Council President Gary Kincannon called the Council Meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. After the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance, roll call was taken with Flynn, Price, Gregory, Kincannon, Dill, and Karpinski present.

**Motion by Dill, which was seconded by Karpinski,** to approve the minutes of the November 10, 2022, Committee of the Whole meeting; 6 yeas; motion passed.

**Motion by Gregory, which was seconded by Flynn,** to approve the minutes of the November 10, 2022, Council meeting; 6 yeas; motion passed.

***New Business:***

**Ordinance 2022-2477** --- AN ORDINANCE ENACTING NEW SECTION 905.11 OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF THE VILLAGE OF LAGRANGE TO PROHIBIT UNNECESSARY NOISE DISTURBANCES --- This is the second reading. It was decided to table this until the January 2023 Committee of the Whole meeting.

**Ordinance 2022-2478** --- AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE NO. 2021-2452 ESTABLISHING PAY RANGES FOR EMPLOYEES OF THE VILLAGE OF LAGRANGE AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY. **Motion by Karpinski to suspend the rules, which was seconded by Dill**; 6 yeas; motion passed. **Karpinski motioned to adopt, which was seconded by Gregory**; 6 yeas; motion passed.

**Ordinance 2022-2479** --- AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING AN INCREASE IN COMPENSATION FOR THE VILLAGE FISCAL OFFICER AND AMENDING ORDINANCE NO. 2022-2464 AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY. **Motion by Karpinski to suspend the rules, which was seconded by Dill**; 6 yeas; motion passed. **Karpinski motioned to adopt, which was seconded by Dill**; 6 yeas; motion passed.

**Resolution 2022-982** --- A RESOLUTION ADOPTING AND AFFIRMING A PUBLIC RECORDS POLICY FOR THE VILLAGE OF LAGRANGE AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY. **Motion by Karpinski to suspend the rules, which was seconded by Dill**; 6 yeas; motion passed. **Karpinski motioned to adopt, which was seconded by Dill**; 6 yeas; motion passed.

**Resolution 2022-983** --- A Resolution to Authorize the Village Administrator to Enter into AgreementS with THE OHIO STATE AUDITOR TO ASSIST THE FISCAL OFFICER IN THE RECONCILIATION OF the Village’s cash journal for the period April 1, 2022, through December 31, 2022, and to provide consultation services to the Village Fiscal Officer relating to the accounting and reporting functions of the Village and declaring an emergency. **Motion by Dill to suspend the rules, which was seconded by Karpinski**; 6 yeas; motion passed. **Dill motioned to adopt, which was seconded by Karpinski**; 6 yeas; motion passed.

**Motion by Karpinski to suspend the rules to approve the pay raises as discussed in today’s Committee of the Whole meeting; seconded by Dill**; 6 yeas; motion passed. **Karpinski motioned to accept the pay rates as discussed in the Committee of the Whole meeting; seconded by Dill**; 6 yeas; motion passed. Said pay rates are to be effective January 1, 2023.

***Old Business:***

Flynn asked about the times noted in the drafted noise ordinance. He would like the times to be consistent for contractors and residents; Chief Laubenthal agrees. Because he had not reviewed the drafted ordinance, Laubenthal asked to review it before council considers adopting it. He would like to see that time and distance are factors. Today was our second reading (see Ordinance 2022-2477 noted under New Business). Laubenthal will review the document and will provide notes to Solicitor Clark.

***Audience Participation:***

John Kronika of 224 Granger in Durham Ridge mentioned the upcoming LaGrange Township biosolids meeting encouraging participation by the Village of LaGrange. He asked about the apartment complex. The start was delayed due to funding. They are required to have an escrow account for sidewalks. They have until February 2023 to start. Kronika inquired about the Union Station homeowners’ association and issues with the developer; the village cannot get involved in civil matters.

Steve Todd of 306 Granger asked when the permit expires and if they can apply for an extension. It isn’t a permit. Planning commission approval goes through February 4, 2023. They can request a six-month extension from the planning commission.

***Mayor’s Report:***

Council President Kincannon shared the following:

1. Christmas on the Square went well. Fewer toys were collected during the parade, but a lot of donations were brought here. Kincannon thanked Flynn and Karpinski for participating. The Grinch seemed to be a bigger hit than Santa. Thank you notes were sent.
2. The Keystone Board of Education is establishing a strategic planning committee and asked Kincannon to participate. Chief Laubenthal also was invited to attend the strategic planning committee. Administrator Gates shared that a bus driver recently blocked someone from getting through the driveway and yelled at the individual. Keystone now is aware that it is their responsibility to repair the drive. It is up to Keystone to make the necessary repairs before we will consider shared maintenance in the future.
3. The property maintenance code will be reviewed at the next meeting. Solicitor Clark is attending a continuing education seminar in Columbus.

