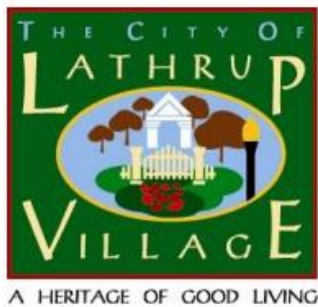




# City Council Study Session

Monday, August 17, 2026, at 6:00 PM

27400 Southfield Road, Lathrup Village, Michigan 48076

---

## 1. **Call to Order** by Mayor Kantor at 6:01 pm

Present: Kantor, Sousanis

Absent: Garrett, Hammond, Jennings

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

## 2. **Discussion Items**

A. Council Rules & Procedures - Meeting Start Time

B. Community Skills Directory

C. Regular Meeting Agenda Items

## 3. **Public Comments**

Jonathan Tara commented in part: about the Water billing letter being well written, but should have been sent out and shared sooner.

Lillian Kyser-Lowery commented in part: that the water billing letter should have been mailed out and asked about rates the residents would have paid if the millage would have passed and the water bill increase.

Laurie Kunz commented in part: if a secondary meter outside would have sewer charges, and if an ordinance could be passed to exclude it from those charges.

Autumn Sousanis commented in part: that she is curious to know about the water rates of the Laundromat in town.

Adam Rebandt commented in part: about a letter sent by Citizens Defending Freedom to address comments made about their organization, that were made after their requested Responsible Fatherhood Proclamation was read at the June 15<sup>th</sup> City Council meeting and the Council possibly rescinding the Proclamation.

Christin Lee commented in part: that she is from Citizens Defending Freedom and thanked the Council for passing the Fatherhood Proclamation in June, and respectfully asked Council to let it stand on its own merits.

Timothy Hillman commented in part: about Ms. Kunz's point about dual meters and paying the sewer fees to refill his pool, and that in some communities they are metered separately.

Ashley Parks commented in part: about Sarrackwood Park, being frequently used, it was a beautiful park; consider options to retain and maintain the park.

#### **4. Mayor and Council Comments**

Mayor commented in part:

- Sinclair Recreation visited Sarrackwood and believes the playscape, structurally, has a few years left.
- Conversation at the Parks and Rec. committee on the 3<sup>rd</sup> about Sarrackwood Park
- How our sewage bill is structured: it is based on the water use, which is why we don't do them separately; it would pass the bill on to other residents
- To Adam Rebandt – Mayor Kantor, read his response
  - Council's image used to support an organization whose beliefs they do not share
- To Lillian Kyser Lowery – Water Bill is different from a millage; it is not based on taxes, but based on water consumption and usage, and businesses are included
  - The debt that people didn't pay is included – part of the "Ready to Serve" fee –
  - fact that had the rates not changed there would be a great deficit, if not \$500 – \$300 or \$350,000 in debt
  - Evergreen Farmington Sewer District is making huge infrastructure investments/improvements, and we are part of that
  - We have other increases, including SOCRA and more
  - Infrastructure is old, more and more costly, so rates went up to fund that gap
- To Lillian Kyser Lowery - A procurement process is in place – for utilities for fixed fees, major infrastructure follows bidding process and gets approved by Council
- Water Billing - Rate used to work – 3 components – actually paid SOCWA, Capital improvements, and operation of their staff
  - It is a more equitable way of billing, but happened at a time of cost increase – "Ready to Serve" for Water and for Sewer to be hooked up to the system – whether anyone uses the water or not we have to pay those costs – on top of that you get charged for use, before you were charged for a 4 unit minimum, now if you only use 2 units you are charged for 2 units, the "4 unit charge was to cover those fees"

