

The Charlevoix City Council met on Monday, May 4, 2026 with Mayor Lyle Gennett presiding. The following is an excerpt from the official records of said meeting.

Motion by Halverson, seconded by Kalbfell to approve Ordinance Amendment 870 of 2026 with amendments.

**CITY OF CHARLEVOIX**  
**ORDINANCE NO. 870 of 2026**  
AN ORDINANCE TO PROHIBIT MOTOR COACHES AND LARGE BUSES ON RESIDENTIAL STREETS

**THE CITY OF CHARLEVOIX ORDAINS:**

**Section 1. Purpose and Intent**

The City Council of the City of Charlevoix finds that the operation of motor coaches and large buses on residential streets creates safety concerns, traffic congestion, roadway damage, noise impacts, and diminished quality of life for residents.

The purpose of this ordinance is to regulate where motor coaches and large buses may operate within the City in a manner that balances tourism, commerce, and residential quality of life, while providing clear standards for operators and enforcement personnel.

**Section 2. Definitions**

For purposes of this ordinance, the following definitions apply:

**A. Motor Coach and Large Bus**

A motor vehicle designed or used to transport **more than 15 passengers**, including but not limited to Motor coaches, Charter buses, Tour buses, Commercial passenger buses.

This definition does **not** include:

- School buses engaged in school transportation;
- Public transit vehicles operated by or under contract with a governmental entity.

**B. Downtown Area:**

The area of the city bound to the west by State Street, to the east by Round Lake, to the south by Hurlbut Street, and to the north by Dixon Ave.

**C. Residential Street**

Any public street or roadway located within a zoning district designated primarily for residential use, including local and neighborhood streets designated by the City and excluding arterial or collector roadways (M-66 and US 31)

**Section 3. Parking:**

- A. Within the city limits, a motor coach or large bus shall not be stopped, parked, or left standing, attended or unattended, upon the paved or main traveled part of a highway, when it is possible to stop, park, or to leave the motor coach or large bus off the paved or main traveled part of the roadway.
- B. Parking for motor coaches and large buses may only be on State Street North of Hurlbut, South of Park Avenue in manner that does not obstruct vehicle traffic.
- C. Passenger Loading and Unloading
  1. Motor coaches and large buses may stop temporarily for the sole purpose of loading or unloading passengers.
  2. Such stops shall:
    - o Remain attended at all times by the person responsible for the motor coach or large bus;
    - o Be limited to the time reasonably necessary to load or unload passengers; and
    - o Not obstruct traffic, pedestrian movement, driveways, or emergency access.
- D. Overnight and Extended Parking

Overnight or extended parking of motor coaches and large buses on public streets or rights-of-way within the City is prohibited unless expressly authorized by the City.
- E. Special Events

Temporary exceptions to this section may be granted by the Chief of Police or designee for permitted special events when necessary for public safety or traffic management.
- F. Enforcement

Motor coaches and large buses parked or stopped in violation of this section may be cited, removed, or towed at the owner's expense in accordance with applicable law.

**Section 4. Permitted Motor Coach and Large Bus Operation**

Motor coaches and large buses may only operate on the following roads: US-31 , M-66, side streets between State Street and Bridge Street bounded to south by Hurlbut Street and to the north by Park Avenue (inclusive of such streets), Pine River Lane, downtown arc (Bridge Park Dr) and spaces which may be designated therein.

**Prohibited Operation**

Except as provided in this ordinance, no motor coach or large bus shall be operated, driven, or parked, staged on any residential street located:

- 1. West of State Street
- 2. East of US-31/Bridge Street

**Section 5. Exceptions**

The following exceptions apply:

- 1. **Emergency Vehicles and Emergency Response**  
Motor coaches and large buses used for emergency evacuation, disaster response, or other public safety purposes.
- 2. **School Transportation**  
School buses engaged in transporting students for various activities.
- 3. **Governmental Use**  
Motor coaches or large buses operated by or on behalf of a federal, state, or local governmental entity while performing official duties.
- 4. **Authorized Routes or Locations**  
Motor coaches or large buses operating on streets or at locations specifically designated by the City for bus travel, loading, unloading, or staging.
- 5. **Temporary Authorization**  
Motor coaches or large buses grant written authorization by the Chief of Police, or their designee for special events, construction detours, or unique circumstances.

**Section 6. Signage and Designation of Approved Routes**

The City may install signage and adopt maps identifying approved motor coach and large bus routes, loading zones, or staging areas consistent with this ordinance. The Chief of Police may designate and have marked spaces for loading, unloading, and parking for a designated term.

The absence of signage shall not preclude enforcement where the restriction is otherwise clearly established.

**Section 7. Enforcement**

This ordinance may be enforced by the Charlevoix Police Department. A violation of this ordinance constitutes a **municipal civil infraction**.

**Section 8. Penalties**

A person who violates this ordinance is responsible for a civil infraction punishable by:

- A civil fine of not less than \$500 and not more than \$1500, plus costs;
- Each day a violation continues constitutes a separate offense.

**Section 9. Severability**

If any portion of this ordinance is found invalid by a court of competent jurisdiction, such invalidity shall not affect the remaining provisions, which shall remain in full force and effect.

**Section 10. Effective Date**

This ordinance shall take effect 30 days after approval by council.

Ordinance No. 870 was adopted on the 4<sup>th</sup> day of May 2026 A.D., by the Charlevoix City Council as follows:

Motion by: Halverson

Seconded by: Kalbfell

Yeas: Knapp, Halverson, Kalbfell, Parr

Nays: Hagen, Spring

**Motion carried.**

State of Michigan            }  
City of Charlevoix            } §

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Sarah J. Dvoracek

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Clerk

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Lyle Gennett

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Mayor

CERTIFICATION

I, the undersigned, the City Clerk of the City of Charlevoix, Charlevoix County, Michigan, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and complete copy of Ordinance No. 870 of 2026 adopted by the City Council of the City of Charlevoix, County of Charlevoix, State of Michigan, at a regular meeting held on May 4, 2026 the original of which is on file in the Clerk's office and available to the public. Public notice of said meeting was given pursuant to and in full compliance with the Open Meetings Act, Act 267 of the Michigan Public Acts of 1976.

Dated: May 6, 2026

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Sarah J. Dvoracek, City Clerk