***Police Chief’s Report:***

Chief Laubenthal reported on the following for the period of October 27th through December 7th:

1. There were 60 non-criminal requests for assistance.
2. There were 25 criminal complains/investigations - 2 felonies; 1 misdemeanor; and 0 juvenile charges. They included 1 grand theft motor vehicle, 6 domestic, 1 noise, 5 animal, 1 criminal damaging, 3 disturbance, 2 fraud, 2 theft, 3 harassment, and 1 contempt of court.
3. There were 81 traffic-related incidents including 4 crash investigations, 6 operating and equipment charges (63 warnings), and 0 parking violations (5 warnings).
4. Chief Laubenthal spoke with LaGrange Township Trustee Canfield about the electronic sign the township wishes to install where their current sign is located. The chief suggested an alternate location for safety reasons.

***Solicitor’s Report:***

Solicitor Clark was not in attendance.

***Village Administrator’s Report:***

Village Administrator Gates reported on the following:

1. We received a thank you card from the Lions Club for our generous donation of $750 for wreaths across American. Please let Gates know if anyone is interested in joining them on December 18 to place the wreaths on the gravesites.
2. We hired Eric Heilman with a Class II in waste water; he will start on January 3, 2023. Eastwood Environmental has been our operator of record since November due to not having the required Class II operator, and we were in violation with the EPA. The bill for Eastwood’s services for November, December, and limited time in January for the transition is $17,706.
3. Rural Water is not going to raise their rates this year because Avon Lake is not raising their rates. With increasing costs of chemicals and other operating expenses at the plant we asking council to consider raising the sanitary rates by 5%

Current Rate Proposed Rate

$35.01 – 1st 1,000 gallons $36.77 – 1st 1,000 gallons (+ $1.76)

$ 2.33 additional 1,000 gallons $2.45 - additional 1,000 gallons (+ $0.12)

Postage $0.50 - this reflects January 2023 postage increase

Minimum bill will go up $2.38

Raising the sanitary rate will generate approximately $2,300 per month.

Kincannon wants to discuss this at the January 2023 Committee of the Whole meeting.

1. Republic Waste is raising our rates 3.5% per our contract.

Current Rate New Rate

Basic $20.47 $21.19

Extra can $ 9.75 $10.10

Senior rate $18.27 $18.91

Postage $ 0.29 putting w/sanitary to cover all customers

Commercial accounts are not billed for trash

Basic trash will go up $0.43 per bill from $20.76 to $21.19.

If both increases go into effect, the minimum utility bill will increase by $2.81 per month.

1. Does Council want to payout comp time as we have in years past? We have 125 hours of comp time. **Karpinski moved to pay comp time, which was seconded by Gregory.** 6 yeas; motion passed.

***Fiscal Officer’s Report:***

Fiscal Officer Homer-Miller reported on the following:

1. The audit of our 2020 & 2021 financials is ongoing. The auditors were here again 1 day in November. They are working on multiple audits at the same time as ours. Periodically, they email me for information.
2. Homer-Miller thanked council for approving the agreements with the Auditor of State to help us get caught up and help further educate Homer-Miller.
3. The next council meeting will include a revision to the 2022 budget and the temporary budget for 2023.
4. Homer-Miller is reviewing the first draft of the updated employee handbook.
5. Completed I-9s have been obtained from most employees and are needed for the mayor, council members, and zoning folks. Copies of drivers’ licenses need to be included with the completed I-9 forms.
6. The majority of our old IT equipment was taken to the Lorain County recycle center. An old copier still needs to be taken there.
7. Going forward, monthly meeting dates will be included in council meeting packets instead of being mailed. Council would like them to be emailed. The dates also will be added to the website.
8. PEP sent the annual election ballot, which was included in the meeting packets. The council members asked Homer-Miller to complete the ballot on their behalf.
9. Homer-Miller will attend the December 20th Workers' Comp webinar about submitting our annual report of work-related injuries & illnesses.
10. Homer-Miller attended a full-day year-end webinar on Monday, December 5th.

***Committee Reports*:**

1. Park Board – N/A
2. Planning Commission – The planning commission met last week concerning the A-List development on State Route 303. The police and fire departments OKed the previous safety services concerns about the block length. Approval was granted for 100 single-family homes. Construction is expected to begin late next year. The residences will be built by Ryan Homes.
3. LCIC – N/A

Flynn asked for a copy of the contract for the apartments, which is something we do not have.

***Presentation of Bills:***

The Fiscal Officer presented the list of warrants and electronic payments issued between November 11 and December 8, 2022, totaling $242,566.43 per the payment listing provided. **Gregory motioned to accept, which was seconded by Karpinski;** 5 yeas; motion passed.

There being no further business, **Karpinski motioned to adjourn, which was seconded by Price;** 5 yeas; motion passed. Adjourned at 8:24 p.m.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Attested by: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Kim E. Strauss, Mayor Christie Homer-Miller, Fiscal Officer

Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_