Mayor 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, Karpinski, Dill, and Honer present.

**Motion by Gregory, which was seconded by Karpinski,** to approve the minutes of the June 22, 2023, council meeting as written; 6 yeas; motion passed.

***Public Participation:***

LaGrange Township Trustee Rita Canfield updated the group on the following:

1. The township hired outside council to file a lawsuit against the insurance company of the driver who crashed into the statue about a year ago. The insurance company wanted to use a company out of Chicago but never did anything. The township found a master stone carver in Oberlin.
2. Bollard posts will be put up on the circle per a donation from an anonymous donor. Based on Ohio Department of Transportation recommendations, they will be 4 foot above and 4 foot below ground. They will be installed as soon as the contractor is available to start the work. Administrator Gates indicated that there are storm sewers on the south side. Gates wants to be present when the work is done. Chief Laubenthal is not in favor of installing bollard posts on the circle. He feels that folks hitting them will result in more fatalities. Of the 7 drivers who went through the circle in the past 13 months, 6 were due to medically related issues. Canfield said that the anonymous donor of the bollard posts is willing to pay for the installation of flashing stop signs at State Routes 301 and 303. Flashing stop signs were discussed. Rhonda Smith asked about rumble strips, which would be too loud. Joe Kokinda asked about installing a roundabout instead of the traffic circle. The layout of the community and lack of parking behind most of the businesses limit us to a traffic circle verses a roundabout.
3. The township hired Master Sign to perform a sign assessment (placement, visibility, reflectivity, etc.). It cost them $3,000. The improvements made as a result of the risk assessment should result in reduced insurance costs. Canfield encouraged us to contact Master Sign.

***Mayor’s Report:***

Mayor Kincannon shared that the earliest that our 5-year, 2.7 mill current expense levy can be put on the ballot is this November. Unfortunately, we do not have enough time to meet the deadline for this November’s election. We will work to get it on the ballot for May 2024.

***Police Chief’s Report:***

Chief Laubenthal reported on the following:

1. National Night Out will be held on Tuesday, August 1st. In the past it has been held at the fire station. Because it is meant for the community to interact with the police department, he would like to have an open house at our police station. The alumni band and highway patrol are lined up to participate. Council and the mayor support the chief’s plan.
2. We are still waiting on one upfitting item before we can deploy the new police cruiser.

***Solicitor’s Report:***

Solicitor Clark informed the group that per the Ohio Revised Code (ORC) statute under which the LaGrange Community Park was established (i.e., joint park district), park board members cannot be paid. Karpinski asked if the park could be set up differently so that board members could be compensated as they give a lot of their time. Clark indicated that is an ORC limitation. New bylaws are being established because the previous version had not been located.

Honer asked about the meeting with Keystone. Clark had not received date options yet from Keystone’s attorney who will be starting another trial. Honer pointed out that this has been ongoing for at least 3 months with attorney involvement. He suggested a new approach. Kincannon and Karpinski both have spoken with school board member Kim Sturgill about this. It is time for us to attend an upcoming school board meeting and address the school board members. Administrator Gates mentioned that we need to request to be added to their agenda.

***Village Administrator’s Report:***

Village Administrator Gates reported on the following:

1. A report of overtime worked during the first 14 pay periods in 2023 was provided to council and the mayor.
2. A water leak on Jenny Lane was fixed.
3. We received the surety bond for North Star Builders to proceed with the apartment project on U. S. Grant Street. Mayor Kincannon asked the developer to cut down the weeds on the property.
4. The engineer has all the elevations on the Commerce Drive ditch and is now working on a drainage plan.

***Fiscal Officer’s Report:***

Fiscal Officer Homer-Miller reported on the following:

1. Data is being collected on telephone system options and will be presented at a future council meeting.
2. $19,999.50 was received from Cornerstone Real Estate Title Company on behalf of Stream and Wetlands Foundation for the purchase of land from the Village.
3. Our 2023 safety town event brought in $4,175 - $3,500 from the LMRE People Fund grant and $675 from the attendees. We spent $4,552 on items for this and next year’s safety town programs. Additionally, this year’s expenditures included purchase of the police department event tent, which will be used for various events involving the police department – not just for safety town. With all that said, we basically covered our costs. We plan to apply for another LMRE People Fund grant next year as we would like to purchase a village map that the attendees can “drive” on. We also plan to contact the vocational school to make repairs to our existing buildings.
4. Included in your meeting packet was a newsletter from Neighborhood Alliance on the services provided to area senior citizens in May and June.
5. We are closed through May 2023. A fund summary was provided this evening for your reference. The June reconciliation is almost complete.

