

The Huntsville Times

Madison will move ahead on revised smoking ban

Ordinance to be read at council meeting tonight

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MADISON - Exactly six months ago today, Madison City Councilwoman Cynthia McCollum asked fellow city leaders to consider an ordinance to regulate public smoking in the city.

Since then, the Clean Indoor Air Ordinance was introduced and two work sessions were held on the issue. At tonight's council meeting, a revised ordinance will be up for a first reading, the next step toward making it official. A vote, though, is not expected tonight, McCollum

said Friday.

If approved by the council, the ordinance will require business owners to either outlaw smoking throughout their premises or allow smoking but not allow employees or customers under age 19 on the premises.

It's basically the same ordinance passed by the Huntsville City Council in September 2005.

A public hearing will be held before the council votes on the

smoking ban, McCollum said.

After McCollum brought up the issue on June 13, a first draft of the ordinance was introduced on Aug. 14.

In September, a panel of experts on both sides of the issue made presentations to the council in a work session. And earlier this month, the council had another work session to hammer out the wording of a revised ordinance.

Members of the Partnership for a Drug Free Community's Youth Empowerment Program are scheduled to make a presentation at tonight's meeting. They are a group of teenage advocates from across the county who want Madison to establish a law for smoke-free restaurants.



Madison Councilwoman Cynthia McCollum introduced the smoking resolution.

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