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, Honer, and Smith present.

**Gregory moved to approve the minutes of the February 8, 2024, Committee of the Whole meeting as written, which was seconded by Karpinski;** 6 yeas; motion passed.

**Karpinski moved to approve the minutes of the February 8, 2024, Council meeting as written, which was seconded by Price;** 6 yeas; motion passed.

***Public Participation:***

N/A

***Mayor’s Report:***

Mayor Kincannon shared the following:

1. The 8 parking spaces on the square currently are limited to 2-hour parking. Kincannon would like to have the 2-hour restriction removed from 5 of the spaces. Council agreed.
2. Gregory and Kincannon talked with Wellington about cyber security. Our insurance risk coverage includes cyber security coverage.
3. Kincannon spoke with Conrad and Kohler of Keystone School District about using the soil from our retention area. Council agreed that we would donate the soil to the school district provided the school district picks it up.
4. D J Shaw wants the 2 crows nest boards from the gym. He will provide boards to replace them. Price suggested that we check with the historical society before giving them to Shaw. Kincannon will contact the historical society. Shaw suggested that we occasionally host a basketball game here.
5. Kincannon attended the mayors’ / city managers’ meeting at Lorain County Community College. A representative from the City of Amherst presented how they got quiet zones. Wellington helped Amherst with their project. North Ridgeville has to pay Norfolk Southern annually to keep their quiet zones.

***Police Chief’s Report:***

Chief Laubenthal reported on the following statistics for January 2 through February 21, 2024:

1. There were 31 non-criminal requests for assistance.
2. There were 12 criminal complaints / investigations - 0 felonies; 3 misdemeanors; 0 juvenile charges. They included 2 felony theft, 1 domestic violence, 1 assault, 1 arrest on warrant, 2 unruly juveniles, 3 disturbances, 2 harassment, and 1 animal complaint.
3. There were 117 traffic-related incidents including 2 crash investigations, 40 operating and equipment charges, and 77 warnings.
4. There were no parking violations issued; 3 warnings were issued.

Honer asked about stopping on the square. Laubenthal stated that warnings are not issued for failure to stop. A full-time officer’s schedule is being changed to start at 6:00 a.m. to better cover the rush hour.

Kincannon asked about jake / engine brakes. Signs are posted.

Smith asked if the 40 tickets were issued to locals or out of towners. That is not tracked.

Smith asked about a crosswalk in front of the library. One does not exist there now. The speed limit changes in that area from 55 to 35. Additionally, it falls under the Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) who would need to conduct a traffic study.

***Solicitor’s Report:***

Solicitor Clark stated that he is working on an employee manual. Homer-Miller provided him with various village policies. Clark found that we might need some others. Clark, Flynn, and Honer will meet soon.

***Village Administrator’s Report:***

Village Administrator Gates reported on the following:

1. Lilly and Gates attended the Township meeting on February 12th. They agreed to buy our old jetter for $17,000 with the understanding that we will give them back the roller when we get a new one. The community garage sales will be June 20-22, 2024. Dumpster days will be Saturday, May 4 and October 5.
2. Our insurance company covered the cost of replacing the motor on the booster pump that was damaged due to an electrical issue.
3. We hired Cleveland Industrial Group to clean the wet well at the wastewater treatment plant and to dispose of up to 10 tons of waste. It will cost $15,138.75.
4. We filled the potholes with cold patch in the public parking lot by Bull Dogs Pub and Grill. It is a temporary patch until they start making asphalt.

Flynn asked about the shredding event we had last year and wondered if we could do it again this year. Gates will look into date options.

Honer provided Gates with an article from the paper about Rural Lorain County Water Authority contacting approximately 7,000 homes to take a lead line survey. It is an EPA requirement. We have until mid-October 2024 to respond.

Honer also asked about the frequency of power outages occurring in the Village. Gates stated that power outages have caused several issues with equipment at the wastewater treatment plant. Gates will reach out to her First Energy contact.

