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.

**Karpinski moved to approve the minutes of the January 23, 2025, Council meeting as written, which was seconded by Gregory;** 6 yeas; motion passed.

***Public Participation:***

Klaus Arsenijevic of 316 Forest Street asked about the water letters he has received. The Village does not treat water. Water is received from Rural Lorain County Water Authority (RLCWA). Last year a test was taken by the Village before the water entered our system. That test turned out to be bad. Because the Village took the sample, we were required to follow the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (OEPA) procedures, which includes sending quarterly notifications. The rolling average still includes 1 bad test result. However, we have been way below OEPA acceptable levels. The consumer confidence reports are on the Village website; they are posted annually.

Trustee Canfield provided an update on the Founding Celebration (bicentennial / sesquicentennial). A brief discussion was had on the Village acting as the fiscal agent for the celebration. There was no objection to that. Cleveland Quarries may make paperweights out of the statue’s granite base stone. The “2025 LaGrange Founding Celebration” Facebook page has been created. Canfield also asked the Village to consider installing a flashing stop sign on the north side of the traffic circle; Kincannon will discuss this with Chief Laubenthal.

***Mayor’s Report:***

Mayor Kincannon shared the following:

1. The annual community reinvestment area (CRA) meeting will be held on March 4th.
2. A tab has been added to the Village website for Keystone Empowers You (KEY).
3. The committee continues to make plans for the bicentennial / sesquicentennial celebration Memorial Day weekend.
4. Another vehicle recently drove through the traffic circle.
5. For the month of January $6,309 came to the Village through the Violations’ Bureau.
6. Kincannon and Smith are scheduled to meet with Keystone’s superintendent on the 14th.
7. The annual Lorain County Public Health District Advisory Council (LCPH DAC) meeting will be held on the same evening as a council meeting (March 27th). Gates has attended on behalf of the Village in the past and will attend again this year. After the 6:00 p.m. LCPH DAC meeting, she will return for our council meeting.

***Police Chief’s Report:***

Chief Laubenthal reported on the following:

1. Another vehicle drove through the traffic circle last Saturday. Weather was not a factor. Once again, no one called the police when it happened.
2. Two speed limit signs on South Center Street need to be updated.
3. The Lorain County Sheriff’s Office suspended the SWAT fee.
4. Junk vehicles on private properties can be addressed by the police department. A list was compiled by the police department and shared with the mayor and council members along with the 5 criteria that have to be met.

Karpinski asked about the flock cameras that Sheriff Hall mentioned when running for office. Laubenthal will follow up with Hall.

***Solicitor’s Report:***

Solicitor Breunig did not have a report.

***Village Administrator’s Report:***

Village Administrator Gates reported on the following:

1. Gates and Kincannon attended the preconstruction meeting for the Kelner Ditch project. They will start marking the easement areas this week and are hoping to have most of the trees cut down by the end of March. The projected completion date is May 2026.
2. Two employees resigned from the maintenance department. John Newman has been hired to replace one of the positions.
3. A wastewater operator has given their 2-week notice; we will be posting for their position.
4. Upon the suggestion of our solicitor, Gates contacted Mark Adams from Lorain County Public Health regarding the property on Railroad Street with the bus and trash. Adams visited the site. He found that we could do something about the trash but found no violation with the bus since the weeds are not higher than it, and there is no trash or animal infestation in or around the bus.
5. Wiring Unlimited is installing the generator at the Manassas lift station.

***Fiscal Officer’s Report:***

Fiscal Officer Homer-Miller reported on the following:

1. 2024’s year-end close is underway. It is going slower than she would like. After closing 2024, she will reconcile January 2025.
2. Information was shared with the mayor and council members about the Ohio Municipal League’s 2025 Lobbying Day on Wednesday, March 19th.
3. Before the end of the month, another transfer will be made from an investment account to our checking account mainly to cover a large upcoming payment that is due.

***Old Business:***

Flynn asked what street we would be working on this year. Loperwood and Church are our next Ohio Public Works Commission (OPWC) projects. However, patching is needed throughout the Village.

***New Business:***

N/A

***Miscellaneous Business:***

N/A

***Committee Reports*:**

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

1. Tom Monroe and Deb Zarbaugh resigned.
2. Michelle Simmerman became a member.
3. An audit is needed before a treasurer and/or secretary are appointed.
4. There has been 1 weekend of skating so far this winter.

**Planning Commission** – No meeting; no report.

**LaGrange Community Improvement Corp**. – No meeting; no report.

***Presentation of Bills:***

The Fiscal Officer presented the list of warrants and electronic payments issued between January 24 and February 13, 2025, totaling $275,129.58. **Karpinski moved to accept, which was seconded by Gregory**; 6 yeas; motion passed.

There being no further business, **Smith moved to adjourn, which was seconded by Gregory**; 6 yeas; motion passed. The meeting adjourned at 8:27 p.m.

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

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