

Utah city to debate anti-abortion resolution

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The city council for Riverton, Utah will take up a proclamation Tuesday night intended to enumerate an anti-abortion stance by the city.

The resolution is sponsored by Councilmember Tawnee McCay and will be one of the major items discussed by the council at its meeting.

Riverton sits approximately 20 miles south of Salt Lake City.

"Whereas, the Riverton City Council believes human life begins at the moment of conception and continues, uninterrupted, until the moment of natural death," reads the resolution.

"(And) whereas the Riverton City Council believes human life must be protected and preserved where possible...Be it further resolved, that the City Council opposes lessening existing restrictions on abortion."

The resolution was proposed as the State of Utah faces a lawsuit from the American Civil Liberties Union and Planned Parenthood regarding a law which banned abortions performed after 18 weeks of pregnancy.

Should it be approved, the Riverton proclamation would not change any city ordinances or laws regarding abortion access in the city.

However, that has not deterred McCay from submitting the resolution for consideration.

"I hope that Riverton can be an example," she said, adding that she hoped other cities and states would pass similar resolutions.

McCay said Tuesday afternoon that she had heard from "a few people" who supported the resolution.

However, Riverton Councilmember Tish Buroker said she would not support the declaration.

"I plan to abstain," she said Tuesday.

"It's too partisan. There is absolutely nothing a city council can do for or against (abortion)," she said.

"Tuesday will be our first look at the budget," Buroker added. "That's where our focus should be."

The Planned Parenthood Association of Utah also voiced its opposition to the resolution Tuesday, calling the measure "anti-women."

"City Councils have no place in the private, medical decisions of Utah women and families," the organization said in a written statement.

Representatives for Riverton Mayor Trent Staggs declined to comment on the resolution as did Councilmembers Sheldon Stewart and Brent Johnson.