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**CITY COUNCIL**

**K. Lee Clement**  
**2022 Council President Address**  
**January 3, 2022**

GOOD EVENING AND WELCOME: BEFORE I GET STARTED IN EARNEST, I'D LIKE TO TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO RECOGNIZE OUTGOING MAYOR MARK CAYER AND MEMBERS OF THE 2020-2022 COUNCIL WHO HAVE SERVED OUR CITY FOR THE PAST TWO YEARS, PERHAPS DURING ONE OF THE MORE TRYING TIMES IN THE CITY'S HISTORY. LEWISTON HAS SURVIVED, AND WE'VE ARRIVED HERE TONIGHT, READY TO MOVE FORWARD IN THE NEXT BIENNIEM. MUCH HAS BEEN ACCOMPLISHED IN THE PAST, BUT A LOT MORE REMAINS TO BE DONE.

MY PUBLIC SERVICE CAREER ALL STARTED IN THE CAPITOL CITY OBSERVING A SAYING THAT REMAINS WITH ME TODAY, A HALF-CENTURY LATER. THE GREAT PRESIDENT AND AMERICAN, THEODORE ROOSEVELT, UTTERED MANY WISE SAYINGS, ONE OF THE MORE MEMORABLE OF WHICH IS THIS: *"NO MAN IS ABOVE THE LAW AND NO MAN IS BELOW IT; NOR DO WE ASK ANY MAN'S PERMISSION WHEN WE REQUIRE HIM TO OBEY IT. OBEDIENCE TO THE LAW IS DEMANDED AS A RIGHT; NOT ASKED AS A FAVOR."*

THESE WORDS WERE INSCRIBED ON A LARGE WALL PLAQUE THAT SAT BEHIND THE DESK OF AUGUSTA POLICE CHIEF E.T. BERNARD SPARROWK WHEN HE HIRED ME IN 1969 AND LAUNCHED ME INTO A CAREER IN PUBLIC SERVICE WHICH CONTINUES TO THIS DAY. THAT QUOTE HAS STOOD OUT IN MY MIND AND BEEN LIKE A GUIDE OR ETHICAL AND MORAL COMPASS THROUGHOUT.

ALMOST MY ENTIRE ADULT LIFE HAS BEEN SPENT IN MUNICIPAL AND COUNTY GOVERNMENT IN THE STATES OF MAINE AND NEW HAMPSHIRE. UPON FINALLY RETIRING AND, OUT OF DEFERENCE TO MY WIFE, THE FORMER LUCILLE LECLAIR, THE LOVE OF MY LIFE WHO HAS STOOD BY ME WITH INSPIRATION, SUPPORT, AND ENCOURAGEMENT FOR THE 50 YEARS WE'VE BEEN MARRIED, (ACTUALLY IT'S ONLY BEEN 49 YEARS, 8 MONTHS, AND 3 DAYS, BUT WHO'S COUNTING?); NOW, I'LL MOST LIKELY GET REPRIMANDED

LATER FOR MENTIONING HER BY NAME, WITHOUT HER I WOULD NOT BE HERE TONIGHT. I REALLY DO OWE HER A DEBT OF GRATITUDE. ANYWAY, AFTER I RETIRED FOR THE SECOND TIME, WE DECIDED TO RELOCATE TO HER NATIVE LEWISTON. WHILE I'M NOT A NATIVE LIKE HER, I COULDN'T BE PROUDER THAN TO BE A LEWISTONIAN.

ONE DAY EARLY IN OUR RELATIONSHIP WE VISITED HER MATERNAL GRANDMOTHER, BLANCHE MAILLETT, WHO HAD WORKED IN THE HILL DIVISION OF BATES MANUFACTURING FOR OVER FIFTY YEARS. NOW WIDOWED, RETIRED AND LIVING ALONE IN A MODEST APARTMENT ON BLAKE STREET, LOU SAID TO HER, *"YOU DON'T KNOW WHO THIS GUY WITH ME IS, DO YOU?"* WITH A BIG GRIN, BLANCHE'S REPLY WAS *"OF COURSE I DO; HE'S THE MAYOR OF THE TOWN!"*

WELL, BLANCHE WAS THEN IN THE WINTER OF HER LIFE AND SOMEWHAT CONFUSED, BUT I'LL GIVE HER CREDIT FOR THINKING BIG, PROBABLY A LITTLE TOO BIG, AS THAT WAS QUITE A PROMOTION FOR A ROOKIE BEAT COP FROM AUGUSTA. IN THOSE DAYS, I HAD ABSOLUTELY NO IDEA THAT I WOULD SOMEDAY RETIRE AND RESIDE IN MAINE'S 2<sup>ND</sup> LARGEST CITY, LET ALONE RUN FOR CITY COUNCIL, GET ELECTED TWICE, AND ULTIMATELY SELECTED AS YOUR COUNCIL PRESIDENT, BUT NOT TO WORRY, MR. MAYOR, I HAVE NO PLANS OR INTENTION OF BRINGING MÉMÉRE'S SOMEWHAT OVERZEALOUS PROCLAMATION TO REALITY.

