

## Twin Falls council mulls smoking ban for bars

One day, it may be against the law to light up in a Twin Falls bar.

Twin Falls City Council members plan to look into the possibility of an ordinance that would ban smoking in the city's bars. The idea, brought up at Monday's council meeting, comes following an Association of Idaho Cities event that Mayor Lance Clow attended last week in Boise that included discussion about the issue.

Smokefree Idaho, a grassroots organization, is encouraging cities to ban smoking in public places and bars.

Clow said that the principle behind a smoking ban in bars would be to provide a smoke-free atmosphere for the employees there, not just the patrons who choose to go there.

Smokefree Idaho's goal is that if enough cities pass ordinances, the Legislature eventually will pass state laws after seeing the local support.

Councilman Lee Heider expressed interest seeing the ordinance at least discussed in detail by the council. But like other council members, he stressed that input from the public is needed before a decision could be made.

"I personally feel that our city ought to be one that sets an example," Heider said.

Council members said that if an ordinance is presented, it would need to have a public hearing so people have an opportunity to respond, including bar owners.

"They may actually be in favor of it," Councilman Greg Lanting said.

In other business, the council approved:

- An ordinance amending a planned unit development agreement for 6.8 acres west of Canyon Ridge High School on Park View Drive to allow a professional office development.
- An ordinance allowing outdoor or patio seating at a commercial zoned business. The change still requires the business to get approval from planning and zoning officials.

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Posted in [News](#), [Local](#) on *Tuesday, December 8, 2009 1:00 am Updated: 10:50 pm.*

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