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, and Honer present.

**Price moved to approve the minutes of the May 8, 2025, Committee of the Whole meeting as written, which was seconded by Karpinski;** 4 yeas; motion passed.

**Gregory moved to approve the minutes of the May 8, 2025, Council meeting as written, which was seconded by Karpinski;** 4 yeas; motion passed.

***Public Participation:***

LaGrange Community Park Board Member Michelle Simmerman asked Village Council to make a motion for a formal maintenance schedule, duty list, and pre-shift equipment checklist. Honer asked if the items had been presented to the Township; Simmerman responded that other versions of the items had been presented to the Township. Kincannon, Gates, and Lilly will attend next Tuesday’s park board meeting. Breunig stated that these are administrative requests and that council consideration was unnecessary as administrative items are handled by the mayor and/or administrator.

***Mayor’s Report:***

Mayor Kincannon shared the following:

1. At Wednesday’s mayors’ association meeting, Ohio Edison presented. During the winter of 2026, the Village is scheduled to receive electric smart meters, which will be read off cell towers. Residents will be able to access the data for a fee. Outages will be reported promptly. The presentation lead into a water meter discussion.
2. A group of Ohioans is working on a constitutional amendment that will be voted on in the November 2025 election about the elimination of property taxes. The county commissioners oppose this.
3. We are in the early stages of creating a new website.
4. Our 3-day founding celebration is scheduled for the weekend.

***Police Chief’s Report:***

Chief Laubenthal reported on the following:

1. Laubenthal recently attended a continuing professional training (CPT). It prompted him to ask Homer-Miller if we had been reimbursed for prior trainings attended by the police department. We were unable to locate any payments received in 2023, 2024, or 2025. Homer-Miller contacted the Ohio Attorney General’s (OAG) Office and found that the OAG erroneously reimbursed LaGrange Township $18,327.23 instead of the Village of LaGrange. Homer-Miller emailed the Township about the issue. After the OAG receives the funds back from the Township, they will issue payment to the Village. Going forward, the chief will advise Homer-Miller when he submits reimbursement requests to the state so that she can inform him if we have or have not received the funds.
2. Laubenthal reported on the following statistics for the period of April 24th through May 21st:
   1. There were 95 non-criminal requests for assistance.
   2. There were 20 criminal complaints / investigations - 1 felony; 7 misdemeanors; 3 juvenile charges. They included 1 receiving stolen property, 2 disorderly conduct, 4 littering, 2 fraud, 1 menacing, 4 debris in roadway, 1 resisting arrest, and 1 obstructing official business. The littering involved illegal dumping at Mickie Mart and the LaGrange Community Park; dumpsters at private locations are for private use, not public. The debris in roadway concerned grass clippings, which are a safety issue that can affect motorists and can negatively impact our infrastructure.
   3. There were 153 traffic-related incidents including 2 crash investigations, 34 subjects charged with license, operating, and equipment charges, and 83 subjects who received warnings.
   4. No parking violations were issued; warnings were issued to 6 subjects.

Honer asked about trucks that did not stay on state routes when the state routes recently were closed. Signage put up by an Ohio Department of Transportation vendor was lacking and insufficient. As a result, no citations were made.

***Solicitor’s Report:***

Solicitor Breunig did not have a report.

***Village Administrator’s Report:***

Village Administrator Gates reported on the following:

1. Council was provided with a copy of the year-to-date monthly water loss report (42.83% through April).
2. Council was provided with a copy of a letter from Troop 118 regarding the landscape project in front of the police station. Although this project did not ultimately qualify as an Eagle Scout project as originally intended, the troop remained committed and completed the work as promised and came in just under budget. Council can support their advancement for the Eagle Scout project by offering the opportunity to complete the flower bed project this fall - provided the Scouts in question attain the rank of Life Scout prior to begin the project. This will allow them to potentially use the flower bed as their official Eagle Scout project, aligning with both their goals and the community’s benefit.
3. A maintenance employee resigned; we are advertising for the open position.
4. Fabrizi Trucking and Paving plans to start the Loperwood Lane project next week – weather permitting.

Honer stated that the apartments on U S Grant look unacceptable. Gates responded that the landscaper will be out tomorrow to cut things down.

