

Council Communication

April 19, 2016, Business Meeting

First Reading of an Ordinance Creating AMC Chapter 9.30 to Prohibit Smoking in Places of Employment, in Enclosed Areas Open to the Public, and in Downtown Ashland

FROM:

Dave Kanner, city administrator, dave.kanner@ashland.or.us

SUMMARY

This is an ordinance that codifies the Oregon Indoor Clean Air Act (ORS 433.835 et seq.) into the Ashland Municipal Code. Doing so allows the Ashland Police Department to enforce the provisions of the Act, which is otherwise enforced by local public health departments and property owners. The Indoor Clean Air Act prohibits smoking or the use of inhalants in all public places and places of employment. Public places are defined as any enclosed area open to the public. In addition this ordinance prohibits smoking or the use of inhalants on public sidewalks and in the plaza or Chautauqua Square in downtown Ashland.

BACKGROUND AND POLICY IMPLICATIONS:

At Councilor Seffinger's request, the Council at its November 2, 2015, study session, discussed the potential for an ordinance to limit or prohibit smoking in downtown Ashland. At the conclusion of that discussion, Council directed staff to draft an ordinance that codifies the Oregon Indoor Clean Air Act ([ORS 433.835](#), et seq). By codifying the state law the Ashland Police Department can enforce the terms of the act as a violation of the city code. In a nutshell, the Indoor Clean Air Act does the following:

1. Smoking or the use of inhalants is prohibited in any public place or a place of employment except in designated smoking areas as defined in the clean air act. A public place means any enclosed area that is open to the public. Designated areas typically relate to sleeping rooms in hotels and motels where smoking is permitted.
2. Smoking is prohibited within 10 feet of entrances, exits, windows that open and ventilation intakes that serve an enclosed area of a public place or a place of employment.

The ordinance as currently drafted and first presented to the Council at the February 16, 2016, business meeting, goes beyond the Indoor Clean Air Act in two important respects. First, it prohibits smoking or the use of inhalants on public sidewalks, or on the plaza or Chautauqua Square in downtown Ashland. Downtown Ashland is defined in AMC chapter 10.120, the persistent violator ordinance. In addition, the ordinance provides a means by which holders of an Oregon Liquor Control Commission license can apply for a limited exception to the downtown smoking ban in order to allow smoking in front of their establishments.



The Council took no action at its February 16 meeting, but requested that staff conduct a survey of downtown businesses to determine the level of support for this ordinance. Pursuant to that direction, staff sent a letter to 160 downtown businesses, explaining this ordinance and requesting participation in an on-line survey. Four businesses e-mailed their responses directly to us and 28 businesses participated in the on-line survey. The final tally is as follows:

- 61% support the ban, 39% oppose.
- 52% are not at all concerned about the impact on employees, residents or tourists, 14% are somewhat concerned, 14% are concerned and 21% are very concerned.
- 32% think it will be bad for business, 21% say it will have little or no impact and 46% say it will be good for business.

A copy of open-ended comments is attached.

There's a strong difference of opinion among the types of businesses. Of the eight respondents who identified themselves as restaurants, five oppose the ban five think it will be bad for business (only one thinks it will be good) and five are very or somewhat concerned about the impact. The 18 retail businesses are fairly evenly split on all of the questions. The six respondents who identified themselves as personal service unanimously support the ban, five are not at all concerned about the impact and four think it will be good for business.

Since the February 16 meeting and the conclusion of the survey, staff has identified a number of issues and suggested amendments to this ordinance for Council consideration. First, downtown alleyways are not included in the ordinance as an area in which smoking is prohibited. In many communities, alleyways are defined as a shared sidewalk and street space. That is not the case in Ashland, where our municipal code defines an alley as a street. The Council should decide whether to include alleyways in the smoking ban or leave the ordinance as is. Second, staff recommends eliminating the exception for OLCC-licensed businesses, which we believe will be extremely difficult to administer and enforce. What's more, if smoking is to be permitted in alleyways, we believe that provides a reasonable venue for patrons and employees who wish to smoke. Next, for reasons that are not clear, the downtown map that is part of the enhanced law enforcement area ordinance excludes the sidewalk on N. Main St. between Granite Street and the Plaza and on Winburn Way abutting Lithia Park. Staff recommends that the ordinance be amended to include these sidewalks with the smoking ban. Finally, the ordinance allows smoking on unenclosed private property downtown, much of which directly abuts public sidewalks on which smoking would be prohibited, thus defeating the purpose of this ordinance, which is to protect pedestrians from tobacco smoke. Therefore staff recommends that the ordinance be amended to state that smoking is prohibited on public sidewalks or on public or private property within 10 feet of a public sidewalk.

COUNCIL GOALS SUPPORTED:

7. Keep Ashland a family-friendly community.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS:

Some outlay of funds would be required for signage downtown should the Council choose to prohibit smoking downtown. This expenditure would likely be relatively small; certainly less than \$3,000.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION AND REQUESTED ACTION:



Staff requests a Council decision on whether alleys should be included in the ordinance as a public space in which smoking is banned and recommends approval of this ordinance on first reading with the amendments suggested above.

SUGGESTED MOTION:

I move approval on first reading by title only of an ordinance, as amended, creating AMC Chapter 9.30 to prohibit smoking in places of employment, in enclosed areas open to the public and in downtown Ashland, and moving the ordinance to second reading.

ATTACHMENTS:

Ordinance

Open-ended comments from business survey

Results from Open City Hall smoking ban topic



ORDINANCE NO. _____

AN ORDINANCE CREATING AMC CHAPTER 9.30 TO PROHIBIT SMOKING IN PLACES OF EMPLOYMENT, IN ENCLOSED AREAS OPEN TO THE PUBLIC, AND IN DOWNTOWN ASHLAND

WHEREAS, Article 2. Section 1 of the Ashland City Charter provides:

Powers of the City. The City shall have all powers which the constitutions, statutes, and common law of the United States and of this State expressly or impliedly grant or allow municipalities, as fully as though this Charter specifically enumerated each of those powers, as well as all powers not inconsistent with the foregoing; and, in addition thereto, shall possess all powers hereinafter specifically granted. All the authority thereof shall have perpetual succession.

