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.

**Smith moved to approve the minutes of the November 21, 2024, Committee of the Whole meeting as written, which was seconded by Karpinski;** 6 yeas; motion passed.

**Gregory moved to approve the minutes of the November 21, 2024, Council meeting as written, which was seconded by Karpinski;** 6 yeas; motion passed.

***Public Participation:***

Mike Conrad of KATS thanked the village for the donation of dirt to the Keystone Local School District for use on the new ball fields. The partnership between KATS, the village, and the school district has been great. He also complimented Gates and our staff. The project is progressing at a nice pace.

***Mayor’s Report:***

Mayor Kincannon shared the following:

1. Kincannon shared with Flynn the employee safety information we recently received from the Ohio Municipal League (OML).
2. The chief has been unable to use all of his vacation time due to staffing challenges. Kincannon approved the carryover of Laubenthal’s unused vacation time.
3. KEY is offering mental health training including suicide prevention.
4. The new Chronicle reporter recently reported on the statue, bicentennial, sesquicentennial, and Christmas in the Village. A local television reporter will do something on the statue, bicentennial, and sesquicentennial.
5. A Christmas lunch will be provided for the village employees on December 24th at 11:00 a.m. Village offices will be closed the afternoon of the 24th.
6. For the month of November 25 tickets went through the Violations’ Bureau with $2,925 coming to the Village.

***Police Chief’s Report:***

Chief Laubenthal thanked the mayor for approving the carryover of his unused vacation time. Laubenthal asked council if they had any questions about the personnel rate increases for the police department; they did not. The 2.5% cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) will be effective January 1, 2025. Additional increases will be merit based. Step changes will be determined via employee evaluations.

***Solicitor’s Report:***

Solicitor Breunig is working with the chief on various items. He supports the carryover of the chief’s vacation time as he has been impressed with the chief as well as with the administrator and fiscal officer.

Kincannon asked Breunig when emergency ordinances and resolutions would take effect because we received conflicting information from Todd Brandenburg of the Great Lakes Community Action Partnership (GLCAP). Breunig stated that there are some exceptions where emergency ordinances and/or resolutions do not take effect immediately. Typically, emergency ordinances / resolutions take effect immediately.

Sometimes grant applications come with application fees. Homer-Miller asked Breunig if we can pay a water grant application fee with general funds. Breunig confirmed that general funds can be transferred to the water fund for such purposes if approved by council. Gates received a $20,000 estimate from Leak Seekers to help us find water loss; there is no guarantee that they will find anything.

***Village Administrator’s Report:***

Village Administrator Gates reported on the following:

1. Gates asked if council wanted to pay the employee comp hours as has been done in the past. We have 85.25 hours of comp time to pay off. **Karpinski moved to pay 85.25 hours of employee comp time, which was seconded by Price**; 6 yeas; motion passed.
2. Both motors burnt up at the Manassas lift station due to an electrical issue. Our electrical engineer, First Energy, and Hackworth Pumps identified the problem with the single-phase service, and we are upgrading the service to 3-phase. Eight motors have been replaced in 5 years. We have been on bypass for 3 weeks. We are not sure why the engineers did not require 3-phase originally.
3. Pump 2 at the US Grant and Granger lift station was replaced. It was an original pump.
4. The LaGrange Fire Department is hosting an active shooter and mass casualty incident training on January 6th and 20th at 6:30 p.m. in the fire station on Public Square. They asked for all elected officials and village employees to attend.

Honer asked about the maintenance building and if they can tour it again. Gates said to stop by preferably during the day to check out the work that has been done.

Price asked if Beran signed the performance agreement. Beran’s attorney is reviewing it.

Price also asked about the status of the apartments on US Grant. They have not passed sanitary testing yet. So far, 4 apartments have been rented.

***Fiscal Officer’s Report:***

Fiscal Officer Homer-Miller reported on the following:

1. On November 20th we received a response from the IRS to a May 2021 letter sent to them by the prior fiscal officer concerning tax period ending September 30, 2020. It isn’t easy working through discrepancies with the IRS. However, Homer-Miller will continue trying. On November 29th, she sent them a follow-up letter.
2. A copy of a letter we received from Columbia Gas of Ohio concerning their investment in infrastructure replacement programs was provided to the mayor and council members.
3. Unfortunately, Homer-Miller was unable to complete the amended appropriations for 2024 or the 2025 temporary appropriations in time for this meeting. Both will be presented at the December 26th meeting as they are due on the 31st.

***Old Business:***

**Ordinance 2024 – 2555** --- AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE NO. 2023-2524 ESTABLISHING SALARY RANGES FOR MEMBERS OF THE VILLAGE OF LAGRANGE POLICE DEPARTMENT AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY --- This was the second reading.

***New Business:***

**Ordinance 2024 – 2556** --- AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING AN INCREASE IN COMPENSATION FOR THE VILLAGE ADMINISTRATOR AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY --- This was the first reading.

Ordinance 2024 – 2557 --- AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING AN INCREASE IN COMPENSATION FOR THE VILLAGE FISCAL OFFICER AND AMENDING ORDINANCE NO. 2023-2517 AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY --- This was the first reading.

Ordinance 2024 – 2558 --- AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING THE POSITIONS AND THE PAY RANGES FOR THE POSITIONS OF EMPLOYMENT FOR THE VILLAGE OF LAGRANGE, REPEALING ORDINANCES 2021-2452, 2022-2478, AND 2023-2518 AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY --- This was the first reading.

***Miscellaneous Business:***

Smith mentioned the following:

1. Kudos were extended to Gates and Laubenthal about the Christmas in the Village event.
2. Although the December 7th Wreaths Across America event was not well attended, it was a nice ceremony.
3. Brenda Hammond will assist with the heroes banners. Banners may cost $120-$125. The hardware may cost $106. Someone may make a donation to cover the cost of the hardware.

***Committee Reports*:**

**Park Board** – Kincannon reported the following:

1. They are working on events for Memorial Day weekend.
2. The concession stand walkway is complete.
3. The pavilion repairs are completed.

**Planning Commission** – Price reported the following about last week’s meeting:

1. The new owner of the Calvin Smith property asked about using the property as an event venue. He wanted preliminary approval without a plan. Information was provided, but approval could not be provided.
2. The potential buyer of 105 Public Square (Cawley’s and barbershop) also wants the lot behind it for parking and may be interested in Virgil’s building too. Additional information is needed including plans before a decision can be made by the Planning Commission.

**LaGrange Community Improvement Corp**. – Flynn reported that there was no meeting, and therefore, was no report.

***Presentation of Bills:***

The Fiscal Officer presented the list of warrants and electronic payments issued between November 22 and December 12, 2024, totaling $446,247.62 per the payment listing provided. **Gregory moved to accept, which was seconded by Price**; 6 yeas; motion passed.

There being no further business, **Smith moved to adjourn, which was seconded by Karpinski**; 6 yeas; motion passed. The meeting adjourned at 8:18 p.m.

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

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