***Fiscal Officer’s Report:***

Fiscal Officer Homer-Miller reported on the following:

1. Friendship / Beck informed Homer-Miller that they would not be able to remove the taxes from our fuel billings.  As a result, we will not be pursuing a fleet account with Friendship / Beck.
2. It cost the Village $24,149 for the Regional Income Tax Agency (RITA) to collect $1,459,538 for 2024 income tax payments. That is a 1.65% cost of collections.
3. RITA recently announced its partnership with the Ohio Attorney General’s Office for additional post-judgment collections work. For members that participate in RITA’s Legal Program, which we do, the Attorney General’s Office will be another beneficial compliance tool that will be provided at no additional cost. After RITA and its outside collections firm exhaust collection efforts to resolve judgment balances that are owed to participating member-municipalities, RITA will transition those accounts to the Attorney General’s Office. The Attorney General’s Office will then offset those judgment balances with taxpayer federal and state income tax refunds, as well as gambling and lottery winnings, delivering an additional source of revenue collection. This partnership provides RITA with another means to effectively and efficiently collect our municipality’s municipal income tax.
4. Compliance Officer Kim Ruhl provided the quarterly credit card compliance report. No issues were noted. Homer-Miller will provide copies to the mayor and council members at the next meeting as copies were not distributed before this meeting.
5. Ohio’s Office of Budget and Management’s latest communication mentioned unclaimed funds. Homer-Miller identified 2 instances involving the Village of LaGrange and subsequently submitted claims for them. One is listed as $25 to $50 while the other is listed as over $100. While it may not be much money, it is something that potentially can cover a small expense for us.
6. The design of our website is underway. Next Tuesday 3 layout design options will be presented.
7. Homer-Miller would like to increase our petty cash limit from $200 to $300. The main uses of our petty cash funds are to wash police vehicles and to purchase straw from area farmers. It is not unusual for a straw purchase to be near our petty cash limit. **Karpinski moved to increase the petty cash limit to $300, which was seconded by Gregory**; 4 yeas; motion passed.

Kincannon mentioned that grass needs to be planted out back by the retention area and that the field out back needs to be mowed by Keystone. Gates will contact Buddy at Keystone.

***Old Business:***

**Resolution 2025 – 1026** --- A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE VILLAGE FISCAL OFFICER TO EXECUTE A CARD AGREEMENT WITH THE HUNTINGTON NATIONAL BANK --- This was the third reading. **Karpinski moved to adopt, which was seconded by Price**; 4 yeas; motion passed.

**ORDINANCE 2025 – 2573** --- AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTION 123.01 OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF THE VILLAGE OF LAGRANGE --- This was the second reading.

**ORDINANCE 2025 – 2574** --- AN ORDINANCE AMENDING LAGRANGE, OHIO CODIFIED ORDINANCE CHAPTER 1312, REGISTRATION AND LICENSING OF CONTRACTORS, SECTION 1312.03, TIME AND FEE --- This was the second reading.

**ORDINANCE 2025 – 2575** --- AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE LAGRANGE, OHIO ZONING BOOK, ADOPTED UNDER LAGRANGE CODIFIED ORDINANCES PART ELEVEN – PLANNING AND ZONING CODE, TITLE THREE – ZONING ORDINANCE, TO ADD SECTION 1107.04 – ZONING PERMIT PENALTY FEES --- This was the second reading.

***New Business:***

N/A

***Miscellaneous Business:***

After Smith stated in a prior meeting that she received negative responses from Metron’s references, Karpinski asked utility clerk Kim Ruhl to contact Metron’s references. Ruhl received responses from the references. Karpinski will share the results with council; Homer-Miller offered to email the results to the council members. Breunig reminded council that the lowest and best bid will determine the vendor.

Homer-Miller asked if council wanted to discuss potential changes to the municipal income tax. It will be a topic of discussion at the next Committee of the Whole meeting.

***Committee Reports*:**

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

1. The next meeting will be on Tuesday, May 27th.
2. Denny Smith resigned from the park board. The mayor is looking for a replacement.
3. They are working on a car show and 5K for founding day weekend.
4. Keystone softball season is over. Hot stove is in progress; more games are being played in LaGrange than Penfield.

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

**LaGrange Community Improvement Corp**. – Before this evening’s council meeting, the LCIC board was supposed to meet with representatives from Keystone-Pointe, Mercy Health, and SpaceBound. Unfortunately, 2 of the LCIC board members were not in attendance. As a result, a quorum was not present. Additionally, 2 of the business were not in attendance.

***Presentation of Bills:***

The Fiscal Officer presented the list of warrants and electronic payments issued between May 9 and 22, 2025, totaling $96,277.08 per the payment listing provided. **Gregory moved to accept, which was seconded by Karpinski**; 4 yeas; motion passed.

Honer asked about installation of the hero banners. We have not received the proposal from Ion, the company hanging the banners. We cannot sign the necessary paperwork until we receive Ion’s proposal. It is possible that the banners will be installed next weekend.

There being no further business, **Price moved to adjourn, which was seconded by Honer**; 4 yeas; motion passed. The meeting adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

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

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