

Colleagues,

Before we begin today's meeting, I'd like to take just a few minutes to speak from the heart.

In a few short weeks, we'll reach the halfway point of our term as Council. That means we have just over two years still ahead of us.

When I look back, I see a Council that has accomplished a great deal. We were each elected with different experiences, different perspectives, and different ideas. That's one of our strengths.

We've worked through difficult issues, made important decisions, and together we've helped move this community forward.

I'm extremely proud of that, and you should be too.

Over the past few weeks, I've spent a lot of time reflecting.

If there's one thing I know to be true, it's that every person sitting around this table loves Lockeport. We may show it differently. We may express it differently BUT It SHOWS in our commitment, and our passion.

That's what we have in common, and that's where we need to reset to as our north star.

If you look around this table, you'll see five different people with different backgrounds, different experiences, different opinions, different priorities, and different perspectives. We may be different, but our purpose should remain the same.

we will disagree. Healthy disagreement is part of good governance.

I want this Council to become a place for discussion vs debate. In a debate, someone wins and someone loses. But at this table, when we debate part of our community loses. Discussion is different. Discussion is about listening, understanding, and finding a path forward together.

The decisions ahead of us will help shape Lockeport for generations. We have a responsibility to leave this community stronger than we found it, and that starts with how we work together around this table.

When you drop a plate, it shatters into pieces. You can't simply pretend it never broke. You can't put it back together exactly as it was.

But if you're willing to pick up the pieces, if you're willing to invest the time, the patience, you can create something whole again. It may not look exactly as it did before, but it can still be strong. Sometimes more meaningful because of the care that went into repairing it.

As we head into the summer, my hope is that each of us takes time to enjoy this community. Walk the beach. Listen to the waves. Spend time with your families.

Fall in love with Lockeport again.

Then let's come back ready to do what we were elected to do.

Let's respect one another.

Let's choose discussion over debate.

And let's spend the second half of our term focused on the future we're trying to build together.

Because I truly believe this Council is capable of great things.

Thank you.