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.

**Gregory moved to approve the minutes of the December 26, 2024, Council meeting as written, which was seconded by Smith.** Discussion followed. Ordinance 2024-2561 should reflect option 2, not 1. **Honer moved to approve the minutes of the December 26, 2024, Council meeting as amended, which was seconded by Karpinski;** 4 yeas; 1 abstention (Price); motion passed.

***Public Participation:***

Brandon Bulcroft of 828 Robinson has been a resident of the Village for 5 years. He recently was visited by a police officer following noise complaints from his neighbor of 6 months. The noise was related to playing holiday music and watching a movie. Mayor Kincannon and Chief Laubenthal indicated that this is not the proper forum. Laubenthal will communicate the position of the police department with both parties. Since Bulcroft was present, Laubenthal shared information with him.

Chris Durken from Ohio Means Jobs has been communicating with Administrator Gates. Gates invited him to visit our facility. Ohio Means Jobs is comprised of multiple agencies to help people. They would like to host a job fair(s) at our facility. Durkin will follow up with Gates.

***Mayor’s Report:***

Mayor Kincannon shared the following:

1. Following the recent KEY meeting, 2 pickleball courts have been set up in the gym. Pickleball can be played on Tuesdays from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.
2. A police officer is currently on medical leave.
3. We are interviewing candidates for a full-time position primarily to cover the night shift.
4. The claim filed with the Ohio Civil Rights Commission has been closed.
5. Kincannon attended mayor’s court training earlier today. He plans to restart mayor’s court in February. He will follow up with Court Clerk Ruhl and Chief Laubenthal.
6. For the month of December 45 tickets went through the Violations’ Bureau with $5,109 coming to the Village.

***Police Chief’s Report:***

Chief Laubenthal received an anonymous voicemail message asking why the police department does NOT enforce stop sign violators on the square. We do, have been, and will continue to do so.

***Solicitor’s Report:***

Solicitor Breunig reported that the Ohio Municipal League (OML) and the Municipal Attorneys Association shared information about AT&T filing for a tariff with the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio (PUCO) about the relocation of utilities in municipal right of ways. The OML is challenging it; they hired outside council. It will not cost us anything to challenge it too. Time-sensitive legislation will be presented under new business concerning this.

Smith asked Breunig if he has had any experience with strategic planning. He has not.

***Village Administrator’s Report:***

Village Administrator Gates provided her report during the Committee of the Whole meeting. Karpinski indicated that she has council’s consensus for 400 hours of overtime for her staff.

***Fiscal Officer’s Report:***

Fiscal Officer Homer-Miller reported on the following:

1. 2025 has been set up in the accounting and payroll systems. That includes purchase orders (PO) 1-33 totaling $2,085,881.10 and blanket certificates (BC) 1-32 totaling $846,850.00 for a combined total of $2,932,731.10. That is significantly below the temporary appropriations approved at the last meeting ($6,091,725.00). As previously mentioned, she would like to limit our 2025 expenditures to allow our fund balances to recover after some large expenses the past 2 years. It is not unusual to create additional POs and BCs during the year. However, these batches represent the majority that we will need for the year. This is informational only and does not require a motion, resolution, or ordinance.
2. The 2024 year-end close process will begin as soon as possible.
3. Homer-Miller suggested we use our 2025 $1,000 Public Entities Pool safety grant to purchase another AED for placement at the wastewater treatment plant, maintenance garage, and/or a portable AED for the police department. Council was OK with that. The units previously purchased cost less than $2,000.

**Gregory moved to reappoint Karpinski as council president, which was seconded by Honer**; 4 yeas; 1 abstention; motion passed.

1. In addition to providing the elected officials with payment listings and fund reports monthly, in 2025 she will provide them with copies of the monthly bank reconciliations. Decembers was included today.
2. The Ohio Municipal League’s (OML) 2025 meeting and event dates were shared. Homer-Miller contacted the OML for information about July’s municipal income tax conference as it may be beneficial for her to attend – especially because our income tax rate structure should be reviewed.
3. Compliance Officer Kim Ruhl provided the quarterly credit card compliance report. Once again, no issues were noted.
4. The utility billings issued at the beginning of the month included “water rates will increase in 2025.” A letter containing additional information will be included with the final quarterly EPA letters that are scheduled to be mailed in late January. Homer-Miller asked if any additional information would be provided before then (i.e., on our website and/or Facebook page). The pricing structure will be added to the website.

Karpinski suggested that the water bill associated with the wastewater treatment plant be billed at the bulk rate we receive from Rural Lorain County Water Authority. This was discussed during this evening’s Committee of the Whole meeting.