WHEREAS, the exposure to secondhand smoke is known to cause cancer and other chronic diseases such as heart disease, asthma and bronchitis.

WHEREAS, reducing exposure to smoke on public property with concentrated pedestrian activity, in enclosed areas open to the public, and in places of employment in the City of Ashland would benefit the well-being of its citizens.

THE PEOPLE OF THE CITY OF ASHLAND DO ORDAIN AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION 1. Chapter 9.30 is hereby added to read as follows:

9.30.010 Definitions

The following words and phrases whenever used in this chapter shall be construed as defined in this section.

- A. “Cigar bar” has the meaning provided in ORS 433.835(1).
- B. “Downtown” has the meaning provided in AMC 10.120.010(B)(1).
- C. “Enclosed area” means all space between a floor and a ceiling that is enclosed on three or more sides by permanent or temporary walls or windows, exclusive of doors or passageways, that extend from the floor to the ceiling.
- D. “Inhalant” means nicotine, a cannabinoid or any other substance that is in a form that allows the nicotine, cannabinoid or substance to be delivered into a person’s respiratory system by inhalation and is not approved by, or emitted by a device approved by, the United States Food and Drug Administration for a therapeutic purpose.
- E. “Inhalant delivery system” means a device that can be used to deliver nicotine or cannabinoids in the form of a vapor or aerosol to a person inhaling from the device.
- F. “Place of employment” means every enclosed area under the control of a public or private employer that employees frequent during the course of employment, including but not limited to work areas, employee lounges, vehicles that are operated in the course of an employer’s business that are not operated exclusively by one employee, rest

rooms, conference rooms, classrooms, cafeterias, hallways, meeting rooms, elevators and stairways. "Place of employment" includes privately-owned and publicly-owned enclosed areas where volunteers perform work typically done by employees. "Place of employment" does not include a private residence unless it is used as a child care facility as defined in ORS or a facility providing adult day care as defined in ORS 410.490.

G. "Plaza" means the area bounded by and including East Main Street, North Main Street, and Winburn Way.

H. "Smoke shop" means a business that is certified with the authority as a smoke shop pursuant to the rules adopted under ORS 433.847.

I. "Smoking instrument" means any cigar, cigarette, pipe or other instrument or inhalant delivery system used to smoke tobacco, marijuana or any other inhalant.

9.30.020 Smoking Prohibited

A. Except as allowed in AMC 9.30.040, a person may not smoke, aerosolize or vaporize an inhalant or carry a lighted smoking instrument in a place of employment, in an enclosed area open to the public, on any sidewalk in Downtown Ashland, on the Plaza, or on the area at the corner of East Main Street and South Pioneer Street known as Chautauqua Square.

B. A person may not smoke, aerosolize or vaporize an inhalant or carry a lighted smoking instrument within 10 feet of the following parts of places of employment or enclosed areas open to the public:

- 1) Entrances;
- 2) Exits;
- 3) Windows that open; and
- 4) Ventilation intakes that serve an enclosed area.

C. A person may not smoke or carry any lighted smoking instrument in a room during the time that jurors are required to use the room.

9.30.030 Smoke Free Place of Employment

A. An employer shall provide a place of employment that is free of tobacco smoke for all employees.

B. Except in those places described in AMC 9.30.040A to E, an employer shall post signs that provide notice of the provisions of ORS 433.835 to 433.875.

9.30.040 Exemptions from Smoking Prohibition

A. The owner or person in charge of a hotel or motel may designate up to 25 percent of the sleeping rooms of the hotel or motel as rooms in which smoking is permitted.

B. Smoking of noncommercial tobacco products for ceremonial purposes is permitted in spaces designated for traditional ceremonies in accordance with the American Indian Religious Freedom Act, 42 U.S.C. 1996.

C. Smoking is permitted in a smoke shop.

D. Smoking is permitted in a cigar bar that generated on-site retail sales of cigars of at least \$5,000 for the calendar year ending December 31, 2006.

E. A performer may smoke or carry a lighted smoking instrument that does not contain tobacco while performing in a scripted stage, motion picture or television production if:

- 1) The production is produced by an organization whose primary purpose is producing scripted productions; and
- 2) Smoking is an integral part of the production.

F. A business or property owner in Downtown Ashland may apply annually for an exemption to the provisions of AMC 9.30.020A subject to the following:

- 1) An application for an exemption must be made on a form approved by the City Administrator.
- 2) The exemption may be granted only to those businesses and properties licensed to serve alcoholic beverages by the Oregon Liquor Control Commission.
- 3) The exemption shall be for a period of one year and may be renewed upon re-application.
- 4) The exemption shall apply only between the hours of 8 p.m. and 2 a.m.
- 5) The exemption shall not mitigate or otherwise alter the smoking prohibition in AMC 9.30.020B.
- 6) An exempted business or property must provide and maintain a cigarette disposal container in front of the business. Such container must be of a type and design approved by the City Administrator.
- 7) An exempted business or property must provide signage inside the business or property advising that smoking is prohibited in downtown Ashland, but is permitted in front of the business or property, consistent with all other provisions of the Ashland Municipal Code.

SECTION 2. Savings. Notwithstanding this amendment/repeal, the City ordinances in existence at the time any criminal or civil enforcement actions were commenced, shall remain valid and in full force and effect for purposes of all cases filed or commenced during the times said ordinances(s) or portions thereof were operative. This section simply clarifies the existing situation that nothing in this Ordinance affects the validity of prosecutions commenced and continued under the laws in effect at the time the matters were originally filed.

SECTION 3. Severability. The sections, subsections, paragraphs and clauses of this ordinance are severable. The invalidity of one section, subsection, paragraph, or clause shall not affect the validity of the remaining sections, subsections, paragraphs and clauses.

SECTION 4. Codification. Provisions of this Ordinance shall be incorporated in the City Code and the word “ordinance” may be changed to “code”, “article”, “section”, “chapter” or another word, and the sections of this Ordinance may be renumbered, or re-lettered, provided however that any Whereas clauses and boilerplate provisions (i.e. Sections 2-3) need not be codified and the City Recorder is authorized to correct any cross-references and any typographical errors.

