need to be coordinated.
- Mayor Kantor – Parks & Rec committee does meet Thursday. Can reach out to fundraiser to see if they would be willing to pivot donated money

c. Giffels Webster

- Administrator Greene discussed the role of planner and engineer of records.

- Councilmember Sousanis:
 - Do we conduct a review of services rendered?
 - CA Greene – Reviews services on a project-by-project basis. If Council wants something more formal, we can evaluate and potentially do something yearly or bi-yearly.
 - Do consulting and inspection work ever get separated?
 - CA Greene – Rarely. More common to have a third-party inspector double-check work versus one firm doing the design and another doing the inspection.
 - Are we saving money from not having someone in-house doing this work?
 - Not engineering. You could potentially save money
- Councilmember Sousanis noted that a review could be beneficial and be transparent with where our money is being spent.
- Councilmember Jennings – Has the City gone out for bids for planning types of services in the past?
 - Attorney Baker discussed the history of contracting with Giffels Webster and that the City has bid out planning services in the past.
- Councilmember Sousanis – Is there a process review for the completion of the Master Plan?
 - Planning Commission has the opportunity to review the process as part of their project closeout.

8. Public Comment

- Jonathan Terra – Apology to Council for stating they would be saving money last month for the change of Code Enforcement services and roles. While the City is redistributing roles, why is the Code Enforcer wasting time enforcing grass height exceedance on wildflowers? Should include the ordinance number on citations. Chipping: do we know how long it takes to drive the streets with a chipper?
- Lillian Kizer-Lowery – The City needs a procurement process. Fence blew a part and lost power during that storm in early July. City should reach out to gardening companies for donations. Ordinance issues; neighbors are calling on others, and the City needs to investigate.
- Diane Anderson – Annie Lathrup School was protected from development. Now an apartment has been approved in its place. Why do you get grants for playgrounds, but not for historic preservation? What happened during the Garrett years and the restriction on Annie Lathrup School? The City was designed to be an upper-middle-class community; what is Giffels Webster doing to transition Lathrup Village to what it is?
- Leslie Balam – Demolition of Sarrackwood Park is off the table? Can we do something about the ADA swing? Was impressed about the Master Plan event but concerned that the parks are not zoned parks; they are typically zoned residential.
- Laurie Kunz – There was a push by the Parks & Rec to demolish a playscape, while they don't have the experience. There is a plan to do something with that park, knowing the zoning, if they tear it down. Mayor Kantor wanted the Property in the Woods lot developed into housing. Residents are not being heard. Recordings of the Study Session were removed by the Police and Chief Zang; her comments have been deleted from meetings. It's a cover-up.
- Jon Roberts – Wants to get rid of a misperception. That the sponsors of the LVMF are not donating to other things in the community. They are still sponsoring, and some are sponsoring more due to the interest from the LVMF.

- Autumn Sousanis – has been in contact with Emilia Robinson, and she is well short of her goal. Would like to see some items changed on the Municipal Park playscape (tube slide example/ADA poured-in-place surface), as there are worries from parents.
- Tom Kennedy – Promotion of August Health & Wellness Month.
- Mayor Kantor read a written comment by Carol Greene.
 - o I am writing with questions related to the Refuse Tax that Lathrup Village property owners are levied every year and the recent decision to eliminate chipping services as a cost-saving measure. I see that chipping services are on the agenda for the Special Council Meeting on Aug. 3, but unfortunately, I am unable to attend. Therefore, I am requesting that this letter be read as public comment for items related to the agenda.
 - Facts:
 - Property owners are currently levied a 2.5948 millage rate yearly as a Refuse Tax.
 - According to the LV financial reports for FY 2025-26, \$464,071 was yielded by the city from that tax. FY 2025-26 LV financial reports indicate that \$415,578 was paid to SOCCRA
 - Accordingly, my questions are this:
 - Given that there is a \$48,493 surplus from the Refuse Tax, how are those funds being used?
 - The resolution adopted in February clearly indicates that elimination of chipping services would result in an “Economic Impact of approximately \$70,000 yearly savings to the General Fund”. If indeed the Refuse Tax is to include covering the cost of chipping services, would allocating these savings to the General Fund not be repurposing a dedicated tax source?

9. Mayor and Council Comments

- Mayor Kantor
 - o Responded to Carol Greene's comments
 - o Response to Terra about getting rid of chipping service and the Council had to evaluate items, and chipping was an item to get cut.
 - o Response to Ben, that there is a financial benefit to the City.
 - o Code Enforcement and wildflower enforcement. May have been overaggressive.
 - o The City does have a procurement process, and the City ordinances do have a carve-out for Professional Services.
 - o Sarrackwood ADA swing.
 - o No consensus to take down the playscape.
 - o Uptick in well-meaning residents and the work they want to do on public property. Those efforts should be made in coordination with the City. Specifically for liability concerns.
 - o Children’s Garden is the only 501©3
 - o Good luck to Mayor Pro Garrett on her upcoming State Representative election
- Councilmember Jennings
 - o Is there a way to make modifications to the Municipal Park playscape?
 - o Dedicate a meeting towards City contracts review.
- Councilmember Hammond
 - o The Council should be involved in the review process of all contracts. See a list of all contracts.

- Code Enforcer is new to the City. Deserves a little grace while he learns the City.
 - Ordinance enforcement for landscaping at intersections or in the ROW.
- Councilmember Sousanis
 - Believes there is a benefit to live streaming all meetings. Should committee meetings all be recorded and posted?
 - The City wasn't necessarily looking to cut, but the City was looking to hit a number to balance the budget.
 - Parks & Rec is considering a sponsorship program (signage).
 - Could there be a volunteer program that takes advantage of resident offerings?
 - Should we consider modifying the Regular Meeting start time back to 7:30 PM?

10. Adjourn

Moved by Councilmember Jennings, seconded by Councilmember Hammond to adjourn at 7:49 PM.

Yes: Kantor, Garrett, Jennings, Hammond, Sousanis

No: N/a

Motion Massed