Mayor Kincannon called the Council Meeting to order at 7:32 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 22, 2024, Council meeting as written**, which was seconded by Karpinski;** 6 yeas; motion passed.

Kincannon swore in Special Police Officers Garrett Longacre and Stephen Zacharias.

***Public Participation:***

N/A

***Mayor’s Report:***

Mayor Kincannon shared the following:

1. Lilly from the Village and Osborne from the Township compiled a list of repairs needed at the park. If they can get $6,000 in supplies now, they will work on the projects – mainly drainage (tiles collapsed, catch basin, clean out swail, etc.) – and painting when time and weather permit. **Karpinski moved to pay $3,000 to the LaGrange Community Park for our share of the costs, which was seconded by Smith**; 6 yeas; motion passed.
2. Wellington’s employee handbook was distributed to the team.
3. The bicentennial trees provided by the county to the Village and the Township will be planted at the park.
4. Thank you, Kim Ruhl, for organizing safety town.
5. Keystone Employers You asked that the senior fitness area be open while the building is open for walking. We will work on getting the senior fitness area organized so that this can happen in the fall.
6. Discussion was held on establishing a dedicated parking area for the police department. Gates presented the numbers for the Police Department parking area that would include 8 parking spaces and drainage:
	1. Griffith Paving with Blakeslee Excavating quoted $43,000.
	2. Plas quoted $44,000.
	3. Crossroads quoted $60,569.
7. Council was encouraged to individually promote the levy on their personal Facebook pages.

Smith asked about Jay Camp’s comments about a community center. Kincannon asked him to present some ideas to council.

***Police Chief’s Report:***

Chief Laubenthal reported on the following:

1. Although the plans for the municipal building show a parking area for the Police Department, he felt it was not necessary at this time. However, a paved walkway would be nice as the officers currently walk through the grass to get into the building. Police vehicles could be parked in the back with improved lighting. Additionally, more vehicles can be parked in the police garage after the snowplow is relocated to the maintenance building. Arrestees are not brought here.
2. The 2 Special Police Officers who were sworn in this evening will donate their time on an as-needed basis. They are employed by the county prosecutor’s office as special investigators. We will hold their state license commission. These positions are different from auxiliary; the role is administrative.
3. ORC 4513.09 indicates the following:
	1. Whenever the load upon any vehicle extends to the rear four feet or more beyond the bed or body of such vehicle, there shall be displayed at the extreme rear end of the load, at the times specified in section 4513.03 of the Revised Code, a red light or lantern plainly visible from a distance of at least five hundred feet to the sides and rear. The red light or lantern required by this section is in addition to the red rear light required upon every vehicle. At any other time there shall be displayed at the extreme rear end of such load a red flag or cloth not less than sixteen inches square.
	2. Whoever violates this section is guilty of a minor misdemeanor.

This currently is not in our ordinances but should be. It will be a minor misdemeanor that will go through our violations’ bureau. Clark will prepare an ordinance for our next meeting.

1. The ordinance concerning the legalization of recreational marijuana was adopted under zoning, not general. Local ordinances can exceed state code. As it is now, it is a first-degree misdemeanor with up to a year of jail time at our expense. The chief would prefer it to be a minor misdemeanor. Laubenthal and Clark will discuss this. Currently, the Police Department has no way to enforce this without sending the offenders to the Elyria Municipal Court. Clark will bring something to the next meeting.

Honer gave kudos to the chief for his upcoming participation on the 28th at the library’s “Pizza with the Police” event.

***Solicitor’s Report:***

Clark and Gates will have a call with the Sentinel Square attorneys.

***Village Administrator’s Report:***

Village Administrator Gates reported on the following:

1. We repaired a water leak on West Main Street across from the park entrance.
2. We had a roof leak in the north hallway of the municipal building. The cost of materials for us to repair it was $2,700.
3. The wet well cleaning at the sewer plant was done on Friday, March 8th. We are running on the 3 new pumps.
4. We are asking Council to approve $47,200 for a new Bomag roller. We will return the old, inadequate roller to the township. **Karpinski moved to purchase the new Bomag roller for $47,200, which was seconded by Honer**; 6 yeas; motion passed.
5. There was a power outage for 115 residents in Union Station and Durham Ridge on Monday, March 11th, due to a ground fault and a blown fuse in a transformer. There were issues with the generator at the Manassas Junction lift station again. We were able to get it running, but we should consider replacing the generator (gas). We are getting quotes.
6. The Community Reinvestment Area (CRA) Housing Committee met on Tuesday, March 12th, and voted to continue the tax abatements for Pinto/Slade Gardner and The Child Garden.
7. Our engineer dropped off the plans for the Railroad Street resurfacing project for us to review. If we were ok with it, they would have it out for bid before the end of the month. After reviewing the plans there are too many issues with them that would have resulted in change orders or issues down the road. Gates contacted Kleinfelder who is looking into the items of concern.