The foregoing ordinance was first read by title only in accordance with Article X, Section 2(C) of the City Charter on the ____ day of _____, 2016, and duly PASSED and ADOPTED this ____ day of _____, 2016.

Barbara M. Christensen, City Recorder

SIGNED and APPROVED this ____ day of _____, 2016.

John Stromberg, Mayor

Reviewed as to form:

David H. Lohman, City Attorney

Additional Responses Survey Smoking Ban March 14, 2016

the only smoking I ever see happening is by transients

3/11/2016 1:51 PM

I'm not worried about how it effects the businesses. I am concerned how enforcing this law would be a waist of tax payers dollars. Not to mention, those tax payers who smoke who paid for those sidewalks.

3/9/2016 3:19 PM

terrible idea. Police are thin already, they need to concentrate on more important issues. It is hard not to see this as an attempt to deal with undesirable travelers on the street corners. I don't believe this would help at all, just further polarize the community. What are full time employees who work downtown supposed to do on their 10 minute break, take a cab out of town for a cigarette and get back within 10 minutes? Ha! This is just the tip of the iceberg of reasons not to support this idea. Normally I'd give the benefit of a doubt and call the idea "well intended" but in this case I don't think it's appropriate. BTW I'm a non-smoker, hate the filthy things.

3/9/2016 2:36 PM

It is very difficult to give staff smoke breaks which we are required to do so by law in the downtown. I have two business and would be a negative impact for me.

3/8/2016 1:06 PM

Then entrance to my practice is next door to the Beau Club, and smokers gather outside the entrance to our stairwell which always smells like smoke. I would be so happy to have the ban. So much healthier for my clients and me.

3/8/2016 10:04 AM

As a nonsmoking business owner in downtown Ashland, I am in favor of no smoking on any sidewalk, street, alley. In addition, any areas open to the public, such as, parks, the plaza and Shakespeare should be smoke free. I believe if a business provides a separate smoking area (patio) that is approved by OHA, patrons and employees should be allowed to smoke in those designated areas.

3/7/2016 2:30 PM

One way to reduce the smoking, is to raise smoking age to 21. This is a very broad area. If you are outlawing just on sidewalks then yes. If it is private residents, restaurants, bars and business's with patio's then no. Another thought is No Smoking until 10pm.

3/7/2016 1:59 PM

This proposed ban seems to be an underhanded way of dealing with the "street people" issue. This is a terrible idea. Remember, there is high taxation on liquor and tobacco. The long term effect will have a negative impact on many downtown businesses. And that will result in less revenue from locals in our city.

3/2/2016 7:33 PM

While I do not like smoking and dislike the smell of cigarettes I have to say that this will greatly affect my business in a bad way. I have staff that smoke out back during their shifts and customers who smoke out front during their stay. I think this will negatively affect my bottom line even though I do not sell cigarettes. If this ban is put into action I do hope that there are provisions for bars and that they do not hold true only for night time since I open in the morning and the majority of my business day is during daylight hours. Thank you.

3/1/2016 5:47 PM

We think that having a smoking ban in the entire downtown area would make it easier to enforce (than the 10 foot rule), create a healthier environment, and by eliminating cigarette waste, make our town more beautiful.

3/1/2016 11:55 AM

We are a retail business with the IPub nearby. Crowds of people stand out front smoking all day and evening with smoke wafting in our direction. It's not healthy!

2/29/2016 10:55 PM

We can't leave our doors open because of people walking by smoking both cigarettes and marijuana. Many of our clientele comes from health conscious California towns where smoking is banned. They are surprised to see so many smokers downtown.

2/29/2016 10:49 PM

We have had many negative comments from our out of town guests regarding the smoke filled Ashland sidewalks.

2/29/2016 10:31 PM

As a downtown retail business owner, I think a smoking ban would help with the loitering panhandlers, and anything that helps with that is good. I do however think bars and restaurants might have a harder time with annoyed patrons that smoke.

2/29/2016 12:25 PM

This is heavy handed. I do not smoke. I am anti smoking. But this too much. Should we ban cars from downtown due to exhaust?

2/29/2016 9:56 AM

The proposed ordinance is unfriendly to tourist. It goes overboard. The current 10 feet prohibition from entrances and open windows is adequate.

2/26/2016 3:27 PM

We have an upstairs office with smokers in the alley below. The second hand smoke and smell is a huge problem on a daily basis

2/26/2016 1:43 PM

it would be great. We smell smoke from our atm's in our building. we would love it.

2/26/2016 1:36 PM

I don't want it to negatively impact tourism, as tourism is the life blood of Ashland. I really do not know what kind of impact a ban would have.

2/26/2016 12:47 PM

Ban cars in the downtown area too. They make far more pollution than a handful of cigarette smokers. This proposal is fascist and absurd. Sorry but occasional smells of cigarettes in the breeze is not a "serious and deadly health threat".

2/26/2016 12:31 PM

Downtown Smoking Ban

How do you feel about a smoking ban downtown?

All On Forum Responses sorted chronologically

As of April 12, 2016, 1:32 PM



As with any public comment process, participation in Open City Hall is voluntary. The responses in this record are not necessarily representative of the whole population, nor do they reflect the opinions of any government agency or elected officials.

Downtown Smoking Ban

How do you feel about a smoking ban downtown?

Introduction

At its February 2nd meeting, the City Council will consider an ordinance that writes the Oregon Indoor Clean Air Act (ORS 433.835, et seq) into the Ashland Municipal Code. By codifying the state law, the Ashland Police Department can enforce the terms of the act as a violation of the city code. Otherwise, enforcement of Clean Air Act is the responsibility of property owners or tenants and the county Health Department.

The ordinance as drafted goes beyond the Indoor Clean Air Act in two important respects. First, it prohibits smoking or the use of inhalants anywhere in downtown Ashland. Downtown Ashland is defined in AMC chapter 10.120, the persistent violator ordinance. (Click here to see a map that shows how downtown Ashland is defined in the Code.) In addition, the ordinance provides a means by which holders of an Oregon Liquor Control Commission license can apply for a limited exception to the downtown smoking ban in order to allow smoking in front of their establishments.

