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St. Joseph Council Rejects Indoor Smoking Ban

(AP) - St. Joseph residents apparently will decide whether to ban indoor smoking in the city.

The St. Joseph City Council declined to pass an ordinance enacting the ban on Monday. The council will consider an ordinance at its Jan. 21 meeting to place the initiative on the April 8 ballot.

In November, a citizens group called Smoke-Free St. Joseph submitted a petition to ban smoking in all indoor public places, except 10 percent of hotel rooms and private clubs when no employees are present. It also would allow smoking on the St. Jo Frontier Casino gaming floor, but only until a casino in either Jackson, Platte or Clay counties goes smoke-free.

The St. Joseph News-Press reports the casino owners said at the meeting the proposal was illegal and unenforceable.

Associated Press