Flynn mentioned the following:

1. A brick fell out by Virgil’s and asked that someone look into it.
2. Is there anything the Village can do about the house on the west side of the Lion’s Club entrance? It needs to be cleaned up again. Clark and Gates will discuss this before issuing a nuisance letter.
3. There are rumors about the Dollar store closing. He asked how far in advance of closing they have to tell us. As a private business, they do not have to notify the Village.

Honer asked about 604 Hendrix, which does not have a sidewalk. Kincannon asked Gates about this last week. Letters have been sent, but they do not have a mailbox. We do not have a good address for the property. Clark and Gates will look into this.

***Fiscal Officer’s Report:***

Fiscal Officer Homer-Miller reported on the following:

1. 2023 is closed. The public notice went in the Chronicle-Telegram on February 28th. Financial reports are available to those interested in viewing them.
2. Below are items shared with council and the mayor since our last meeting:
	1. Links were provided to the 2024 public records training sessions offered by the Ohio Attorney General.
	2. The Future Summit will be held at 10:00 a.m. on March 25th at the Lorain County Community College’s Spitzer Conference Center. Lorain County’s Strategic Action Plan will be unveiled.
	3. The Ohio Municipal League will be hosting an ethics training webinar at 11:00 a.m. on April 10th. Although ethics training is not a requirement for elected officials, it is a recommended and worthwhile training.
3. During our February 22nd meeting, Homer-Miller incorrectly stated that our Farmers CD was a 6-month CD when it was a 12-month CD. Our 12-month CD has been converted to a 6-month CD.
4. Homer-Miller registered for the 2024 Local Government Officials Conference in late March. The conference cost $250. Lodging will cost approximately $200. Additional expenses will include mileage and meals that are not provided by the conference. She will drive from the conference in Columbus to our council meeting on the 28th.

Karpinski asked about hosting a shred event again this year. Homer-Miller asked council what month(s) they would like to consider. She will contact the Lorain County Solid Waste District for available dates in September and will report back to council.

***Old 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 --- This was postponed at the February 22nd meeting. --- This was the first reading.

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 second 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 second reading.

***New Business:***

**Ordinance 2024-2535** --- AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE 2024-2530 ADOPTING A DRUG-FREE WORKPLACE POLICY FOR EMPLOYEES OF THE VILLAGE OF LAGRANGE AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY --- **Karpinski moved to suspend the rules, which was seconded by Gregory**; 6 yeas; motion passed.  **Karpinski moved to adopt the ordinance and declare an emergency, which was seconded by Gregory**; 6 yeas; motion passed.

**Ordinance 2024-2536 ---** AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FROM THE HOUSING COUNCIL MEETING BASED UPON THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE HOUSING COUNCIL MEMBERS AND DECLARING THIS ACT 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 was seconded by Honer**; 6 yeas; motion passed.

***Miscellaneous Business:***

Kincannon will speak with Marie Strauss about being the alternate member of the Tax Review Board.

***Committee Reports*:**

1. Park Board – Kincannon reported that the methodist church and the hot stove group will run the concession stand. After rates were increased, tournaments were booked elsewhere. The only tournament scheduled this year will occur in June. Karpinski stated that Chief Laubenthal recommended the park be closed to vehicles on April 8th for the eclipse and reopened at 4:30 p.m. It will be open to foot traffic only. The chief indicated that the Lions Club will close access to their park. Hot stove has 22 teams.
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 23 and March 14, 2024, totaling $196,189.35 per the payment listing provided. **Gregory moved to accept, which was seconded by Karpinski**; 6 yeas; motion passed.

Smith will not be able to attend the Health Department meeting on the 28th due to our council meeting.

Smith shared the library’s annual report with the mayor and council members.

There being no further business, **Smith moved to adjourn, which was seconded by Gregory**; 6 yeas; motion passed. Adjourned at 8:32 p.m.

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

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