#### **Councilmembers and attendees conversationally discussed items including:**

- Discussion with Timothy Hillman -Bloomfield Twp from same source we do for water, describing the 2<sup>nd</sup> meters, find out if we can negotiate that contract for a 2<sup>nd</sup> meter – on water they are not putting into the sewer system
- 2 mill 1 grant – 1 million just used for Southfield – 2 mill State tied up in lawsuit that is to be determined on hold until we get word
- Discussion with Laurie Kunz- read about 2<sup>nd</sup> meter and asked Mayor – if used 10 units charged 10 of sewage, on the pool side 10 units of water, if we don't charge you – when Evergreen Farmington bills the City – those 10 units of Sewer will get divided to

residents. The problem is not on the City's billing end; we don't meter the outflow of sewage we ship to their system; EFSD is looking at water we buy

- Councilmember Sousanis – about Lillian's comment - overall cost of living went up even though we voted it down, 1 thing like to see – is to have the methodology for the Staff Cost available.
- Councilmember Sousanis – water was not a surprise – this is more like a Town Hall, a dialogue even if it is just an hour, like to see more than that.
- Mayor Kantor: about crack sealing, it is a preventative, not a fix – question as to which roads, some rated as poor will not get better with crack sealing, it would be expensive and would not keep the street from degrading any worse
  - Councilmember Sousanis – are the poor-rated scheduled for resurfacing – CA Greene – no, only did Rainbow Circle because of a grant
- Mayor Kantor – Map is based on the condition/classification of the roads – it is a guide
- Councilmember Sousanis – major thoroughfares that are dangerous to pass – CA Greene, funding could be coming but we are not sure how much or when – Rainbow was an MDOT grant to do a major project, and after getting 1 you are out of the running for about a decade
- Lincoln might get done this year – waiting for the cost estimate
- Any plans to pave the unpaved roads – potholes get worse each year – any plans to pave the roads – Mayor they are eligible – as part of the road bond, we did .3 miles of dirt road, 1 of the issues of getting park grants is the dirt roads disqualify areas as they are not ADA accessible.
- Rick Wisz - Respectfully disagree that crack sealing on Lathrup Blvd would not help; potholes will form, cold patch did not help, as long as seal to some degree it is helping, not a lot of asphalt, more than worthwhile, the ones in worse shape are not getting any help City has of letting a small problem become a big problem
- Christina Schindler - Wednesday from 3:30 pm to 5:30 pm at Sarrackwood Park, and the resident that has ideas for improvement will be there
- Lillian Kyser Lowery – see if there was a warranty on the road; Mayor noted that warranties are a year.
- Leslie Valiant – if we can find the revenue for the Park – why aren't we able to find the revenue to maintain and stop the thistles
- Councilmember Sousanis – about Volunteers and an approval system – things that Residents want to do and we have had to say wait for different reasons; there should be a way for a group to get authorized, for example: yes, you can weed this but watch out for those plants – a simple request form and approval
- Autumn Sousanis commented in part: about the cleanup – and the resident to look at the site – sounded like renegade volunteerism
- Christina Schindler mentioned that the Parks and Recreation Committee and CA Greene had given permission
- Laurie Kunz inquired about groups doing something for the City and her just volunteering to do something and liability and asked about the Women's Club using the kitchen and Council responded about them signing a form releases the City from liability

and that we are – trying to put together all of the language in past from councils so everyone understands all the rules – with consistency and clarity regarding Community Room and other rentals – Attorney Baker will be presenting it and giving a chance for input and decisions – making the process easier to understand and apply

- Councilmember Sousanis – making the volunteer process easy to understand and apply - procurement – we have a process, but having a description of the process– CA Greene we have procurement language in our ordinance, Mayor Kantor, there are some exclusions for emergencies, putting out RFPs and sometimes only one vendor Councilmember Sousanis, putting in performance reviews of our contracts
- Lillian Kyser Lowery - Oakland County has a procurement department – when Southfield is about to do a big project, they put it in the paper. Mayor Kantor noted that the City utilizes services such as BidNet.

5. **Adjourn** at 7:01 pm