Otherwise, the basic terms of the Clean Air Act and this proposed ordinance are as follows:

1. Smoking or the use of inhalants is prohibited in any public place or a place of employment except in designated smoking areas as defined in the Clean Air Act. A public place means any enclosed area that is open to the public. Designated areas typically relate to sleeping rooms in hotels and motels where smoking is permitted.
2. Smoking is prohibited within 10 feet of entrances, exits, windows that open and ventilation intakes that serve an enclosed area of a public place or a place of employment.

So, take a minute or two to read the ordinance ([CLICK HERE](#)) and then answer a few questions:

Downtown Smoking Ban

How do you feel about a smoking ban downtown?

As of April 12, 2016, 1:32 PM, this forum had:

Attendees: 203

On Forum Responses: 47

Hours of Public Comment: 4.3

This topic started on January 19, 2016, 6:51 AM.

Downtown Smoking Ban

How do you feel about a smoking ban downtown?

Responses

What is your general reaction to this proposal and to the idea of banning smoking in downtown Ashland?

Answered 47

Skipped 0

- air all ashland bad ban cigarette don downtown enforce
find from good hand idea indoor like m more much non-smoker one
ordinance other people proposal proposed public s second smoke
smoker smoking so support t think those too who

How do you feel about the ordinance provision for a limited exception for OLCC licensed businesses?

Answered 43

Skipped 4

10 allowed around ban bar bars business businesses
could d does don downtown exception exceptions front
how laws like make one ordinance out outside people really s
see seems sidewalk smell smoke smokers smoking standing t they
those what which

Are there other changes to the ordinance you'd suggest?

Answered 30

Skipped 17

Downtown Smoking Ban

How do you feel about a smoking ban downtown?

above **area** areas **ashland** ban **businesses** cigarettes
completely do does don downtown drop enacted exception from get
health include larger like ordinance other outside penalty
public rid S smoke **smoking t** take them think those too **up** water
who whole

Downtown Smoking Ban

How do you feel about a smoking ban downtown?

Christy Frenzen inside Ashland

January 23, 2016, 12:24 PM

What is your general reaction to this proposal and to the idea of banning smoking in downtown Ashland?

I'm a non-smoker. It's easy for me to say "Great! No more smoking and cigarette butts downtown!" But, realistically, this would be an enforcement nightmare and likely ticket people who are already the target of other "public safety" ordinances. Occasionally I am exposed to second hand smoke and don't find it pleasant. I am also exposed to other irritants I find much more unpleasant, and much more common: leaf blowers (noise, dust and exhaust) and automobiles. Could we please ban driving downtown?

How do you feel about the ordinance provision for a limited exception for OLCC licensed businesses?

If an ordinance is passed, such an exception would be a reasonable accommodation. However this would make enforcement even more difficult and perhaps, in practice, negate the intended effect of the ordinance.

Are there other changes to the ordinance you'd suggest?

I'd like to suggest an appropriate penalty for the depositing of cigarette filters (the butts of commercial cigarettes) onto the ground. These filters end up in streams and larger water bodies by the billions (trillions?) world-wide. Their toxins measurably contribute to water pollution. Fish ingest them. It's not too much to ask smokers to find a trash can or just stuff it in your purse or pocket. The penalty for the littering of a cigarette butt could be 2 hours of community service picking up litter downtown. I would happily volunteer to supervise this phase of enforcement.

Downtown Smoking Ban

How do you feel about a smoking ban downtown?

Amy Titus inside Ashland

January 21, 2016, 7:12 PM

What is your general reaction to this proposal and to the idea of banning smoking in downtown Ashland?

Bad idea. It targets the homeless. The traffic causes more pollution than cigarettes.

How do you feel about the ordinance provision for a limited exception for OLCC licensed businesses?

I don't see the logic behind the exception.

Are there other changes to the ordinance you'd suggest?

No.

Downtown Smoking Ban

How do you feel about a smoking ban downtown?

Lynne Hasselman inside Ashland

January 21, 2016, 4:39 PM

What is your general reaction to this proposal and to the idea of banning smoking in downtown Ashland?

Excellent--fully support banning all smoking in downtown Ashland.

How do you feel about the ordinance provision for a limited exception for OLCC licensed businesses?

No exceptions for OLCC businesses.

Are there other changes to the ordinance you'd suggest?

No Response

Downtown Smoking Ban

How do you feel about a smoking ban downtown?

Jean Whalen outside Ashland

January 21, 2016, 3:14 PM

What is your general reaction to this proposal and to the idea of banning smoking in downtown Ashland?

As a non-smoker, I find the smell of cigarette smoke disgusting, but a ban on smoking in public is going too far. My momentary discomfort of smelling cigarette smoke does not outweigh the right of an individual to smoke.

How do you feel about the ordinance provision for a limited exception for OLCC licensed businesses?

If the ban were enacted, this provision would render it ineffective as almost every other business in downtown Ashland is a bar.

Are there other changes to the ordinance you'd suggest?

The ordinance should not be enacted at all.

**After submitting my response, it says I am located outside of Ashland. I am NOT residing outside of Ashland. I live in Ashland city limits.

Downtown Smoking Ban

How do you feel about a smoking ban downtown?

Samantha Stovall inside Ashland

January 21, 2016, 1:56 PM

What is your general reaction to this proposal and to the idea of banning smoking in downtown Ashland?

I approve!

How do you feel about the ordinance provision for a limited exception for OLCC licensed businesses?

I think that is a must.

Are there other changes to the ordinance you'd suggest?

No Response

Downtown Smoking Ban

How do you feel about a smoking ban downtown?

dorise treiger outside Ashland

January 21, 2016, 10:47 AM

What is your general reaction to this proposal and to the idea of banning smoking in downtown Ashland?

there are too many restrictions on our lives and although I am not a smoker and don't condone it, I feel that if someone wants to smoke outside, it's their right to do so.

How do you feel about the ordinance provision for a limited exception for OLCC licensed businesses?

No Response

Are there other changes to the ordinance you'd suggest?

No Response

Downtown Smoking Ban

How do you feel about a smoking ban downtown?

Joyce Stanley outside Ashland

January 21, 2016, 5:55 AM

What is your general reaction to this proposal and to the idea of banning smoking in downtown Ashland?

