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 Karpinski, which was seconded by Gregory,** to approve the minutes of the July 27, 2023, Council meeting as written; 6 yeas; motion passed.

***Public Participation:***

N/A

***Mayor’s Report:***

Mayor Kincannon shared the following:

1. Engineer Doug Nusser, Administrator Gates, and Mayor Kincannon met with the developers of the apartment complex last Friday. It is supposed to be substantially completed by the end of August but will not be. The developers would like an extension. Nusser provided suggestions on an amended timeline. Planning Commission suggested Nusser’s November 1st date be changed to November 30th. The electrical work has been delayed as transformers are unavailable, and First Energy is behind. Flynn asked why they were so far behind. The developer indicated that it took 4 to 5 months for the bonding to be completed as the process was different from what they had done before (i.e., tapping into village sewers). **Motion by Karpinski, which was seconded by Gregory**, to accept the recommendation of the planning commission; 6 yeas; motion passed. Gregory asked Nusser about an inspection of landscaping. Nusser indicated that it was up to the village. Flynn asked if we receive inspections and sign offs in case there are issues. Kincannon indicated that is what the bond is for. If plans are not followed, we have recourse. Honer suggested that this be discussed at the next Committee of the Whole (COW) meeting.

Honer asked Nusser if we will be on tract for Railroad Street next year. Nusser indicated, yes. Flynn and Kincannon thought it should have been done this year. To clarify the timeline, Nusser indicated that bids are not requested until Ohio Public Works Commission (OPWC) funds are secured.

1. The French Creek wastewater treatment plant in the Sheffield / Avon area asked Kincannon to attend an upcoming meeting with the Ohio EPA about regional cooperation.
2. The church no longer wants elections held there and asked if we would hold them here. Council’s consensus was that it was fine to have elections here. Kincannon will follow up with the Board of Elections.
3. The hall of fame golf outing is coming up in late August.
4. The Mayor Strauss scholarship golf outing will be held on September 30th. Grey Hawk will provide dinner. Rich Beran will provide lunch. Elyria Ford will provide a hole-in-one car. Kincannon will have signs – personally and as mayor. Council will also have a sign.
5. We are looking at hosting a shred day in October. Honer said that the library just had one last weekend. Kincannon indicated that it was not well advertised.
6. Keystone Empowers You is signing on for another year.
7. Copies of the Lorain County Solid Waste Management plan were distributed.

***Police Chief’s Report:***

Chief Laubenthal reported on the following:

1. The 2023 Ford Explorer finally has been put into service after the safety equipment was added. It took several months to receive one part. Laubenthal thanked council for it.
2. Laubenthal decided to keep the Crown Victoria for the School Resource Officer (SRO) until arrival of the next new vehicle.
3. National Night Out went well. It will be promoted differently next year. The northeast neighborhoods were not in attendance like the other neighborhoods. It mainly was attended by those within walking distance. Laubenthal asked the mayor and council members for their input. Honer said that businesses would be happy to help get the word out, provide donations, etc.

Honer asked about Governor Dewine’s grant for recruitment and retention. Laubenthal indicated that we did not qualify for the grant. It is not unusual for us to not qualify for grants due to size, statistics, etc. Honer asked who writes our grants. Laubenthal indicated that it is the job of the administrator.

1. A full-time officer candidate will go for a medical screening next week. The mayor also interviewed this candidate. We then will have 18 officers (8 full time and 10 part time).

***Solicitor’s Report:***

Solicitor Clark reported on the following:

1. Effective October 3, 2023, competitive bidding threshold goes from $50,000 to $75,000 and increases 3% per year thereafter. At that point, the administrator’s limit will be $75,000 unless council wants it to be different.
2. The Tipple Enterprises case has been settled. The final hearing was on August 8th. The judge is set to sign the judgment entry.
3. The Keystone meeting is scheduled for Friday morning. Clark suggested that either the mayor or 1 of the council members take the lead versus the attorneys. Flynn and Kincannon met before this meeting to put together the talking points.

Karpinski asked about the water issues south of town. There are cattails by TAP. They cannot do anything because hazardous materials are collecting around the cattails. While there, the Sheriff’s Environment Crimes unit stopped. They said that they cannot do anything inside the village. Karpinski questioned that because the village is within the township. The Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (OEPA) has not advised us what chemicals are in the ditch. That limits what the village can do. Clark needs to look into this further.

