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.

**Karpinski moved to approve the minutes of the February 27, 2025, Council meeting as written, which was seconded by Gregory;** 6 yeas; motion passed.

***Public Participation:***

N/A

***Mayor’s Report:***

Mayor Kincannon shared the following:

1. Counters have been added to the website to count visitors to the website and/or various pages.
2. The proposed memorandum of understanding (MOU) with the school district is in the hands of the attorneys. Council was asked to email any related suggestions to Kincannon.
3. Additional research on water rates revealed that since 2019 Rural Lorain County Water Authority increased their rates by 15% while the Village only raised our rates by 2%.
4. Kincannon and Gates met with Julie from the Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) at the traffic circle. She stated that 1 flashing stop sign was OK. Kincannon prefers 2. The flashing stop sign used by ODOT costs $1,344 ($2,688 for 2). **Smith moved to spend up to $3,000 on 2 flashing stop signs for the traffic circle, which was seconded by Flynn**; 6 yeas; motion passed. Honer would like to see additional signage on the traffic circle concerning pedestrian safety. We have a state bid book from which to review options.
5. For the month of February 43 tickets went through the Violations’ Bureau with $4,854 coming to the Village.

***Police Chief’s Report:***

Chief Laubenthal was not in attendance.

***Solicitor’s Report:***

Solicitor Breunig reported on the following:

1. Breunig is monitoring pending legislation that could place limits on annexations.
2. Due to a conflict of interest, it was necessary to split the Community Reinvestment Area (CRA) ordinance into 2 ordinances. **Karpinski moved to accept Jon Clark as acting counsel on ordinance 2025-2568, which was seconded by Gregory**; 6 yeas; motion passed.

Honer asked about the legal matter concerning Tipple. No action has been taken yet.

***Village Administrator’s Report:***

Village Administrator Gates reported on the following:

1. The Housing Council for the CRA met on Tuesday, March 4th, and voted to continue the tax abatements for Pinto/Slade, The Child Garden, and Trimline.
2. A separated storm main was repaired on Parklane.
3. Garza Construction started at the wastewater treatment plant and has removed trees on the Kelner Ditch north to Biggs Road and east to IGA.
4. Fire Chief Mike Hornby wanted to let council know that the second class for the mass casualty/active shooter will be at the public square fire station on Monday, March 17th, at 6:30 p.m. Everyone is welcome to attend.
5. Kushner, Grasse, Gates met with Laurel Ljubi from the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (OEPA) on Friday, February 28th. The OEPA requires that our elevated tank be inspected every 3-5 years. It has been 5 years since it was inspected and painted. The cost for the inspection is $5,200. Gates will share the results of this meeting with council after we receive them.
6. We applied for the Water Supply Revolving Loan Account (WSRLA) 0% down, low interest loan for meter replacement.
7. The potholes on most streets have been cold patched. We met with Chris from Plas Paving who quoted $12,500 to repave 236 feet on Union Street between Pleasant and South Center Streets if done at the same time as the school does Liberty Street. This will not solve the problem with the infrastructure, but it should last 3-5 years.
8. The sanitary for the U S Grant Street apartments has passed.

Smith asked about the changes already made to the Keystone MOU. Kincannon responded that only minor changes have been made thus far. Smith also asked about the timeframe for the Liberty Street project, which would be after the school year is over (i.e., no bus traffic). Gates asked that the MOU include ongoing maintenance of the softball gym by Keystone – not just the access road. Kincannon will follow up on that.

Honer said that the water / sewer employees did a good job presenting about water meters. He would like to see financial numbers for the meters, which Gates will get. The numbers will change depending on the vendor selected, lease verses purchase, etc. Additionally, meter pricing may increase as a result of recent tariff changes.

Smith asked about the U S Grant apartments. Gates indicated that the infrastructure is good.

Price asked if Beran had signed the agreement yet. Gates indicated that Beran’s attorney is still reviewing it. Beran recently purchased the Tipple property. It will be known as Summer Stone.

Flynn asked about additional homes (332) in Pheasant Run and the impact on our wastewater treatment plant. It was factored into the wastewater treatment plant capacity. The anticipated new homes in Pheasant Run and the Village will get us to capacity. Growing more than that would require expansion and 24/7/365 plant coverage.

***Fiscal Officer’s Report:***

Fiscal Officer Homer-Miller reported on the following:

1. Another large transfer was made from our STAR Plus investment account to our checking account to cover the payment to Smith Paving for work done on Railroad Street. Funds transferred from an investment account to the checking account are not anticipated to be replenished. That coincides with the 2024 financial data shared with council at the last meeting. It is necessary to keep funds in reserve for emergencies.
2. The 2024 financials for the LaGrange Community Improvement Corp. have been submitted to the Auditor of State.
3. Late this afternoon Homer-Miller worked on the permanent appropriations for 2025. Preliminary results are that our permanent appropriations will increase by almost $500,000. An ordinance for the permanent appropriations will be part of the next meeting as they are due to the county on or before April 1st.

***Old Business:***

**Resolution 2025-1025** --- A RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF STATE ISSUE 2, RENEWAL OF THE STATE CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM, ON THE MAY 6, 2025, STATEWIDE BALLOT --- This was the second reading.

***New Business:***

**Ordinance 2025-2567** --- 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 and declare an emergency, which was seconded by Gregory**; 6 yeas; motion passed.

**Ordinance 2025-2568** --- 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 and declare an emergency, which was seconded by Price**; 6 yeas; motion passed.

***Miscellaneous Business:***

N/A

***Committee Reports*:**

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

1. Secretary / Clerk / Treasurer Emma Morris will earn $75 per meeting.
2. There was a clean up at the park last Saturday which included painting of the restrooms and concession stand.
3. They are looking to change the bylaws.
4. They are working on a car show and 5K for the Founding Celebration, which will be held Memorial Day weekend.
5. An audit will start in the next few weeks.

**Planning Commission** – Price reported there was no meeting and, therefore, is no report.

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

***Presentation of Bills:***

The Fiscal Officer presented the list of warrants and electronic payments issued between February 28 and March 13, 2025, totaling $526,974.26 per the payment listing provided. **Karpinski moved to accept, which was seconded by Honer**; 6 yeas; motion passed.

Honer asked if any action was needed concerning the senior center. Kincannon will contact the trustees. Honer stated that the church has a Silver Sneakers program and wondered if they can coordinate with Neighborhood Alliance.

Flynn asked about the bid opening for Loperwood. It will be on the 27th.

Smith stated that we have received 20 applications thus far for hero banners. She thanked the Village employees who have helped.

There being no further business, **Smith moved to adjourn, which was seconded by Flynn**; 6 yeas; motion passed. The meeting adjourned at 8:21 p.m.

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

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