Sounds good at first if you are against smoking, but it might be difficult to enforce given the proposed exceptions.

How do you feel about the ordinance provision for a limited exception for OLCC licensed businesses?

Again, sounds good, but what if a person is standing in front of The Black Sheep, which has received an exception and that person wanders a foot left, in front of Flower Thyme? Could they then be arrested? Likely that the smokers will learn which businesses have an exception and gravitate to those locations. And what about wind direction? What if you are standing downwind outside a business that doesn't have the exception? Could you prosecute?

Are there other changes to the ordinance you'd suggest?

Either ban it or don't, no exceptions. Because it will be bordering on the ridiculous with the number and complexity of the exceptions.

Downtown Smoking Ban

How do you feel about a smoking ban downtown?

Louise Pare inside Ashland

January 20, 2016, 9:49 PM

What is your general reaction to this proposal and to the idea of banning smoking in downtown Ashland?

don't agree

How do you feel about the ordinance provision for a limited exception for OLCC licensed businesses?

good

Are there other changes to the ordinance you'd suggest?

drop it

Downtown Smoking Ban

How do you feel about a smoking ban downtown?

Leanne Greene inside Ashland

January 20, 2016, 8:01 PM

What is your general reaction to this proposal and to the idea of banning smoking in downtown Ashland?

Absolutely! Ashland is behind the times in this respect. Second hand smoke is toxic to those around the smoker and cannot be compared with someone drinking alcohol.

How do you feel about the ordinance provision for a limited exception for OLCC licensed businesses?

Yes, no exceptions. It would be good to eliminate the people standing around on the sidewalk outside throwing their butts on the ground. It is awful to have to walk past several smokers and smell that smoke.

Are there other changes to the ordinance you'd suggest?

No Response

Downtown Smoking Ban

How do you feel about a smoking ban downtown?

April Rosenthal inside Ashland

January 20, 2016, 7:11 PM

What is your general reaction to this proposal and to the idea of banning smoking in downtown Ashland?

Banning smoking in Ashland would send an important message to the public, both residents and visitors, that smoking is unhealthy and should not be tolerated in public.

How do you feel about the ordinance provision for a limited exception for OLCC licensed businesses?

Smoking is a leading cause of many diseases and does not discriminate where it starts to adversely affect people's lives. It should make no difference banning smoking in bars or anywhere else where the public congregates.

Are there other changes to the ordinance you'd suggest?

If Ashland cares about the health of it's citizens, it will take a stand to keep people safe and ban smokers and, therefore, prevent the detrimental effects of secondhand smoke. No exception should be made to OLCC licensed businesses. Banning smoking will not hurt these businesses. More non-smokers will patronize these businesses. Be brave and take a stand, Ashland!

Downtown Smoking Ban

How do you feel about a smoking ban downtown?

Ina Dickenson inside Ashland

January 20, 2016, 7:04 PM

What is your general reaction to this proposal and to the idea of banning smoking in downtown Ashland?

Yes ban it

How do you feel about the ordinance provision for a limited exception for OLCC licensed businesses?

No exceptions

Are there other changes to the ordinance you'd suggest?

No

Downtown Smoking Ban

How do you feel about a smoking ban downtown?

Deana Lynn inside Ashland

January 20, 2016, 6:23 PM

What is your general reaction to this proposal and to the idea of banning smoking in downtown Ashland?

I agree! Great idea!

How do you feel about the ordinance provision for a limited exception for OLCC licensed businesses?

This exception should not be allowed.

Are there other changes to the ordinance you'd suggest?

No Response

Downtown Smoking Ban

How do you feel about a smoking ban downtown?

Michael Clark inside Ashland

January 20, 2016, 5:06 PM

What is your general reaction to this proposal and to the idea of banning smoking in downtown Ashland?

I think it is a very bad idea. Indoor smoking bans make a lot of sense and smokers accepted that. Now we say you can't smoke outside either? What about all the workers downtown who want a smoke on their break? This sounds like a puritanical or judgemental regulation. Complaining about second hand smoke that one experiences for a few seconds walking by is ridiculous. Who is going to enforce it? It has the potential to lead to confrontations.

How do you feel about the ordinance provision for a limited exception for OLCC licensed businesses?

No Response

Are there other changes to the ordinance you'd suggest?

How about an ordinance that requires a smoker to move 10 feet away from someone who asks them too. They would be required to say please under penalty of law.

Downtown Smoking Ban

How do you feel about a smoking ban downtown?

Christine Ducey inside Ashland

January 20, 2016, 4:28 PM

What is your general reaction to this proposal and to the idea of banning smoking in downtown Ashland?

I believe the city council should vote in favor of the proposal.

How do you feel about the ordinance provision for a limited exception for OLCC licensed businesses?

I believe we should allow it with the provision that if it is unworkable it can be reconsidered.

Are there other changes to the ordinance you'd suggest?

No Response

Downtown Smoking Ban

How do you feel about a smoking ban downtown?

Donald politis inside Ashland

January 20, 2016, 4:27 PM

What is your general reaction to this proposal and to the idea of banning smoking in downtown Ashland?

ban all smoking. Don't need to be walking downtown and have smoke blown in my face

How do you feel about the ordinance provision for a limited exception for OLCC licensed businesses?

No exceptions

Are there other changes to the ordinance you'd suggest?

no

Downtown Smoking Ban

How do you feel about a smoking ban downtown?

Tom Burnham inside Ashland

January 20, 2016, 4:00 PM

What is your general reaction to this proposal and to the idea of banning smoking in downtown Ashland?

OK By me

How do you feel about the ordinance provision for a limited exception for OLCC licensed businesses?

No, ban smoking in all business

Are there other changes to the ordinance you'd suggest?

no

Downtown Smoking Ban

How do you feel about a smoking ban downtown?

Jim Rible inside Ashland

January 20, 2016, 3:15 PM

What is your general reaction to this proposal and to the idea of banning smoking in downtown Ashland?

Great idea.

How do you feel about the ordinance provision for a limited exception for OLCC licensed businesses?

No.

Are there other changes to the ordinance you'd suggest?

No Response

Downtown Smoking Ban

How do you feel about a smoking ban downtown?