AND NOW AS THE LIMIT ON INAUGURAL REMARKS HAS BEEN SET AT 25 PAGES, OR 45 MINUTES, I'LL GET DOWN TO BUSINESS:

MAYOR SHELINE, FELLOW COUNCILORS, SOON-TO-BE ELECTED SCHOOL COMMITTEE CHAIR, SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEMBERS, FELLOW LEWISTONIANS AND GUESTS: I CONSIDER IT A GREAT HONOR AND INDEED A PRIVILEGE TO HAVE BEEN CHOSEN AS YOUR COUNCIL PRESIDENT.

WE HAVE ALL JUST SWORN AN OATH TO SERVE LEWISTON ACCORDING TO THE DICTATES OF THE FEDERAL AND STATE CONSTITUTIONS, AS WELL AS OUR OWN CHARTER, AND TO DO SO TO THE BEST OF OUR COLLECTIVE ABILITIES. I LOOK AHEAD TO THE OPPORTUNITY TO MOVE LEWISTON FORWARD. LEWISTON IS NOT ONLY A GREAT CITY, BUT IT IS ALSO OUR GREAT CITY, A PLACE OF OPPORTUNITY, A PLACE WHERE GREAT THINGS ARE NOT ONLY POSSIBLE, BUT ARE DESTINED TO HAPPEN, ESPECIALLY IF WE ALL, WITH DEDICATED LEADERSHIP AND COOPERATION, COMMIT TO WORKING FOR THE COMMON GOOD.

GOOD GOVERNMENT AND A GREAT CITY DON'T JUST HAPPEN. THEY ARE THE PRODUCT OF A COOPERATIVE EFFORT ON THE PART OF ELECTED REPRESENTATIVES, DEDICATED AND COMPETENT STAFF, AND RESIDENTS WHO BECOME AND CONTINUE TO REMAIN INVOLVED. IF WE ALL RECOGNIZE THIS AND WORK TO NOT ONLY MOVE LEWISTON

FORWARD, BUT IMPROVE IT AS WELL, THEN WE WILL HAVE DESERVED THE TRUST IMPOSED UPON US BY OUR ELECTORS.

THERE IS MUCH WORK TO BE DONE IN THE COMING TERM: CONTINUING TO IMPROVE PUBLIC SAFETY; CREATING SUSTAINABLE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT; AND MAKING SURE OUR SCHOOLS ARE PRODUCING TOP-QUALITY GRADUATES, RESIDENTS WHO WILL BE THE NEXT GENERATION OF LEWISTON LEADERS, CAPABLE OF PICKING UP THE REINS AND CONTINUING WITH OUR MISSION. CURRENTLY THAT IS OUR JOB, ONE WE WILL UNDERTAKE AND, WITH YOUR ASSISTANCE, WILL ACCOMPLISH TO THE BETTERMENT OF MAINE'S 2ND LARGEST CITY AND ALL LEWISTONIANS. ON BEHALF OF ALL OF US ON THIS DAIS, I ACKNOWLEDGE AND THANK YOU FOR THAT TRUST.

BACK IN 1905, THEODORE ROOSEVELT, UPON TAKING THE OATH AS PRESIDENT, SAID *"MUCH HAS BEEN GIVEN (TO) US, AND MUCH WILL RIGHTFULLY BE EXPECTED FROM US. WE HAVE DUTIES TO (EACH) OTHER AND DUTIES TO OURSELVES, AND WE CAN SHIRK NEITHER."* THAT IS STILL TRUE TODAY, ONE HUNDRED AND SEVENTEEN YEARS LATER.

I PLEDGE TO SERVE LEWISTON AND THE CITY COUNCIL WITH HONESTY, TRANSPARENCY, AND INTEGRITY. I WILL DO MY BEST TO CONTINUE THE WORK PERFORMED BY OUTGOING PRESIDENT MIKE LAJOIE, A LEWISTON PUBLIC SERVICE CHAMPION. I REALIZE THAT HIS WILL BE A TOUGH ACT TO FOLLOW, BUT IT IS A CHALLENGE I READILY ACCEPT.

TONIGHT, WE CELEBRATE, TOMORROW STARTS A NEW TERM AND OUR WORK BEGINS.

THANK YOU AGAIN! THANK YOU FOR COMING HERE TO THIS HISTORIC VENUE OR FOR WATCHING VIA THE CITY'S WEB SITE. WHEN WE DEPART LATER THIS EVENING, SAFE TRAVELS TO ALL AND REMEMBER, THE NEXT BIG THING IS TO MOVE LEWISTON FORWARD. *"LET'S .....GIT 'ER DONE!!!"*

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