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# Board to discuss proposed "Safe City" resolution on March 17

At issue during the March 2 discussion at the work session was not so much whether or not the resolution is part of personal Christian beliefs, but whether or not a governmental entity that represents all tax-paying citizens of a municipality should be involved in an issue that is based in religious beliefs.

A point raised by several at the work session, including Mayor Fisher, is that a governing board cannot take a position on a religious propos-

people in Clinton want. We want to send a message; align ourselves with cities, and send a message to state legislators."

Sullivan said, "The Safe City for the Preborn Resolution is built on an idea that is as old as creation - Humans are created in the image of God and, therefore, deserve dignity, respect, and protection."

Ward 4 Alderman Keith Perritt said he had carefully read the resolution.

over."

Sullivan believes "as more cities do their part in resolving to protect the preborn children under their jurisdiction, this will get the attention of our State governing authorities to end abortion in our state...Should Mississippians allow the murder of innocent children in our state just because of a wicked and unjust Supreme Court decision? Since when does Mississippi have to wait for permission from the Supreme Court

we setting up to take political views that are in violation of Federal law?"

The Mayor cited the phases of the resolution's following actions in the city of Pearl: Phase 1 was the passing of the resolution. The Mayor explained that Phase 2 involved the support and involvement of local government, churches and community groups to set up a network of services to nurture and care for the unborn. "I don't know what services those would be," he said. Phase 3

## SAFE CITY CLINTON

**Board of Aldermen Meeting Tuesday, March 17, 7p.m. Municipal courtroom**

al, especially one that is in defiance of State or Federal law. Although this initial resolution doesn't ask the City to come out against State and Federal law, it does "open the door for potential lawsuits," Fisher said. "This resolution by itself might not necessarily invite a lawsuit, but a resolution that would lead to support for a ban on abortion would most certainly invite a lawsuit."

City Attorney William Purdie said, from a legal standpoint, that "any resolution that would ultimately result in any ban on abortion would instigate very quickly a lawsuit against the City."

The supporters of the resolution said that the cities of Pearl, Brandon, New Albany and Florence have passed the resolution, which Pastor Sullivan said is a "way to show what

"I realize this is just a resolution; but when you start something, to me the resolution that will follow is a bit antagonistic... the next thing will tie this City to a lawsuit or funds that are needed to support that cause, and I do not want to do that."

Ward 1 Alderman David Ellis expressed concern about the resolution "because I don't represent my constituents on a Federal and State level."

Alderwoman-at-Large Ricki Garrett said that although she personally supports the sincerity of the group and is also pro-life, she "honestly doesn't see that this is an issue that the City of Clinton government needs to take a position on, when there's absolutely no way we can make a decision regarding this issue in our role as City officials ... this is not an issue we have governance

to protect babies from being murdered?"

Ward 6 Alderman Mike Cashion said that the Board on March 17 should only consider the resolution before them.

"That is all we have in front of us right now," said Cashion. Cashion says he whole-heartedly supports the resolution, because his faith guides him to do so. "What I believe my faith calls me to do isn't just what happens on Sunday. It affects my family, affects my circle of friends, and when I was gainfully employed, I tried to carry the same principles to my place of employment. If you want to put a rider in there that I'm personally responsible (if any legal action results in support of the resolution), I'll write a \$50,000 check right now."

"What is the City's dog in this race?" Mayor Fisher asked. "Are

calls for financial backing and support from the City to violate State and Federal law, including ignoring Roe v. Wade, a 1973 Supreme Court case which affirmed that access to safe and legal abortion is a constitutional right.

"Anything we do is moot, except to open us up for potential lawsuits," Fisher said.

All Clintonians are encouraged to contact their aldermen to express their opinion on the issue, as well as attend the Tuesday, March 17 meeting of the Mayor and Board of Aldermen. The meeting will begin at 7 p.m. in the municipal courtroom at 305 Monroe Street. Contact information for the City of Clinton Aldermen is located at <https://www.clintonms.org/about/leadership/board>.

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