***Old Business:***

Resolution 2023-993 --- A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE ADMINISTRATOR OF THE VILLAGE OF LAGRANGE TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT FOR THE RENEWAL OF A SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICER MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING (MOU) BETWEEN THE VILLAGE OF LAGRANGE, OHIO, AND THE KEYSTONE LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD OF EDUCATION --- This was the third reading. **Motion by Karpinski to adopt the amended exhibit (splitting costs 50/50 with Keystone for certifications, training, dues, etc.), which was seconded by Gregory;** 6 yeas; motion passed. **Motion by Karpinski to adopt the resolution, which was seconded by Gregory;** 6 yeas; motion passed.

Resolution 2023-994 --- A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE VILLAGE OF LAGRANGE TO OFFER A ROTH 457(b) OPTION TO ELIGIBLE EMPLOYEES OF THE VILLAGE OF LAGRANGE AND TO AUTHORIZE THE VILLAGE ADMINISTRATOR AND THE FISCAL OFFICER TO EXECUTE SUCH AGREEMENTS AND DOCUMENTS AS MAY BE NECESSARY FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION AND ADMINISTRATION OF SAID OPTION --- This was the third reading. **Motion by Karpinski to adopt, which was seconded by Dill;** 6 yeas; motion passed.

Resolution 2023-995 --- A RESOLUTION EXPRESSING THE INTENT TO SELL PERSONAL PROPERTY NOT NEEDED FOR MUNICIPAL PURPOSES BY INTERNET AUCTION --- This was the third reading. **Motion by Karpinski to adopt, which was seconded by Dill;** 6 yeas; motion passed.

Resolution 2023-996 --- A RESOLUTION ADOPTING RULES FOR THE CONDUCT OF VILLAGE COUNCIL MEETINGS --- This was the second reading.

Ordinance 2023-2503 --- AN ORDINANCE TO RESCIND CHAPTER 705 OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF THE VILLAGE OF LAGRANGE, OHIO, AND ADOPT A NEW CHAPTER 705 PERTAINING TO THE REGULATION OF PEDDLERS AND SOLICITORS --- This was the second reading.

***New Business:***

Resolution 2023-997 --- A RESOLUTION ADOPTING A PRELIMINARY TAX BUDGET FOR THE FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING JANUARY 1, 2024, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY --- **Motion by Karpinski to suspend the rules, which was seconded by Price;** 6 yeas; motion passed. **Motion by Karpinski to adopt and declare an emergency, which was seconded by Gregory;** 6 yeas; motion passed.

***Miscellaneous Business:***

A compliance officer needs to be appointed by the mayor for the credit card policy (Article II of Exhibit A of Ordinance 2023-2501). The Compliance Officer and Council shall review all credit card accounts on a quarterly basis. The review shall include the number of cards issued, the number of cards that are issued and active, card and account expiration dates, and credit limits. The Compliance Officer may not use a credit card account and may not authorize an officer or employee to use a credit card account. The Fiscal Officer may not serve as the Compliance Officer. Mayor Kincannon appointed Kim Ruhl.

***Committee Reports*:**

1. Park Board – This was discussed previously (see Solicitor’s Report).
2. Planning Commission – Price indicated that the Planning Commission met last week. They had an annexation discussion about the old Forbush property. Clark indicated that this will be on the agenda for the next meeting. A public hearing is needed for zoning.
3. LCIC – Before we can invest funds or add Homer-Miller to the bank account, we need a letter from the IRS confirming our current address.

***Presentation of Bills:***

The Fiscal Officer presented the list of warrants and electronic payments issued between June 23 and July 13, 2023, totaling $248,095.81 per the payment listing provided. **Gregory motioned to accept, which was seconded by Honer**; 6 yeas; motion passed.

There being no further business, **Honer motioned to adjourn, which was seconded by Flynn**; 6 yeas; motion passed. Adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

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

Gary Kincannon, Mayor Christie Homer-Miller, Fiscal Officer