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 March 13, 2025, Committee of the Whole meeting as written, which was seconded by Gregory;** 6 yeas; motion passed.

**Karpinski moved to approve the minutes of the March 13, 2025, Regular Council meeting as written, which was seconded by Smith;** 6 yeas; motion passed.

**Karpinski moved to approve the minutes of the March 20, 2025, Special Council meeting as written, which was seconded by Smith;** 6 yeas; motion passed.

***Public Participation:***

N/A

***Mayor’s Report:***

Mayor Kincannon shared the following:

1. Kincannon will attend the community block grant meeting on April 7th.
2. Effective July 1st, the gym fee will increase from $25 per hour to $50 per hour. The increase is related to increased utility rates. The reason for the July 1st effective date is due to rentals already scheduled through June 2025.
3. Solicitor Breunig provided / will provide Keystone’s attorney with the updated memorandum of understanding.
4. Chipping and brush pickup will start on Tuesday, April 8th.
5. Kincannon attended last week’s LaGrange Township trustee meeting. They will support senior center activities once a month at a cost of $550 through Neighborhood Alliance; the Village will do the same. The township passed a motion to pay $35,000 to the park board; the Village will do so soon.
6. Within 2 years municipality websites need to be compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Fiscal Officer Homer-Miller requested updated quotes from iPanda designs and Iler Networking. Kincannon will talk with another company about it too.
7. The Ohio Rail Commission paused our railroad crossing due to recent federal challenges.

***Police Chief’s Report:***

Chief Laubenthal reported on the following:

1. Blue “P” signs were posted on North Center Street and East Main Street directing folks to the police department. Laubenthal thanked the Village maintenance department for installing them.
2. Laubenthal reported on the following statistics for the period of February 27th through March 26th:
   1. There were 131 non-criminal requests for assistance.
   2. There were 19 criminal complaints / investigations - 0 felonies; 1 misdemeanor; 0 juvenile charges. They included 1 noise complaint, 2 animal complaints, 1 domestic disturbance, 3 fraud (1 pending) 1 telecom harassment, 1 sexual assault (no cause) 1 peddler without a permit, 1 theft, and 1 unwanted person.
   3. There were 189 traffic-related incidents including 0 crash investigations, 48 subjects charged with license, operating, and equipment charges, and 134 subjects who received warnings.
   4. Parking violations were issued to 1 subject; warnings were issued to 2 subjects.

***Solicitor’s Report:***

Solicitor Breunig did not have a report.

***Village Administrator’s Report:***

Village Administrator Gates reported on the following:

1. First quarter overtime hours were provided to council.
2. Below is a summary of the bid opening for Loperwood Lane:

Xtreme Elements $527,910.00

PMC Concrete $491,806.00

Set In Stone Contracting $489,642.00

RMH Concrete & Foundations $487,638.01

Denes Concrete $487,418.50

Fabrizi Trucking & Paving $466,899.00

Tri-Mor Corporation $464,793.00

After reviewing all bids, the engineer will provide a recommendation for the next council meeting. The engineer’s estimate was $564,000 ($161,000 grant, $161,000 loan, and $224,000 from us).

1. We must replace the 3 control panels and service the boilers that heat the back part of our building and the gym that the school uses. The cost of each panel is $1,850; service and installation are additional.
2. Council received an email copy of the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency’s (OEPA) report and recommendations from their visit on February 28, 2025.
3. Council was provided with an updated copy of the water loss report. It is 41.78% for January and February 2025.
4. The first quarter’s disinfection-byproducts test came back within range. This should bring us in compliance with the annual running average for haloacetic acids.
5. Per EPA requirements, the Consumer Confidence Report (CCR) for 2024 and backflow prevention and cross contamination information are posted on the Village website. A link to them will be on the next water bill.

Prior to this meeting, Gates attended the Lorain County Health Department’s District Advisory Council meeting. Director Adams stated that recent federal budget cuts should not have much impact on health department grants. Foster parents are needed.