Jesse Philips outside Ashland

January 20, 2016, 3:14 PM

What is your general reaction to this proposal and to the idea of banning smoking in downtown Ashland?

Excellent!

How do you feel about the ordinance provision for a limited exception for OLCC licensed businesses?

It's ok with me.

Are there other changes to the ordinance you'd suggest?

No Response

Downtown Smoking Ban

How do you feel about a smoking ban downtown?

Michael Church inside Ashland

January 20, 2016, 2:48 PM

What is your general reaction to this proposal and to the idea of banning smoking in downtown Ashland?

If it is legally defensible I am in favour.

How do you feel about the ordinance provision for a limited exception for OLCC licensed businesses?

No Response

Are there other changes to the ordinance you'd suggest?

No Response

Downtown Smoking Ban

How do you feel about a smoking ban downtown?

Devon Ivie inside Ashland

January 20, 2016, 2:43 PM

What is your general reaction to this proposal and to the idea of banning smoking in downtown Ashland?

This is an example of Ashland's liberalism leading to authoritarianism. This is NOT okay and infringes on one's freedoms.

How do you feel about the ordinance provision for a limited exception for OLCC licensed businesses?

Absolutely awful let people live their lives.

Are there other changes to the ordinance you'd suggest?

Get rid of it entirely this is completely unconstitutional.

Downtown Smoking Ban

How do you feel about a smoking ban downtown?

Andrew Kubik inside Ashland

January 20, 2016, 1:53 PM

What is your general reaction to this proposal and to the idea of banning smoking in downtown Ashland?

I've always supported indoor bans and campaigned for them in several states. They serve a legitimate public health purpose. However, I think the present outdoor smoking restrictions are sufficient as long as they are enforced.

How do you feel about the ordinance provision for a limited exception for OLCC licensed businesses?

I would support the present restrictions, which normally address proximity to buildings, businesses, etc. Exceptions tend to favor certain businesses over others, which really isn't fair.

Are there other changes to the ordinance you'd suggest?

I think we need to guard against the urge to 'legislate' lifestyle here in Ashland. I know other cities (particularly in California) have enacted complete outdoor smoking bans, but I'm really uncomfortable with ideas like that. Life isn't perfect and there are those who want to have a smoke outside. I don't think there's anything wrong with that.

Downtown Smoking Ban

How do you feel about a smoking ban downtown?

Meredith Yox outside Ashland

January 20, 2016, 1:03 PM

What is your general reaction to this proposal and to the idea of banning smoking in downtown Ashland?

Love it. We recently moved to Ashland and was shocked when we visited over the summer at the number of people smoking on the sidewalk outside of businesses. We frequently would cross the street with our children to not be forced to inhale second hand smoke.

How do you feel about the ordinance provision for a limited exception for OLCC licensed businesses?

I'm concerned about certain businesses being able to apply for an exception, does that mean restaurants could apply for an exception and people could then smoke in front of that restaurant? I feel it should be across the board not allowed.

Are there other changes to the ordinance you'd suggest?

No Response

Downtown Smoking Ban

How do you feel about a smoking ban downtown?

Teresa Safay inside Ashland

January 20, 2016, 12:52 PM

What is your general reaction to this proposal and to the idea of banning smoking in downtown Ashland?

i am a non smoker, and completely hate the stench of smoke. I do not agree with this new rule, because enforcing current law should be sufficient. Most of the sidewalks in Ashland are less than 10 feet wide, so no one should be smoking on any sidewalk. Cannabis is already illegal to smoke in public, so enforce the law. We are a tourist town, and over regulating could be a deterrent to much needed summer business

How do you feel about the ordinance provision for a limited exception for OLCC licensed businesses?

The current laws maintain that no one should smoke within 10 feet of a business. These laws need to be enforced regardless of the type of business. I smell pot everywhere downtown. Why are the state laws not being followed?

Are there other changes to the ordinance you'd suggest?

Drop it. Follow the current state laws

Downtown Smoking Ban

How do you feel about a smoking ban downtown?

ellen babin inside Ashland

January 20, 2016, 12:51 PM

What is your general reaction to this proposal and to the idea of banning smoking in downtown Ashland?

No. Smoking areas, yes! Complete ban - NO! Impossible to enforce (referring ESP. To tickets issued & ripped up by travelers) Costly to enforce...more enforcement employees needed....

How do you feel about the ordinance provision for a limited exception for OLCC licensed businesses?

So people that participate in another unhealthy activity sanctioned by the state are allowed to smoke?
DRINKING while med mj users are not already legally banned?

Are there other changes to the ordinance you'd suggest?

Designated smoking areas general public easily can avoid!

Downtown Smoking Ban

How do you feel about a smoking ban downtown?

Vanessa Houk inside Ashland

January 20, 2016, 12:36 PM

What is your general reaction to this proposal and to the idea of banning smoking in downtown Ashland?

I don't smoke and hate being around smoke, but I am concerned that such a ban would be a tool to target disenfranchised people. For that reason, I am against the ban. The other concern I have is that strong perfumes and other odors can be just as offensive. Why not include that too?

How do you feel about the ordinance provision for a limited exception for OLCC licensed businesses?

If you are going to do a ban, (and I am against one), I'd guess it makes sense to keep the bars out of it.

Are there other changes to the ordinance you'd suggest?

No.

Downtown Smoking Ban

How do you feel about a smoking ban downtown?

Jamila Elliott outside Ashland

January 20, 2016, 12:29 PM

What is your general reaction to this proposal and to the idea of banning smoking in downtown Ashland?

Bad idea.

How do you feel about the ordinance provision for a limited exception for OLCC licensed businesses?

What's the point of a ban, there is at least one if not several of those per block.

Are there other changes to the ordinance you'd suggest?

It is unenforceable and a waste of time. Get rid of it altogether.

Downtown Smoking Ban

How do you feel about a smoking ban downtown?

Alaya Ketani inside Ashland

January 20, 2016, 11:58 AM

What is your general reaction to this proposal and to the idea of banning smoking in downtown Ashland?

