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 Price, Gregory, Karpinski, Honer, and Smith present.

**Smith moved to approve the minutes of the June 13, 2024, Committee of the Whole meeting as written, which was seconded by Karpinski;** 5 yeas; motion passed.

**Gregory moved to approve the minutes of the June 13, 2024, Council meeting as written, which was seconded by Price;** 5 yeas; motion passed.

***Public Participation:***

Janice King of Webster Road shared the concern of the LaGrange Historical Society with the potential removal of the water trough and pump on the circle. Additionally, the use of equipment on the circle could damage the cistern and well. She reminded the group that a time capsule is buried in the circle. Kincannon will pass along the information to the township trustees.

***Mayor’s Report:***

Mayor Kincannon shared the following:

1. The elected officials’ reception is on August 28th at Parkers in Avon Lake. The mayor plans to attend again this year and would like the administrator to attend again too. There is no cost for elected officials. There is a $30 cost for others attending. **Price moved to spend $30 for Gates to attend the elected officials’ reception, which was seconded by Karpinski**; 5 yeas; motion passed.
2. First Energy presented at this week’s mayors’ association meeting about EV charging stations. There also was an update from the county commissioners.
3. Kincannon plans to attend the mayor’s court training class in January 2025.
4. Homer-Miller and Kincannon will not be at the July 11th meeting.

***Police Chief’s Report:***

Chief Laubenthal reported on the following:

1. Safety town went well. There was a large turnout with 60 registrations and 59 in attendance. Laubenthal thanked Kim Ruhl for all she did to make this a successful event.
2. As a result of some recent trainings, Laubenthal interacted with other law enforcement agencies. Recruitment and retention seem to be issues everywhere. We will attend another job fair next month. We also will post another opening on Indeed.
3. Laubenthal would like council to give the following some thought:
   1. We could sponsor candidates to go through the 5-month Lorain County Community College (LCCC) academy. Candidates would sign 2-year contracts. If they leave the Village before the 2 years were up, they will need to reimburse us for their tuition.
   2. Four officers (1 full time and 3 part time) have motorcycle endorsements. Laubenthal will look into options to lease or purchase a used motorcycle. It would be used for traffic enforcement.
4. Chief Laubenthal shared the following statistics for May 23 through June 26, 2024:
   1. There were 44 non-criminal requests for assistance.
   2. There were 18 criminal complaints / investigations - 0 felonies; 0 misdemeanors; 0 juvenile charges. They included 7 animal complaints, 4 disturbances, 2 domestic disputes, 1 fireworks discharging, 1 noise, 1 misdemeanor theft, and 2 trespassing.
   3. There were 148 traffic-related incidents including 3 crash investigations, 46 operating and equipment charges, and 86 warnings.
   4. There were 7 parking violations issued and 6 warnings issued.

***Solicitor’s Report:***

Solicitor Breunig had a productive meeting with Gates. He still needs to meet with Kincannon and Laubenthal.

***Village Administrator’s Report:***

Village Administrator Gates reported on the following:

1. To avoid being charged for storage, we received our required 90 tons of salt by June 30th which fulfills our state bid salt contract.
2. We installed bypass lines on the forced mains at Manassas and U. S. Grant lift stations. This will reduce the bypass pump set-up time and manpower.
3. We signed the contract for the Railroad Street resurfacing project and plan to have our pre-construction meeting on July 5th.
4. Gates met with Kleinfelder about updating our zoning map. A copy of the updated map should be available for council to review at the next council meeting.
5. Applications are being accepted for Ohio Public Works Commission (OPWC) round 39. Gates asked council if they wanted us to apply for the Church Street replacement and resurfacing project. They do. Gates will work with Kleinfelder to apply for the Church Street project. If selected, the project will start in 2026.
6. Funding is available July 1st for Loperwood Lane, our OPWC round 38 project. Gates asked council which engineering firm they would like to contract with for the design and construction of the project – Kleinfelder or Rafter A. Council chose Rafter A. The Loperwood project will start in 2025.

Honer asked about tree trimming over roadways. For trees are over a state route, Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) has to handle it. ODOT already has been contacted.

Smith asked about the cleanup of the Burnett property on Railroad Street. It is being cleaned up; Burnett knows he needs to come to the August Planning Commission meeting.

Honer asked if Railroad Street will be open during construction. That will be determined during the pre-construction meeting.

The public hearing concerning the potential zoning change for the parking lot associated with the maintenance building is scheduled for Thursday, July 18th, at 7:00 p.m.