***Old Business:***

Kincannon asked for a motion to purchase 40 water meters. **Karpinski moved to purchase 40 water meters at a cost not to exceed $16,000, via funding from the general fund, which was seconded by Price**; 5 yeas; motion passed.

***New Business:***

**Ordinance 2025 – 2563** --- AN ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR A WATER USE SURCHARGE NOT TO EXCEED TEN PERCENT UPON RESIDENTIAL PROPERTY LOCATED OUTSIDE THE GEOGRAPHIC AREA OF THE VILLAGE OF LAGRANGE AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY --- **Karpinski moved to suspend the rules, which was seconded by Gregory**; 5 yeas; motion passed. Honer stated that the verbiage on the agenda varied from that listed on the ordinance. **Karpinski moved to amend the ordinance to reflect the verbiage on the ordinance, which was seconded by Price**; 5 yeas; motion passed. **Karpinski moved to adopt, and declare an emergency, which was seconded by Price**; 5 yeas; motion passed.

**Ordinance 2025 – 2564** --- AN ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR REMEDIES FOR THE VILLAGE OF LAGRANGE AGAINST PROPERTY OWNERS WHO FAIL TO PERMIT REASONABLE ACCESS TO WATER METERS, AMENDING CODIFIED ORDINANCE SECTION 921.11, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY --- **Karpinski moved to suspend the rules, which was seconded by Price**; 5 yeas; motion passed. **Karpinski moved to adopt, and declare an emergency, which was seconded by Smith**; 5 yeas; motion passed.

**Ordinance 2025 – 2565** --- AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTION 951.02 OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF THE VILLAGE OF LAGRANGE AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY --- This concerns trash rates. **Karpinski moved to suspend the rules, which was seconded by Smith**; 5 yeas; motion passed. **Karpinski moved to adopt, and declare an emergency, which was seconded by Gregory**; 5 yeas; motion passed.

**Ordinance 2025 – 2566** --- AN ORDINANCE SUPPORTING THE OHIO MUNICIPAL LEAGUE’S CHALLENGE OF AT&T’s TARIFF APPLICATION AT THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF OHIO AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY --- **Karpinski moved to suspend the rules, which was seconded by Honer**; 5 yeas; motion passed. **Karpinski moved to adopt, and declare an emergency, which was seconded by Smith**; 5 yeas; motion passed.

Resolution 2025 – 1023 --- A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE VILLAGE FISCAL OFFICER TO MAKE A CERTAIN INTER-FUND TRANSFER AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY --- Karpinski moved to suspend the rules, which was seconded by Price; 5 yeas; motion passed. Karpinski moved to adopt, and declare an emergency, which was seconded by Smith; 5 yeas; motion passed.

***Miscellaneous Business:***

N/A

***Committee Reports*:**

**Park Board** – Kincannon asked for input on Price’s previous suggestion to turn the LaGrange Community Park over to the Lorain County Metroparks. Kincannon stated that a Lagrange Township trustee supports doing so. There is disfunction among the current park board members. Residents already pay into the Metroparks. Smith asked if there would be any restriction on it remaining as a community park; Breunig will look into this. Council would like organized activities such as football, hot stove, and soccer to continue.

**Planning Commission** – Kincannon reported the following***:***

1. Jason Scott and his representatives from the apartment complex were unable to attend in person. Scott called in. There is a list of items that need to be addressed (i.e., finish gas lines, pass sanitary inspection, complete parking lot, fix curb, pass final building inspections, pass as-build specifications, install sidewalks, record Dollar General easement with the county, etc.), along with payment to the Village of an unpaid bill. Scott reluctantly agreed to pay a $100 daily fine beginning June 1, 2025, if the work is not completed by May 31, 2025. Otherwise, the bond will be accessed.
2. West Roofing came for final approval of their building plans. Unfortunately, the engineer did not review their plans in time for the meeting. Therefore, the Planning Commission could not act on their request. A special Planning Commission meeting will be held on Thursday, January 16th, at 7:00 p.m. Kincannon emailed our Kleinfelder representative about her poor performance at the meeting. It was an embarrassment for the Village. She replied with an apology. We will not incur charges from Kleinfelder for this.

**LaGrange Community Improvement Corp**. – Flynn was not in attendance.

***Presentation of Bills:***

The Fiscal Officer presented the list of warrants and electronic payments issued between December 27, 2024, and January 9, 2025, totaling $260,361.39 per the payment listing provided. **Gregory moved to accept, which was seconded by Smith**; 5 yeas; motion passed.

There being no further business, **Smith moved to adjourn, which was seconded by Karpinski**; 5 yeas; motion passed. The meeting adjourned at 8:22 p.m.

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

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