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.

**Dill moved to approve the minutes of the November 9, 2023, Committee of the Whole meeting as written, which was seconded by Price;** 6 yeas; motion passed.

**Karpinski moved to approve the minutes of the November 9, 2023, Council meeting as written, which was seconded by Dill;** 6 yeas; motion passed.

***Public Participation:***

N/A

***Mayor’s Report:***

Mayor Kincannon shared the following:

1. Kincannon and Karpinski attended the meet and greet for the new director of One Lorain County. A meeting is scheduled on January 24, 2024, at 2:00 p.m. with Team Northeast Ohio, which is a subsidiary of Ohio Works.
2. Mayor Kincannon and Chief Laubenthal met with the police officers on November 21st. Updated department policies were shared with the officers.
3. Violations Bureau / Mayor’s Court results for November 2023 include $3,025 to the Village and $725 to the State. Year-to-date results through November include $14,607 to the Village and $4,062 to the State.
4. Christmas in the Village was a well-attended event. Kincannon thanked Mary Kay Gates, Melissa Lilly, and Kim Sturgill for the work they did to make this event a success. He also thanked Rhonda Smith for arranging for Santa Claus to attend the event.
5. Kincannon attended the online webinar concerning marijuana from the perspective of an employer. We have a drug-free policy, which may need to be updated. However, Solicitor Clark feels that our current policy is sufficient. Clark suggested having pre-employment testing as well as testing for those involved in accidents.
6. A personnel handbook is needed, which needs to include updated policies such as the drug-free policy.
7. We have not received a response yet from the railroad commission.
8. Newly elected officials will be sworn in at the December 28th meeting.
9. Kincannon asked for a motion to appoint Tina Pribulsky and Steve Pycraft to the park board. **Gregory moved to appoint Tina Pribulsky and Steve Pycraft to the park board, which was seconded by Price**; 6 yeas; motion passed.
10. Kincannon asked for a motion to appoint Rick Radka to the Planning Commission replacing Chris Gates. Kincannon thanked Chris Gates for his service. **Price moved to appoint Rick Radka to the Planning Commission, which was seconded by Karpinski**; 6 yeas; motion passed.
11. A tax review board hearing was verbally requested by a resident. As it has been some time since we have had a tax review board hearing; therefore, we need to reestablish the tax review board. Per Ohio Revised Code, the mayor is to appoint 1 member while council is to appoint 2 members. Members of the tax review board may not be employees, elected officials, or contractors of the Village. The resident plans to attend our next council meeting; however, that is not the correct path. Additionally, we have not received the required letter from the resident yet. Per the conversation Kincannon had with the resident, the resident is looking for relief of the penalties and interest. **Karpinski moved to appoint Brian Terrell and Carl Zipfel to the tax review board, which was seconded by Honer**; 5 yeas; 1 nay (Flynn); motion passed. Kincannon appointed Chris Homoelle to the tax review board.
12. Last month Police Officer Anthony Miranda, a competitive powerlifter, represented the LaGrange Police Department in a powerlifting competition in Virginia. Officer Miranda won the Law / Fire / Military division. Congratulations Officer Miranda!
13. Spectrum contacted us about a letter of support from us for a broadband grant. A draft letter was provided to council. **Flynn moved for Kincannon to sign the letter, which was seconded by Gregory**; 6 yeas; motion passed.

***Police Chief’s Report:***

Chief Laubenthal reported on the following:

1. Laubenthal shared some concerns about parking on the square and made some recommendations. This will be a future conversation so that council members have an opportunity to look into this.
2. November statistics will be provided at the next council meeting providing that our databases are back up before then.

Flynn received appreciation of the increased patrols around public square and wanted to share that with the police department.

***Solicitor’s Report:***

Solicitor Clark reported on the following:

1. To move forward with natural gas aggregation, an ordinance is needed to put the matter on the ballot. Clark will work on this.
2. The attorney for Sentinel Square responded to Clark about their retention / detention area. They want to turn the maintenance of their retention / detention area over to us. Clark will follow up with Sentinel Square’s attorney.

***Village Administrator’s Report:***

Village Administrator Gates reported on the following:

1. Gates asked if council wanted to pay employees 113 hours of comp time. It was the consensus of council to do so as the employees earned it but had not yet been paid for it.
2. Gates asked council for pre-approval of 400 hours of overtime for 2024. **Karpinski moved to approve 400 hours of overtime in 2024, which was seconded by Gregory**; 6 yeas; motion passed.
3. Three bids were received for a 3-year planned maintenance agreement to service our generators. Buckeye Power had the lowest and best bid at $6,610 per year for 3 minor services and 1 major service on our 6 generators. **Karpinski moved to hire Buckeye Power, which was seconded by Dill**; 6 yeas; motion passed.
4. Done Right Lawn Care submitted a 3-year renewal contract for continuing to mow the cemetery. The cost will remain at $450 per mow. We split this cost with the Township; 2 of the 3 township trustees committed to continue this.
5. A Community Reinvestment Area (CRA) meeting was held on December 5. The committee recommended approving Trimline’s application for a 75%, 10-year tax abatement. The schools must be notified 14 days prior to council passing legislation; Keystone has been notified. Council was given information on Trimline’s expansion. Trimline will attend our next council meeting.
6. Schalk Mechanical completed the repairs to the 3 lift stations. However, we had 2 reports of sewage backups when the portable bypass pump stopped during the Manassas lift station repair. The homeowners were advised to hire a restoration company for the cleanup; the homeowners may ask council to pay for the cleanup.
7. The pumps at the Manassas lift station will not prime. The pumps are damaged internally caused by foreign objects that should not be in the sewer mains. Gravel, busted plastic pipe, buckets, a broom handle, and miscellaneous clothing items were pulled from the pumps and intake lines. Two new pumps will cost $20,000 and will be installed tomorrow. The pumps were in place since the mid-1990s. We will camera lines when new constructions have been completed.
8. There was a power outage in the Village on Tuesday, December 5th, caused by animal contact. The circuit breaker at the booster station did not operate, which caused an unbalanced condition in the operating voltage. The high current caused one of the motors to fail. There is no main disconnect between the meter and the panel. So, we cannot replace the faulty breaker and motor until we install one. We are operating the water tower by hand until we can make this repair.
9. We met with Columbia Gas about getting service to our maintenance building. They will run a new service line off School Street’s main line for no cost. Council has an aerial view of our building. Even though we own all the lots, connecting natural gas service will not be free unless we combine the 5 lots. If we leave the property as it is, the cost would be $16,500. It will cost $200 for this to go through the Planning Commission. Hiring a surveyor will add to the cost. However, the cost of the Planning Commission and surveyor will be a lot less than $16,500. It was the concurrence of council to move forward with the parcel consolidation.
10. The insulation should be done in the maintenance building on Monday. Then the electricians will finish up. The doors should be in in a couple of weeks.

Gregory asked about the capacity of the wastewater treatment plant. Gates responded that capacity is fine even when factoring in new construction in the Village and in Pheasant Run. We are permitted up to 2 million gallons per day. We currently average 600,000 gallons per day.

Honer asked about Loperwood. Gates responded that we were funded by the state and will get the contract in July. He also asked about Railroad Street.

Flynn asked about parcel 4 and possibly leaving it separate. It is commercial property. However, the lot size does not meet requirements for commercial zoning. Taps are at the road.

***Fiscal Officer’s Report:***

Fiscal Officer Homer-Miller reported on the following:

1. Below are items shared with council and the mayor since our last meeting:
   1. A recreational marijuana webinar highlighting the provisions of Issue 2 that affect public employers managing employees --- Homer-Miller attended this webinar as did Kincannon and Laubenthal;
   2. The Public Entities Pool (PEP) annual election ballot;
   3. The Ohio Municipal League’s (OML) member alert about the new local government training for newly elected public officials;
   4. The OML call to action about the Ohio House Pensions Committee having its third hearing on House Bill 296, which could increase the contribution amounts employers of full-time municipal police officers must make to the Ohio Police and Fire Pension Fund (OP&FPF) over a 5-year period from 19.5% to 24%. The mayor asked if we could look at the impact this could have on the Village;
   5. OML’s end-of-the-year legislative update webinar.
2. This week Homer-Miller attended 2 webinars hosted by the Ohio Township Association. The first concerned “You’ve Just Been Sued…Now What?” The second concerned “Levy / Auditor of State Campaign Guidance Update.”
3. In 2024 meeting packets will be emailed to the mayor and council members at their Village email addresses.

A council member asked about 2024 health benefits costs. Homer-Miller had not received updated costs from the county before this meeting.

***Old Business:***

**Ordinance 2023-2515** --- AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 182 OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF THE VILLAGE OF LAGRANGE WHICH PROVIDES FOR A MUNICIPAL INCOME TAX --- This was the third reading. Clark suggested that council amend the ordinance to be an emergency in order to meet the December 31, 2023, deadline. **Karpinski moved to amend the ordinance to be an emergency, which was seconded by Flynn; 6 yeas; motion passed. Karpinski moved to suspend the rules, which was seconded by Flynn;** 6 yeas; motion passed. **Karpinski moved to adopt and declare an emergency, which was seconded by Flynn;** 6 yeas; motion passed.

**Ordinance 2023-2516** --- AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING FEES FOR THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE LAGRANGE BUILDING DEPARTMENT AND THE OHIO BUILDING CODE--- This was the second reading.

***New Business:***

**Ordinance 2023-2517** --- AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING AN INCREASE IN COMPENSATION FOR THE VILLAGE FISCAL OFFICER AND AMENDING ORDINANCE NO. 2022-2464 AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY --- **Karpinski moved to suspend the rules, which was seconded by Price;** 6 yeas; motion passed. **Karpinski moved to adopt and declare an emergency, which was seconded by Gregory;** 6 yeas; motion passed.

**Ordinance 2023-2518** --- AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE NO. 2021-2452 ESTABLISHING PAY RANGES FOR EMPLOYEES OF THE VILLAGE OF LAGRANGE AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY --- **Karpinski moved to suspend the rules, which was seconded by Dill;** 6 yeas; motion passed. **Karpinski moved to adopt and declare an emergency, which was seconded by Dill;** 6 yeas; motion passed.