***Fiscal Officer’s Report:***

Fiscal Officer Homer-Miller reported on the following:

1. The ordinances concerning the additional permissive motor vehicle taxes were submitted to the Ohio Department of Public Safety who acknowledged receipt. Collections will begin in the 2025 registration year.
2. At RITA’s Regional Council of Government’s meeting on June 20th, the following statistics were shared that Homer-Miller felt the mayor and council members might find interesting:
   1. Through the federal tax information program, $21.1 million was identified in 2023. A Village couple was identified through this program, which lead to us collecting $7,500 for tax years 2017 through 2022.
   2. Letters will go out in a week or so for the non-filing program, also known as the subpoena program.
   3. The legal team filed 11,055 lawsuits in 2023, which resulted in recovery of $12 million.
   4. 389 cities and villages located in 81 of Ohio’s 88 counties are member communities.
   5. As of June 20th, 35,714 taxpayers are enrolled in RITA’s e-billing program.
3. We received a letter from GLW Broadband stating they are rolling out significant upgrades to their internet offerings. The changes involve increased speeds, new speed tiers, and reduced prices. Homer-Miller will share the letter with those interested in reading it.
4. Compliance Officer Kim Ruhl provided the quarterly credit card compliance report. Once again, no issues were noted.
5. We went live with Huntington’s remote deposit capture process. This will speed up deposit of checks and reduce trips to the bank.
6. Homer-Miller is hoping to reconcile May and June before going on medical leave next month. Ruhl will fill in for her at the July meeting(s).

***Old Business:***

Smith stated that she received building sign options from 1 vendor. She has a meeting scheduled with a landscaper for the police entrance. The Calvin Smith property located on State Route 301 was actioned for $478,500 to someone who may use it for a bed and breakfast.

***New Business:***

**Ordinance 2024-2545** ---AN ORDINANCE APPROVING THE RECODIFICATION, EDITING AND INCLUSION OF CERTAIN ORDINANCES AS PART OF THE VARIOUS COMPONENT CODES OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF LAGRANGE, OHIO, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY --- **Karpinski moved to suspend the rules, which was seconded by Price**; 5 yeas; motion passed. **Karpinski moved to adopt the ordinance and declare an emergency, which was seconded by Gregory**; 5 yeas; motion passed.

**Ordinance 2024-2546** ---AN ORDINANCE ADOPTING A PERSONNEL MANUAL FOR EMPLOYEES OF THE VILLAGE OF LAGRANGE, OHIO, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY--- **Karpinski moved to suspend the rules, which was seconded by Price**; 5 yeas; motion passed. **Karpinski moved to adopt the ordinance and declare an emergency, which was seconded by Smith**; 5 yeas; motion passed.

**Resolution 2024-1015** --- A RESOLUTION ADOPTING A PRELIMINARY TAX BUDGET FOR THE FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING JANUARY 1, 2025, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY--- **Karpinski moved to suspend the rules, which was seconded by Price**; 5 yeas; motion passed. **Karpinski moved to adopt the resolution and declare an emergency, which was seconded by Honer**; 5 yeas; motion passed.

***Miscellaneous Business:***

**Hometown Hero Street Banners**

Smith spoke with Stephanie Barnhart of Grafton Village. They charged $90 for each banner. Scott Lawless is a veteran who is involved in the veterans’ memorial and would like to assist with this project. While Grafton Village owns the poles in Grafton Village, the Village of LaGrange only owns 16 poles. Smith also will talk with Avon; they have banners on CEI poles. Kincannon will contact the First Energy representative who presented at this week’s mayors’ meeting. Karpinski contacted Grafton’s VFW who directed him to Grafton Village. They shared the information sheet that was provided for council’s review.

**Employee Handbook**

The drafted employee handbook was emailed to the mayor and council members on June 20th for their review. Ordinance 2024-2546 was passed under new business.

**Building Signage**

See Old Business.

Honer asked about the next phase of the maintenance building roof work. It is scheduled to begin this summer.

***Committee Reports*:**

1. Park Board – Kincannon reported the following:
   1. Flagpole repairs are needed.
   2. They are looking at grants through Nature Works.
   3. The sewer line needs to be repaired. The park board is looking into a grant through the county commissioners.
   4. A new mower is needed.
2. Planning Commission – Price stated that there was no meeting; therefore, there is no report.
3. LCIC – Flynn was not in attendance to provide a report.

***Presentation of Bills:***

The Fiscal Officer presented the list of warrants and electronic payments issued between June 14 and 27, 2024, totaling $238,786.69 per the payment listing provided. **Gregory moved to accept, which was seconded by Karpinski**; 5 yeas; motion passed.

There being no further business, **Smith moved to adjourn, which was seconded by Gregory**; 5 yeas; motion passed. The meeting adjourned at 8:27 p.m.

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

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