Yes Yes and Yes. I actually contacted the City Councilwoman who initiated this and offered to help work for this initiative. It has been determined to be an environmental hazard with bands of people now smoking. Second and third hand smoke is dangerously harmful. It is considered the number one cause of Sudden Infant Death Syndrome, and cities with no public smoking have 1/3 less heart disease. We are not only breathing in the cigarette residue but through the lungs of those smoking. It has become intolerable for my body, which is allergic to a specific chemical that is put in cigarettes. Consider what it is doing to all of our health and our children's health. We each have civil liberties, and why should those of us who choose to not smoke be subjected to the poisons of others who do. I feel very strongly about this, and there is no argument to the contrary that will sway me.

How do you feel about the ordinance provision for a limited exception for OLCC licensed businesses?

Absolutely No Exceptions. It is a new world. This is not a unique idea. Other cities have accomplished this successfully, and so can Ashland. Point those businesses to the cities and studies that show how it was done in their town. Get the research and data and share it.

Are there other changes to the ordinance you'd suggest?

As a Hypnotherapist, Biofeedback and Somatics Specialist, I work with clients who have serious medical issues, even dying, because of their smoking or toxic exposure. Why wait. City wide ban. Save lives!

Downtown Smoking Ban

How do you feel about a smoking ban downtown?

Darlene Southworth inside Ashland

January 20, 2016, 11:57 AM

What is your general reaction to this proposal and to the idea of banning smoking in downtown Ashland?

good idea

How do you feel about the ordinance provision for a limited exception for OLCC licensed businesses?

Really, this defeats the entire ban because groups of people stand on the sidewalk outside of bars and smoke.

Are there other changes to the ordinance you'd suggest?

No Response

Downtown Smoking Ban

How do you feel about a smoking ban downtown?

Eric Grace inside Ashland

January 20, 2016, 11:35 AM

What is your general reaction to this proposal and to the idea of banning smoking in downtown Ashland?

I like the idea.

How do you feel about the ordinance provision for a limited exception for OLCC licensed businesses?

Does this mean that people that are at bars in towns that they can step outside and smoke?

Are there other changes to the ordinance you'd suggest?

Does this include smoking marijuana and cigarettes and cigars? Does it include vapor cigarettes?

Downtown Smoking Ban

How do you feel about a smoking ban downtown?

Timothy Nobles inside Ashland

January 20, 2016, 10:25 AM

What is your general reaction to this proposal and to the idea of banning smoking in downtown Ashland?

I don't smoke, never have, don't like smelling smoke, and I oppose the ordinance because it restricts personal freedom and provides an excuse for harassing people.

How do you feel about the ordinance provision for a limited exception for OLCC licensed businesses?

If passed, it should have this exception, but I oppose the ordinance because it's a petty imposition on personal freedom.

Are there other changes to the ordinance you'd suggest?

No Response

Downtown Smoking Ban

How do you feel about a smoking ban downtown?

diane newell meyer inside Ashland

January 20, 2016, 10:05 AM

What is your general reaction to this proposal and to the idea of banning smoking in downtown Ashland?

I would love to see smoking banned everywhere!

but being realistic, I know that I may not get my wish. Maybe, like California, we could have a 20' ban from any window or door. I hate it especially in parking lots. It should be banned in those RVTB bus shelters as well.

How do you feel about the ordinance provision for a limited exception for OLCC licensed businesses?

I love that the state law bans smoking in these establishments now. Even here, extending the smoking ban to 20' from 10' might be a solution. 10' from a door or window is a joke. Like I said, I would love to never smell a cigarette the rest of my life!

Are there other changes to the ordinance you'd suggest?

As I said above. 20' from a door or window anywhere in town. it would help with other locations, like at Shop n Kart area, the shopping center, near the Dollar store, etc.

Downtown Smoking Ban

How do you feel about a smoking ban downtown?

Benjamin Root inside Ashland

January 20, 2016, 10:04 AM

What is your general reaction to this proposal and to the idea of banning smoking in downtown Ashland?

I don't smoke and have never smoked tobacco products and don't smoke cannabis products. I hate smoking! I've become so wonderfully used-to the low levels of smoking in our society in general, and Ashland in specific in recent years (remember restaurants in the '70s?) that I am sometimes caught off-guard when getting a whiff on the public sidewalk. It's a disgusting surprise these days.

That said, I'm totally against this ordinance. I think it restricts people's freedom and is specifically a cloaked attack on the homeless population and recreational marijuana use. I want diversity of character in my community, not a sterilized homogenized upper-middle-class disney-land community.

How do you feel about the ordinance provision for a limited exception for OLCC licensed businesses?

Actually, these areas of exception are some of the most-disgusting locations of smoking concentration...so what's the point of the ordinance? Packs of smokers blocking the sidewalk in front of the Beau Club and O'Whatevers. Even if you can squeeze through the drunks, you still have to pass through their cloud. And they leave butts all over the trash-can lids to steep into stinky brown skuz in the next rain.

But again, if this concentration of smoking is going to stay anyway, why have an ordinance that will negatively affect the random tourist, skate punk, or Medfordite who tries to visit our town? Back off on the laws singling out the socially undersireables.

Are there other changes to the ordinance you'd suggest?

Drop the ordinance completely.

Downtown Smoking Ban

How do you feel about a smoking ban downtown?

Susan Marsden inside Ashland

January 20, 2016, 9:57 AM

What is your general reaction to this proposal and to the idea of banning smoking in downtown Ashland?

I think this is a good idea.

How do you feel about the ordinance provision for a limited exception for OLCC licensed businesses?

I'd prefer a clean ban, but I understand that some business owners have a legitimate concern.

Are there other changes to the ordinance you'd suggest?

No Response

Downtown Smoking Ban

How do you feel about a smoking ban downtown?

Doug Viner inside Ashland

January 20, 2016, 9:54 AM

What is your general reaction to this proposal and to the idea of banning smoking in downtown Ashland?

I support the idea of codifying the Oregon Indoor Clean Air Act (ORS 433.835, et seq); however, I oppose both proposed extensions.

Regarding the first extension, I'm not a smoker - and I really don't like cigarette smoke - but I think that the current act is a fair compromise. In my opinion, the proposed extension to ban all smoking downtown goes too far. "Can't we all just get along?"