**Ordinance 2023-2519** --- AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE 2015-2312 WHICH ESTABLISHED AN ANNUAL SALARY RANGE FOR THE POSITION OF THE VILLAGE ADMINISTRATOR AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY --- **Karpinski moved to suspend the rules, which was seconded by Gregory;** 6 yeas; motion passed. **Karpinski moved to adopt and declare an emergency, which was seconded by Dill;** 6 yeas; motion passed.

**Ordinance 2023-2520** --- AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE 2021-2454 CONCERNING FRINGE BENEFITS FOR EMPLOYEES OF THE VILLAGE ADMINISTRATOR AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY --- **Karpinski moved to suspend the rules, which was seconded by Honer;** 6 yeas; motion passed. **Karpinski moved to adopt and declare an emergency, which was seconded by Price;** 6 yeas; motion passed.

**Ordinance 2023-2521** --- AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 721 OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF THE VILLAGE OF LAGRANGE BY AMENDING SECTION 721.01 TO DEFINE “adult use cannabis operator,” TO ENACT NEW SECTION 721.03 TO PROHIBIT ADULT USE CANNABIS OPERATORS WITHIN THE VILLAGE, TO RENAME CHAPTER 721 TO “CULTIVATION, PROCESSING, USE, SALE AND POSSESSION OF MARIJUANA” AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY --- **Karpinski moved to suspend the rules, which was seconded by Gregory;** 6 yeas; motion passed. **Karpinski moved to adopt and declare an emergency, which was seconded by Flynn;** 6 yeas; motion passed.

**Ordinance 2023-2523** --- AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE PERMANENT APPROPRIATIONS FOR CURRENT EXPENSES AND OTHER EXPENDITURES OF THE VILLAGE OF LAGRANGE DURING THE FISCAL YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2023, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY --- **Karpinski moved to suspend the rules, which was seconded by Flynn;** 6 yeas; motion passed. **Karpinski moved to adopt and declare an emergency, which was seconded by Dill;** 6 yeas; motion passed.

**Resolution 2023-1005** --- A RESOLUTION DETERMINING TO PROCEED TO SUBMIT TO THE ELECTORS OF THE VILLAGE OF LAGRANGE THE QUESTION OF A RENEWAL LEVY IN EXCESS OF THE TEN MILL LIMITATION AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY --- **Karpinski moved to suspend the rules, which was seconded by Gregory;** 6 yeas; motion passed. **Karpinski moved to adopt and declare an emergency, which was seconded by Dill;** 6 yeas; motion passed.

**Resolution 2023-1006** --- A RESOLUTION DETERMINING TO PROCEED TO SUBMIT TO THE ELECTORS OF THE VILLAGE OF LAGRANGE THE QUESTION OF A REPLACEMENT LEVY IN EXCESS OF THE TEN MILL LIMITATION AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY --- **Karpinski moved to suspend the rules, which was seconded by Price;** 5 yeas; 1 nay (Flynn); motion passed. **Karpinski moved to adopt and declare an emergency, which was seconded by Honer;** 0 yeas; 6 nays; motion failed.

***Miscellaneous Business:***

The use of ARPA funds was discussed. **Karpinski moved to reallocate $125,000 of the funds expended on the maintenance roof project and $45,485.98 of the park drive project to the ARPA fund and to appropriate $27,270 for insulation of the maintenance building to the ARPA fund, which was seconded by Honer**; 6 yeas; motion passed.

Dill suggested that Honer take over the check signing duties. **Price moved to add Honer as a signer to the Village checking account, which was seconded by Gregory**; 6 yeas; motion passed. Homer-Miller will work with the bank to update the signers on the account.

***Committee Reports*:**

1. Park Board – Winter business (e.g., mower repairs, etc.) is occurring. Nick Fedor will help Melissa with the ice rink. Skates will be moved over when time permits. The softball folks are not sure of the location for the 2024 Prebis tournament.
2. Planning Commission – A meeting was held last week.
   1. North Star requested an extension on the apartments because they are running behind. They are not substantially complete. An extension until March 1, 2024, was granted. Before then, “substantially complete” will be defined. Ohio Edison is one of the reasons for North Star’s delayed completion.
   2. North Point brought a new set of plans based on prior Planning Commission recommendations. The new plans were approved. North Point hopes to have final approval in March 2024 and to start in June / July 2024.
3. LCIC – No meeting; no report. Kincannon will talk with team Northeast Ohio in January about the remaining LCIC properties.

***Presentation of Bills:***

The Fiscal Officer presented the list of warrants and electronic payments issued between November 10 and December 14, 2023, totaling $348,622.52 per the payment listing provided. **Gregory moved to accept, which was seconded by Dill**; 6 yeas; motion passed.

There being no further business, **Honer moved to adjourn, which was seconded by Gregory**; 6 yeas; motion passed. Adjourned at 9:08 p.m.

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

Gary R. Kincannon, Mayor Christie Homer-Miller, Fiscal Officer