Jamie Malone

From: Tim Burress
Sent: Tuesday, March 18, 2025 11:40 AM
To: Jamie Malone
Subject: Prayer in Public Meeting

I will not be able to attend the city council meeting where this issue will be voted on as I will be out of the country with no service, so I'll put a few of my thoughts in an email.

First, I want to start by saying I support prayer in public meetings. Federal, State, and local governments already have prayer before public meetings and Tontitown should be no different. American government was founded on Christianity. Honestly, I have no doubt you all will pass this unanimously but figured I might as well send yall an email in support since you all have received one of the most hateful emails opposing.

Secondly, I would like to share my thought process on walking myself through this decision. At first, I didn't think this was a big deal at all. If you all felt prayer before a public meeting would help benefit yalls thought making process or whatever the case may be, then good deal. I support. If you all decided nah we will just keep it as is with the "In God We Trust" and the pledge allegiance under GOD, then i support. No big deal either way.

Now for where my thought process all changed. I was made aware of the email yall received. This email put forth an ultimatum. The ultimatum is Choose God or ELSE. Now, in my opinion, the only vote you have is YES. I believe all of you are believers in Christ and if I am correct you have no choice but to stand for God.

Matthew 10:33 KJV- (red letter edition) "But whosoever shall deny me before men, him will I also deny before my Father which is in heaven."

The Bible also cautions against prayer for the sake of being seen.

Matthew 6:5 KJV- (red letter edition)
"And when thou prayest, thou shalt not be as the hypocrites are: for they love to pray standing in the synagogues and in the corners of the streets, that they may be seen of men. Verily I say unto you, They have their reward."

When you all vote to pass this, in your hearts you need to believe that praying for God's wisdom in your decision making process is for the benefit of yourself and the city. If you are doing this for show, than Jesus clearly states this is not what he wants. This is all about "intent."

In closing, I believe God is testing the City Council. Again, without the email threatening Satanic prayer, this could easily go either way and I believe God would be fine with the decision. BUT God knows the email is in play. I believe, if you deny God before men, he will deny YOU before the father. I am not even close to the perfect Christian, not even close, BUT I do try to live right and wake up a better man every day. I also have enough fear in God, that if I deny Him, he will topple everything I have done and try to do. As do I believe, if the you all deny him before men, he will topple everything you all have done for the City of Tontitown and it's people.

I pray this email is completely unnecessary and you all really do vote God

Thank you for your time.

Planning Commissioner

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