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, Gregory, Karpinski, Dill, and Honer present.

**Motion by Karpinski, which was seconded by Dill,** to approve the minutes of the July 13, 2023, Committee of the Whole meeting as written; 5 yeas; motion passed.

**Motion by Gregory, which was seconded by Karpinski,** to approve the minutes of the July 13, 2023, Council meeting as written; 5 yeas; motion passed.

***Public Participation:***

N/A

***Mayor’s Report:***

Mayor Kincannon shared the following:

1. Park ---
   1. President Roger Kuhl is running for township trustee; if elected, he will have to step down from the park board.
   2. Marie Strauss may be interested in joining.
   3. The driveway payment project will start tomorrow, July 28th. It will be chipped and sealed in September due to its curing time. Additionally, the village will cover the cost of the ramps while the township will cover the costs of the berms.
2. Website --- Now that we are set up with .gov, our website can be accessed via <https://lagrangeohio.net/> or VillageofLaGrangeOhio.gov. Employees, the mayor, and council members will receive .gov email addresses.
3. Keystone School Board --- The next Keystone school board meeting is on August 21st. If we want to be put on the agenda, we need to submit a request. Solicitor Clark indicated that he heard from Keystone’s attorney who provided some meeting date and time options. It was decided to meet with Keystone and their attorney at 10:00 a.m. on Friday, August 11th, in our conference room.
4. Grey Hawk --- Bob Stevens from Durham Ridge Home Owners’ Association posted on Facebook that Grey Hawk was banning walkers and would call the police for those who trespass on golf course property. Chief Laubenthal indicated that Biggs Road residents are complaining again about noise from The Nest at Grey Hawk.

***Police Chief’s Report:***

Chief Laubenthal reported on the following:

1. National Night Out will be held on Tuesday, August 2nd. More than a dozen presenters have been contacted. The format will be different from prior years.
2. The following occurred between June 22nd and July 26th:
   1. There were 52 non-criminal requests for assistance.
   2. There were 15 criminal complaints / investigations - 0 felonies; 3 misdemeanors; 0 juvenile charges. They included 1 misdemeanor warrant arrest, 1 disorderly conduct, 1 criminal damaging, 1 theft, 2 noise complaints, 1 unruly juvenile, 2 fraud, 1 misrepresentation by a minor, 1 fireworks, 3 disturbances, and 1 assault.
   3. There were 19 traffic-related incidents including 3 crash investigations, 28 operating and equipment charges and 68 warnings. No parking violations were issued, but there were 11 warnings.
3. A letter was received from Lions Club Secretary Ann Szabo concerning a neighbor who is accessing their property – driving through their lawn, allowing animals on their property, etc.

***Solicitor’s Report:***

Solicitor Clark did not have a report.

Mayor Kincannon mentioned the Keystone Hall of Fame golf outing, which will be held in late August. He asked council if they would like to go in on a sign. The mayor will contribute $50 toward the sign; council members will cover the other $50. There will be another golf outing in late September for Mayor Strauss’ scholarship fund.

***Village Administrator’s Report:***

Village Administrator Gates reported on the following:

1. Hillary Grasse passed her Class II Wastewater test. She now is our licensed operator of record.
2. Agri-sludge pressed and hauled 539,000 gallons of sludge from the wastewater treatment plant.
3. There was a sanitary sewer back up on East Main Street, east of the railroad tracks. The blockage was asphalt and grease. That lead to raising 5 buried sanitary manholes on East Main Street.
4. We have a corrosion issue with the suction and force main lines in the wet wells at 4 lift stations. Bolts and pipes need to be replaced. A portable pump is needed to bypass the lift stations to make the repairs. We asked Ohio Cat if we can try their portable pump to see if it will work before we buy one. This will be an involved project as confined spaces and sewage are involved.
5. 155 post cards were sent out reminding residents to trim tree limbs over the streets and sidewalks.
6. Flynn, Kincannon, and Gates attended the Kelner Ditch hearing. Some county residents blamed the Village for issues when log jams and other obstructions have caused the issues. The project has been in design since 2018. The cost estimate for the county is $2.5 million while the cost estimate for our portion is $588,000. The county commissioners approved the next phase of the design, which should be done in March 2024. We then should have more accurate cost estimates. Another hearing will be needed after completion of the design work. It will probably be 2025 before the work begins. Flynn asked about holding retention property owners in compliance; Clark indicated that Ohio Revised Code (ORC) has an enforcement process. Honer asked about a special assessment. The county is using American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) and storm water funds for their portion. Kincannon asked if the county would assist the village; it was suggested that we follow up with them. Kincannon indicated that future maintenance will be needed.

Karpinski indicated that he and Gates recently checked the flow of water south of town. Gates pointed out the cattails that are growing, contributing to the issues. Additionally, dumping is happening from 2 businesses. The Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (OEPA) tested and found hazardous materials but told us not to act. However, OEPA has only sent violation letters. Clark needs to look into what else can be done about this. The OEPA seems to handle things differently when they identify issues verses when they are notified by others of issues.

***Fiscal Officer’s Report:***

Fiscal Officer Homer-Miller reported on the following:

1. Our 2.7 mill current expense levy currently brings in $195,379. Well before the May 2024 election, a resolution needs to be passed asking the county auditor to provide tax estimates for a renewal and a replacement. Council and the mayor would like to see both options.
2. Last week the Regional Income Tax Agency (RITA) mailed approximately 791 non-filer letters to taxpayers who may have neglected to file municipal income tax returns. Some of the “non-filers” may be retirees who did not file exemptions with RITA.
3. Keystone’s treasurer was surprised with the increased numbers for the School Resource Officer (SRO). Homer-Miller responded that our resource costs have increased since the COVID pandemic and that increases are expected to continue as we work to retain our officers and bring on new officers. Chief Laubenthal indicated that we have supplied an SRO for approximately 7 years.
4. Homer-Miller is looking at options to reduce our natural gas rates and plans to present data at a future meeting.
5. Homer-Miller also is looking at telephone system options and plans to present the options at an August meeting.

