Anti-abortion resolution nixed in N.O.

NEW ORLEANS (AP) — After nearly three hours of hearings Thursday, the City Council narrowly refused to enact a resolution affirming "the fundamental value of human life from the moment of conception."

With four votes needed for adoption, the council voted 3-3, with Councilman Wayne Bahorich abstaining.

Voting against the measure introduced by Councilman Mike Early were Lambert Boosier, Jim Singleton, and Sydney Barthelemy. In the affirmative were Early, Joe Guarisco and Bryan Wagner.

"It was a real victory for the idea of religious diversity," said Martha Kegel, head of the New Orleans chapter of the American Civil Liberties Union.

Although the measure would not have had the force of law, it was timed to coincide with the 10th anniversary of the U.S. Supreme Court decision upholding the rights of women to get abortions.

It's very significant that the people of New Orleans got out on very short notice and communicated to their City Council representatives that, even though most people in the city do morally oppose abortion, they are basically pro-choice," Ms. Kegel said.

The resolution said that since the Supreme Court decision, 72,000 legal abortions have been performed in Louisiana and reported to state health officials, and 13 million abortions were performed nationwide.