Mayor Kincannon called the Council Meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. After the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance, Homer-Miller took roll call with Flynn, Price, Gregory, Karpinski, Dill, and Honer present.

**Dill moved to approve the minutes of the December 14, 2023, Committee of the Whole meeting as written, which was seconded by Karpinski,** 6 yeas; motion passed.

**Gregory moved to approve the minutes of the December 14, 2023, Council meeting as written, which was seconded by Price,** 6 yeas; motion passed.

**Dill moved to approve the minutes of the December 19, 2023, emergency Council meeting as written, which was seconded by Karpinski,** 6 yeas; motion passed.

***Public Participation:***

Representatives from Trimline addressed the group about the tax abatement. Justin Hengstrom thanked council for their cooperation. They are planning a 25,000 square foot expansion valued at approximately $7,500,000 with approximately $4,800,000 of that related to the building. Flynn asked about touring the facility. General Manager Todd Hardoby is the contact for that. Trimline plans to present plans in January 2024.

***Mayor’s Report:***

Mayor Kincannon reported that the Tax Review Board has been formed. We are still waiting to receive a letter from the taxpayer who contacted us.

***Police Chief’s Report:***

Chief Laubenthal was not in attendance due to illness. In his absence, Fiscal Officer Homer-Miller read the following statistics for October 26 through December 27, 2023, which were provided by the chief:

1. There were 259 non-criminal requests for assistance.
2. There were 15 criminal complaints / investigations - 1 felony; 7 misdemeanors; 0 juvenile charges. They included 1 felony domestic violence, 3 misdemeanor domestic violence, 2 assaults, 2 menacing, 1 disorderly conduct, 1 breaking and entering / theft, 1 receiving stolen property, 1 felony theft, 1 misdemeanor theft, 1 sexual imposition, and 1 ordinance violation.
3. There were 312 traffic-related incidents including 5 crash investigations, 84 operating and equipment charges, and 176 warnings.
4. There was 1 parking violation issued along with 15 warnings.

***Solicitor’s Report:***

Solicitor Clark was not in attendance due to illness.

***Village Administrator’s Report:***

Village Administrator Gates reported on the following:

1. Council was provided with copies of the Employees End-of-the-Year Hours and Overtime Hours Worked reports for 2023.
2. “All way” signs have been added to the stop signs on the circle.
3. Council was provided with a copy of the $2,477.35 cost for the cleanup from the pump failure on Longstreet. Gates asked council to approve paying it. The bypass pump for repairs to the Manassas lift station failed. **Karpinski moved to reimburse the resident $2,477.35, which was seconded by Flynn**; 6 yeas; motion passed.
4. We received a $21,803.58 check from our insurance company for the electrical issues we had at the wastewater treatment plant that stemmed from the pole fire on West Main Street on April 14, 2022. The claim was finally settled. This was related to a squirrel.

Honer asked about the letter from Mr. Todd. Gates checked the golf course pipe. It was approximately a quarter full. Water was flowing. The pond was down. The recent rain and snow saturating the ground seems to have caused the issue. Gates met with Mr. Todd’s neighbors. They asked to have our engineer look at it. As this involves private property, it is a civil matter.

***Fiscal Officer’s Report:***

Fiscal Officer Homer-Miller reported on the following:

1. Our levy renewal was submitted to the Board of Elections on December 20th.
2. The county benefits plans increased 7.9% over 2023. When factoring in the plans selected by our employees, the annual increase amounts to approximately $6,900.
3. Below are items shared with council and the mayor since our last meeting:
	1. Information from the Ohio Attorney General’s office concerning the marijuana legalization initiative was included in meeting packets; and
	2. Power Point presentations from the “I’ve Just Been Sued …Now What?” and the “Levy / Auditor of State Campaign Guidance Update” webinars.
4. At the last meeting, someone asked that Homer-Miller provide numbers associated with a change in the Ohio Police and Fire Pension Fund (OP&FPF) over a 5-year period from 19.5% to 24%. Unfortunately, she had not had time to compile the data yet.
5. It is Homer-Miller’s busiest time of year. Her focus will be on closing 2023 and opening 2024.
6. Signers on the bank account should expect to receive an email from Tara Ressler of Huntington.

Flynn asked for a better understanding of the financials at an upcoming Committee of the Whole meeting and for an updated open items list. Homer-Miller responded that we could do that and that fund and appropriation summary reports were included in your meeting packets.

Honer asked if council could visit the maintenance building as part of an upcoming Committee of the Whole meeting.

Kincannon asked for the open items list to include defining substantial completion and the associated penalty(ies).

***Old Business:***

**Ordinance 2023-2516** --- AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING FEES FOR THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE LAGRANGE BUILDING DEPARTMENT AND THE OHIO BUILDING CODE--- This was the third reading. **Karpinski moved to adopt, which was seconded by Gregory;** 6 yeas; motion passed.

***New Business:***

**Ordinance 2023-2522** --- AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE MAYOR OF THE VILLAGE OF LAGRANGE, OHIO TO ENTER INTO A COMMUNITY REINVESTMENT AREA AGREEMENT WITH VARBROS, LLC AND TRIMLINE, A DIVISION OF VARBROS LLC AND DECLARING THIS ACT 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 2023-2524** --- AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE NO. 2022-2470 ESTABLISHING SALARY RANGES FOR MEMBERS OF THE VILLAGE OF LAGRANGE POLICE DEPARTMENT 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 Gregory;** 6 yeas; motion passed.

Kincannon suggested that council consider a 4 percent pay increase for our police officers. He also suggested council consider increasing the chief’s salary to $75,000 as that is Elyria’s entry level salary. **Karpinski moved to increase the pay for police officers by 4 percent and to increase the chief’s salary to $75,000, which was seconded by Dill**; 6 yeas; motion passed.

**Ordinance 2023-2525** --- 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 Price;** 6 yeas; motion passed. **Karpinski moved to adopt and declare an emergency, which was seconded by Gregory;** 6 yeas; motion passed.

**Ordinance 2023-2526** --- AN ORDINANCE FOR THE TEMPORARY APPROPRIATIONS FOR CURRENT EXPENSES AND OTHER EXPENDITURES OF THE VILLAGE OF LAGRANGE DURING THE FISCAL YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2024, 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 Dill;** 6 yeas; motion passed.

***Miscellaneous Business:***

Mayor Kincannon having been sworn in yesterday by Clark, swore in newly elected council members Richard Honer, Curtis Karpinski, and Rhonda Smith.

Kincannon then honored retiring councilman Gregg Dill by presenting him with a proclamation. It was the first proclamation made by Kincannon since becoming mayor.

***Committee Reports*:**

1. Park Board – no report
2. Planning Commission – no report
3. LCIC – no report

***Presentation of Bills:***

The Fiscal Officer presented the list of warrants and electronic payments issued between December 15 and 28, 2023, totaling $311,985.00 per the payment listing provided. **Dill moved to accept, which was seconded by Gregory**; 6 yeas; motion passed.

There being no further business, **Dill moved to adjourn, which was seconded by Flynn**; 6 yeas; motion passed. Adjourned at 8:02 p.m.

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

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