Goldsmith and Grasse were in attendance to answer water-meter related questions. Karpinski spoke with the staff after last week’s meeting. He asked them to share cost data with the group. Based on currently available data (could change as result of a bid and/or tariffs), Goldsmith indicated that the Neptune model with 1 gateway would cost $391, the Neptune model with 2 gateways would cost $394, and the Metron model would cost $395. It is possible that we will receive better prices through the bid process. We need to define our specifications to go to bid. We should see if Neptune and Metron meters are on the state bidding program. The Ohio Water Authority will not offer us a loan due to the current status of our water fund. We need to find out if the loan we applied for (Water Supply Revolving Loan Account through the OEPA) can be for a partial project (e.g., 600 water meters) instead of for the entire village (1,100 water meters). The Water Supply Revolving Loan Account loan option does not require any money down, would have a 2.51% interest rate, and would involve payments twice a year. Homer-Miller preferred a no money down loan due to the current state of our water fund and lack of excess funds on hand. The utility staff continue updating our billing program with meter installation dates. Many meters are more than 20 years old. We need to determine when to start billing customers for water meter replacements. More importantly, we need to define the bid specifications soon. It takes time to prepare a bid specification document. Water meters will be a discussion item of April’s Committee of the Whole meeting.

***Fiscal Officer’s Report:***

Fiscal Officer Homer-Miller reported on the following:

1. Homer-Miller spoke with the Regional Income Tax Agency (RITA) about reviewing our income tax structure. Our current tax rate is 1.5% with a 100% tax credit to residents who work in another RITA community. We have 2 options to increase income tax revenue to cover increased costs (e.g., utilities, supplies, personnel, etc.). The first option is to increase the income tax rate, which would require a ballot initiative. The second option is to adjust the credit provided to residents who work in another RITA community; that does not involve a ballot initiative. RITA will compile some data for us to review.
2. There is an ordinance under new business for the 2025 permanent appropriations. They are higher than the 2025 temporary appropriations – mainly due to street projects.
3. Because our website has to be ADA compliant (see mayor’s report) within 2 years, updated quotes have been requested from the 2 vendors Homer-Miller contacted last year. Additional information will be provided at a future meeting.

***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 third reading. **Karpinski moved to adopt, which was seconded by Gregory**; 6 yeas; motion passed.

***New Business:***

**Ordinance 2025-2569** --- AN ORDINANCE FOR THE PERMANENT APPROPRIATIONS FOR CURRENT EXPENSES AND OTHER EXPENDITURES OF THE VILLAGE OF LAGRANGE DURING THE FISCAL YEAR

ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2025, AND DECLARING 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 Smith**; 6 yeas; motion passed.

***Miscellaneous Business:***

Smith informed the group that 48 hero banners have been sold thus far. The deadline is April 4th for accepting applications. She was appreciative of the help provided by Village employees. Kincannon asked about Windstream poles. Smith had not contacted Windstream; Kincannon will contact Windstream. Gate reiterated that she cannot assist with marking the Ohio Edison poles for this project. She provided the particulars to Smith and Hammond. Spacing requirements must be met (i.e., distance from top, distance from bottom, length of banner, etc.). The banners are expected to be on display between Memorial Day and Veterans’ Day and should last 2-3 years.

Honer asked about the EPA audit letter. Gates responded that no new violations were revealed. However, we are working to complete previously identified issues. The tower inspection will occur soon. We will be compliant by the end of the year.

***Committee Reports*:**

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

1. Plans for Memorial Day weekend include a car show and a 5K run.
2. They would like to purchase a field lining machine, which costs $16,000-$17,000. Fundraisers are being considered to pay for it. Keystone is interested in partnering with them. Currently, someone is paid to line the soccer fields while hot stove handles lining the ball fields. New board member Michele Simmerman was present and stated that they want to investigate other field lining machines.

Flynn asked if the Metro Parks had been contacted yet. Kincannon responded that Trustee Kuhl is handling this.

Karpinski asked about our $35,000 payment, which will be processed soon. It is included in our 2025 appropriations.

Honer asked about the rear parking lot. Simmerman stated that she recently received a 5-year plan but has not reviewed it yet. She is looking for grants.

Smith asked about sponsor banners for along the field fences. This is the second year for sponsor banners. The banners that already were sold should be put up in April.

**Planning Commission** – Price stated that the next meeting will be on April 3rd with Summer Stone (former Tipple property).

**LaGrange Community Improvement Corp**. – Flynn stated that the next meeting will be on April 24th with the 3 area businesses invited to attend to discuss possible changes to the bylaws and/or restrictions and covenants.

***Presentation of Bills:***

The Fiscal Officer presented the list of warrants and electronic payments issued between March 14 and 27, 2025, totaling $122,342.18 per the payment listing provided. **Gregory moved to accept, which was seconded by Karpinski**; 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 8:44 p.m.

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

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