After the electric aggregation program notification letters went out Kincannon saw some comments on Facebook. Although Energy Harbor may be less expensive now, their rates will be going up this spring. We were able to lock in a fixed electricity price of $0.06581 per kilowatt hour through the December 2025 meter reading with Dynegy as the preferred electricity supplier. Folks wishing to opt out can do so on or before March 4, 2024.

***Fiscal Officer’s Report:***

Fiscal Officer Homer-Miller reported on the following:

1. Some of the sessions Homer-Miller took at the conference she attended earlier this month included:
   1. Employee Leave, Accommodations, and Return to Work Under the BWC ADA FMLA Bermuda Triangle
   2. The Evolving World of Workplace Accommodations
   3. The Critical Elements of Property and Liability Insurance Protection
   4. Robert’s Rules of Order – Updates and Survival Tips --- She will share the Power Point with the mayor and council members.
2. Since our last meeting Homer-Miller shared information from the Ohio Municipal League about their March 2024 council member training.
3. Although the 2023 year end close process is not complete, progress has been made. After numerous attempts, the W-2s were submitted electronically to the federal government. The 1099s were electronically submitted to the federal government today. It has been quite a challenge dealing with the IRS on the electronic filing process. The Auditor of State also is frustrated with the IRS. The financial notes are in progress. The deadline to complete the 2023 year end close is February 29th.
4. Our 6-month CD with Farmers Savings Bank matures on the 28th. Homer-Miller asked for a motion to roll over our current 4% 6-month CD to a 4.75% 6-month CD. **Karpinski moved to roll over our current 4% 6-month CD to a 4.75% 6-month CD, which was seconded by Flynn**; 6 yeas; motion passed.

Smith asked about the Columbia Gas payment. Keystone is invoiced for their portion.

***Old Business:***

N/A

***New Business:***

**Ordinance 2024-2534** --- AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTION 929.16 OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF THE VILLAGE OF LAGRANGE TO PROVIDE FOR THE INSPECTION AND MAINTENANCE OF STORMWATER MANAGEMENT FACILITIES AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY --- **Karpinski moved to suspend the rules, which was seconded by Price**; 6 yeas; motion passed.  **Karpinski moved to adopt the ordinance and declare an emergency, which Gregory seconded**. Following the discussion, **Karpinski moved to postpone consideration until the next council meeting, which was seconded by Price**; 6 years; motion passed.

Resolution 2024-1011 --- 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 JANUARY 1, 2024, THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2024, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY --- This was the first reading.

Resolution 2024-1012 --- A RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH THE OHIO STATE AUDITOR TO PROVIDE CONSULTATION SERVICES TO THE VILLAGE FISCAL OFFICER OF THE VILLAGE OF LAGRANGE AS IT MAY RELATE TO THEIR JOB DUTIES, FORECASTING, OHIO BUDGETARY LAW, AND OTHER STATUTORY REQUIREMENTS RELATING TO THE ACCOUNTING AND REPORTING FUNCTIONS OF THE VILLAGE. FOR THE PERIOD JANUARY 1, 2024, THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2024, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY --- This was the first reading.

***Miscellaneous Business:***

Discussion was had on substantial completion. This is a discussion topic for the Planning Commission. It will be a topic for the next Committee of the Whole meeting. Clark will see what other communities have on this topic.

Kincannon asked council for their recommendation for an alternate member of the Tax Review Board. The resident Karpinski spoke with was not interested. Other council members did not present options. Kincannon will try to identify someone before the next council meeting.

***Committee Reports*:**

1. Park Board – The park board is putting together the field schedule. Kincannon recommended they close the park for the eclipse. The event that was being planned is not moving forward. The chief supports closing the park. The fairgrounds will host a camping event around the eclipse.
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 February 9 and 22, 2024, totaling $205,058.16 per the payment listing provided. **Gregory moved to accept, which was seconded by Karpinski**; 6 yeas; motion passed.

Honer shared information he received from Second Harvest Food Bank.

There being no further business, **Smith moved to adjourn, which was seconded by Gregory**; 6 yeas; motion passed. The meeting adjourned at 8:42 p.m.

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

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