***Old Business:***

Resolution 2023-996 --- A RESOLUTION ADOPTING RULES FOR THE CONDUCT OF VILLAGE COUNCIL MEETINGS --- This was the third reading. **Motion by Karpinski, which was seconded by Gregory,** to adopt; 4 yeas; motion passed. Flynn abstained. Discussion followed about abstentions. Clark indicated that per Robert’s Rules of Order, abstentions are considered with the majority. Kincannon indicated that council members should not abstain when matters are contentious and suggested council discuss this further at the next Committee of the Whole meeting.

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 third reading. **Motion by Karpinski, which was seconded by Flynn,** to adopt; 5 yeas; motion passed.

***New Business:***

Ordinance 2023-2504 --- AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTION 929.02(C) OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF THE VILLAGE OF LAGRANGE PROVIDING FOR A SEWER USE SURCHARGE NOT TO EXCEED TWENTY-FIVE PERCENT UPON RESIDENTIAL PROPERTY LOCATED OUTSIDE THE GEOGRAPHIC AREA OF THE VILLAGE OF LAGRANGE AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY --- **Motion by Karpinski to suspend the rules, which was seconded by Dill;** 5 yeas; motion passed. **Motion by Karpinski to adopt and declare an emergency, which was seconded by Honer;** 5 yeas; motion passed.

Ordinance 2023-2505 --- AN ORDINANCE REPEALING ORDINANCE NO. 2013-2264 ESTABLISHING A BOND REQUIREMENT FOR THE FISCAL OFFICER AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY --- **Motion by Karpinski to suspend the rules, which was seconded by Gregory;** 5 yeas; motion passed. **Motion by Karpinski to adopt and declare an emergency, which was seconded by Gregory;** 5 yeas; motion passed. Clark indicated that the bond requirement should be replaced by a faithful performance policy (see ordinance 2023-2507) per changes permitted by ORC a few years ago.

Ordinance 2023-2506 --- AN ORDINANCE ACCEPTING THE ANNEXATION OF 32.3840 ACRES LOCATED ON BIGGS ROAD TO THE VILLAGE OF LAGRANGE UPON THE PETITION OF THE OWNER --- This was the first reading. --- Clark asked council to suspend the rules so this can become effective in 30 days to correspond with the ORC. **Motion by Karpinski to suspend the rules, which was seconded by Flynn;** 5 yeas; motion passed. **Motion by Karpinski to adopt, which was seconded by Dill;** 5 yeas; motion passed.

Ordinance 2023-2507 --- AN ORDINANCE TO AUTHORIZE THE PURCHASE OF AN EMPLOYEE DISHONESTY AND FAITHFUL PERFORMANCE INSURANCE POLICY IN LIEU OF INDIVIDUAL SURETY BONDS AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY --- Clark indicated that this does not need to pass tonight and should be considered the first reading. Now that the bond requirement has been repealed, we can get faithful performance pricing from our liability insurance provider. This was the first reading.

Ordinance 2023-2508 --- AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTION 351.99 OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF THE VILLAGE OF LAGRANGE ESTABLISHING PENALTIES FOR PARKING VIOLATIONS --- This was the first reading. Honer asked if this included parking on cul-de-sacs; Chief Laubenthal indicated that it does. Laubenthal indicated that all parking violations are $75 unless a handicap space is involved, which has a $250 fine. Honer also asked about item I, opening vehicle door. Clark and Laubenthal indicated that this has to do with opening a vehicle door into traffic.

Resolution 2023-998 --- A RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO AGREEMENT WITH THE OHIO STATE AUDITOR TO ASSIST THE FISCAL OFFICER IN THE RECONCILIATION OF THE VILLAGE’S CASH JOURNAL FOR THE PERIOD APRIL 1, 2023, THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2023, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY --- **Motion by Karpinski to suspend the rules, which was seconded by Dill;** 5 yeas; motion passed. **Motion by Karpinski to adopt and declare an emergency, which was seconded by Gregory;** 5 yeas; motion passed. Homer-Miller indicated that we currently are closed through May 2023. However, the auditor’s office did not want to change the original version of their agreement. Having this in place can be helpful if she runs into challenges closing a month.

***Miscellaneous Business:***

Gazebo Discussion --- Karpinski presented 2 quotes from Kauffman Lawn Furniture in Millersburg for 24-foot vinyl octagonal gazebos. Additional estimates will be obtained. The location also needs to be discussed / determined.

***Committee Reports*:**

1. Park Board – In addition to what already was covered, Mayor Kincannon advised the park board that members of the park board cannot be compensated per the ORC.
2. Planning Commission – No meeting; no report.
3. LCIC – No meeting; no report.

***Presentation of Bills:***

The Fiscal Officer presented the list of warrants and electronic payments issued between July 14 and 27, 2023, totaling $179,922.25 per the payment listing provided. **Gregory motioned to accept, which was seconded by Karpinski**; 5 yeas; motion passed.

There being no further business, **Honer motioned to adjourn, which was seconded by Flynn**; 5 yeas; motion passed. Adjourned at 8:31 p.m.

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

Gary Kincannon, Mayor Christie Homer-Miller, Fiscal Officer