Greetings Marlinites,

I can only imagine the shock and shame that many of you must have felt as you watched the council meeting held last night. I was there and could barely believe it myself. It reminded me of many council meetings I have attended in the past that lacked cohesion or purpose. As I reflect on how I felt watching those meetings and thinking how productivity was wasted with petty back and forth bickering, I wanted to be a part of something much greater and far better than what I saw. The recent outgoing council may have had our differences, but we were respectful of the process and allowed the process to flow. What you all observed last night is not what any of us envisioned new city leadership would look like. We have so much work to do, and these types of meetings have no place in the larger scope of the task ahead of us. It is my belief that we were able to get to some of the root of the issues when we convened behind closed doors. I am hopeful that as we were able to identify some obvious misinformation that has been spread, that going forward we will come together in unity to make needed progress for Marlin.

We all have the same goal. We all want to see Marlin better than it currently appears. We may have different routes to get to the goal, but the goal remains the same. I may be speaking preemptively, but following our discussion behind closed doors, I think we all realized that we are all on the same team fighting for the same cause. We do not need to fix what is not broken; we need to put long-term systems in place to fix the things that are broken in our community. But in order to get to this, we had to get to the root of the issues that divided us. God has given each of us a role to play in Marlin’s forward progress. Each of us bring a wealth of knowledge that will result in what God has placed us in position to do. The Marlin that we all want to see is on the horizon. The creative minds that currently form our city council will ensure that this becomes reality. I truly believe that God is purposeful in everything He does. Last night needed to happen so that we can all move forward together in unity as a community. UNITED WE STAND, DIVIDED WE FALL. I am looking forward to seeing each of you at many more council meetings in the future. I pray that this will be the final display of divisiveness and misinformation that you will have to witness. I pray that going forward, what you see as your city leaders are a group of individuals united around a common cause to progress this community into the future.

Thank you to all who attended and voiced your thoughts and frustrations. We heard you. Marlin deserves better than this and it is my sincere prayer that the citizens will be made proud of their current city leaders in the days to come. We will continue to be Marlin Strong. #onecommunityonefamilyonegoal