The mayor has not seen movement on the retention ponds. Clark indicated that there is a statutory procedure to handle this. However, Clark needs to look into it further.

Keystone’s ditch on State Route 303 is full of cattails. Flynn suggested that we have a better-defined process. Homer-Miller suggested that these topics should be addressed during a future COW meeting.

***Village Administrator’s Report:***

Village Administrator Gates was not in attendance.

Mayor Kincannon indicated that meeting packets included a copy of a letter from the Lorain County Commissioners concerning wind farms and solar facilities. The hearing is on September 5th at 5:00 p.m.

Kincannon suggested that council consider attending the upcoming elected officials’ reception in September in Avon Lake. Lagrange Township Trustee Canfield suggested that we attend this event as it is a good networking opportunity.

***Fiscal Officer’s Report:***

Fiscal Officer Homer-Miller reported on the following:

1. Emails were forwarded to the mayor and council including the following call-to-action emails.
   1. The first was from Lorain-Medina Rural Electric and concerned energy policies.
   2. The second was from the Ohio Municipal League and concerned the Local Government Fund (LGF). Although the LGF increased from 1.66% to 1.7%, it’s still far from where it once stood at 3.68%.
2. We received 3 payments from Ohio Electricity Litigation totaling $1,070.05 related to the $49 million FirstEnergy and Energy Harbor settlement concerning the racketeering scheme and its influence on the passage of House Bill 6.
3. Homer-Miller attended a budget symposium earlier today in Stark County.
4. After being approached by a few natural gas suppliers, Homer-Miller reviewed natural gas rates / suppliers. Currently, our natural gas rates are through Columbia Gas and their Standard Choice Ohio (SCO) program. Our average rate for the first 7 months of the year was $0.447. The best 12-month, fixed rates without early termination penalties averaged $0.554 for the same period. Homer-Miller added this monitoring item to her monthly task list. If the trend changes, we may want to lock in a different supplier.

Flynn asked how much we bring in for roads. His focus seemed to be on the OPWC funds associated with Railroad Street. These questions will be discussed at an upcoming COW meeting when Gates can be in attendance.

***Old Business:***

Ordinance 2023-2507 --- AN ORDINANCE TO AUTHORIZE THE PURCHASE OF AN EMPLOYEE DISHONESTY AND FAITHFUL PERFORMANCE INSURANCE POLICY IN LIEU OF INDIVIDUAL SURETY BONDS --- This was the second reading. Fiscal Officer Homer-Miller indicated that we should have quotes at our next meeting for faithful performance coverage.

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 second reading.

***New Business:***

Resolution 2023-999 --- A RESOLUTION TO ADOPT THE SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR THE LORAIN COUNTY SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT DISTRICT --- This was the first reading. The resolution provided for this meeting was the template provided by the county. The updated resolution from Clark was not provided in time for today’s meeting but will be available for the August 24th meeting. Resolutions are due to the county on October 29th.

***Miscellaneous Business:***

N/A

***Committee Reports*:**

1. Park Board – The park board continues working through their costs. They will share the data with the school board. Keystone set aside $3,000, which may not be enough. The park board and mayor will attend the August 21st school board meeting. Gregory indicated that there are 5 people running for 2 spots on Keystone’s school board. Kincannon reminded council that a new park board chairperson will be needed as Roger Kuhl will become a Lagrange Township trustee effective January 1, 2024, as he is running unopposed.
2. Planning Commission – Kincannon asked the apartment folks to attend to the weeds, which they now are doing.
3. LCIC – Kincannon and Homer-Miller opened 2 certificates of deposit (CDs). They opened 2 instead of 1 in case funds are needed to clean the ditch and retention pond on LCIC property.

***Presentation of Bills:***

The Fiscal Officer presented the list of warrants and electronic payments issued between July 28 and August 10, 2023, totaling $158,515.26 per the payment listing provided. **Dill motioned to accept, which was seconded by Price**; 6 yeas; motion passed.

Honer said that the park driveway turned out well. Others concurred.

There being no further business, **Honer motioned to adjourn, which was seconded by Gregory**; 6 yeas; motion passed. Adjourned at 8:28 p.m.

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

Gary Kincannon, Mayor Christie Homer-Miller, Fiscal Officer