How do you feel about the ordinance provision for a limited exception for OLCC licensed businesses?

I oppose it.

Are there other changes to the ordinance you'd suggest?

Yes: Scale it back to comply with the Oregon Indoor Clean Air Act (ORS 433.835, et seq) *without* extensions.

Downtown Smoking Ban

How do you feel about a smoking ban downtown?

mitzi miles inside Ashland

January 20, 2016, 9:46 AM

What is your general reaction to this proposal and to the idea of banning smoking in downtown Ashland?

Oh sure, let's keep saying "no" to everything. No dogs in the parks, no music leakage from downtown clubs, no trees, no grass, no fun on Halloween. First we kick smoking out from inside bars and restaurants, now we kick the unfortunate addicts off the curbs, too? Ashland has more prohibitions than freedoms lately. PS--I don't smoke, I don't like it, I don't condone it.

How do you feel about the ordinance provision for a limited exception for OLCC licensed businesses?

How about NO MORE PILES OF RULES?!! How about addressing nuisance PEOPLE and THEIR behaviors rather than put further restrictions on tourists and patrons who keep downtown business going by actually spending MONEY instead of lying around on the sidewalk harassing innocent bystanders? A whiff of smoke won't kill anyone. But, BTW, it sets a lovely example for young people to see a bunch of drunks hanging around outside a bar huffing tobacco. I deplore that idiotic practice. I think businesses should have the right to decide if they will permit smoking. Don't like it? Don't go there. Simple as that. But essentially setting an example out on the street like a billboard is really, really stupid.

Are there other changes to the ordinance you'd suggest?

Don't. Do. It.

Downtown Smoking Ban

How do you feel about a smoking ban downtown?

Sam Whitford inside Ashland

January 20, 2016, 9:22 AM

What is your general reaction to this proposal and to the idea of banning smoking in downtown Ashland?

GO FOR IT!

How do you feel about the ordinance provision for a limited exception for OLCC licensed businesses?

Smoking needs to be banned in our city!

Are there other changes to the ordinance you'd suggest?

No Response

Downtown Smoking Ban

How do you feel about a smoking ban downtown?

Robert Bestor inside Ashland

January 20, 2016, 9:09 AM

What is your general reaction to this proposal and to the idea of banning smoking in downtown Ashland?

Too much government. What's next, a ban on high fat dishes served in Ashland restaurants?

How do you feel about the ordinance provision for a limited exception for OLCC licensed businesses?

No Response

Are there other changes to the ordinance you'd suggest?

No Response

Downtown Smoking Ban

How do you feel about a smoking ban downtown?

R K inside Ashland

January 20, 2016, 9:05 AM

What is your general reaction to this proposal and to the idea of banning smoking in downtown Ashland?

Opposed. I think this is over-regulatory and a waste of time and money (for what it's worth, I'm a non-smoker). As another responder said, it's "a solution in search of a problem"

How do you feel about the ordinance provision for a limited exception for OLCC licensed businesses?

n/a (see above)

Are there other changes to the ordinance you'd suggest?

the change would be to scrap the whole thing (see above)

Downtown Smoking Ban

How do you feel about a smoking ban downtown?

Peter Nystrom inside Ashland

January 20, 2016, 8:41 AM

What is your general reaction to this proposal and to the idea of banning smoking in downtown Ashland?

I'm a non-smoker, but this is a classic "Solution in search of a problem". If we need to codify the Oregon Indoor Clean Air Act (as written) in order to enforce it, fine. The proposed "enhancements" would have limited positive effect(s) and are clear examples of regulatory overkill. This is the highest priority for our limited public health\safety resources and tax dollars?

How do you feel about the ordinance provision for a limited exception for OLCC licensed businesses?

If the Council adopts the proposed ordinance then allowing limited exceptions seems fine.

Are there other changes to the ordinance you'd suggest?

No.

Downtown Smoking Ban

How do you feel about a smoking ban downtown?

Chuck Keil inside Ashland

January 20, 2016, 8:27 AM

What is your general reaction to this proposal and to the idea of banning smoking in downtown Ashland?

Favorable

How do you feel about the ordinance provision for a limited exception for OLCC licensed businesses?

Less favorable

Are there other changes to the ordinance you'd suggest?

Include a larger area, the whole city. We have lots of retail outside of downtown.

Downtown Smoking Ban

How do you feel about a smoking ban downtown?

Jim Bachman inside Ashland

January 20, 2016, 8:24 AM

What is your general reaction to this proposal and to the idea of banning smoking in downtown Ashland?

I strongly support this ordinance.

How do you feel about the ordinance provision for a limited exception for OLCC licensed businesses?

I don't think smoking should be allowed on the public side walks in front of OLCC licensed businesses at any time of day. Designated outdoor smoking areas on the buisnesses' property would make sense since users of that space would be voluntarily exposing themselves to secondhand smoke.

Are there other changes to the ordinance you'd suggest?

The rest of the ordinance seems reasonable and in the interest of public health.

Downtown Smoking Ban

How do you feel about a smoking ban downtown?

ML Moore inside Ashland

January 20, 2016, 8:02 AM

What is your general reaction to this proposal and to the idea of banning smoking in downtown Ashland?

As smoking is one of the most destructive habits a person can have, I support this proposed ban in an effort of Ashland to become a healthier town. This will serve to propel more smokers to quit and produce better air quality for all. Of course, when we get smoky air from the fires, we can laugh about the smoking ban.

How do you feel about the ordinance provision for a limited exception for OLCC licensed businesses?

It's sad to see people clustered around outside furtively smoking, dumping their butts on the sidewalk. I'd prefer not to see this exception. After all, why should drinkers have the right to smoke? What's the logic in that?

Are there other changes to the ordinance you'd suggest?

If you include the exception, be sure that ash trays and sidewalks are cleaned up.

Downtown Smoking Ban

How do you feel about a smoking ban downtown?

Swami Snatchyerbucks inside Ashland

January 20, 2016, 7:08 AM

What is your general reaction to this proposal and to the idea of banning smoking in downtown Ashland?

I think this ban would have an overall negative effect. I am not a smoker. I detest the smell and in the few cases when someones cigarette smoke bothered me I simply moved or asked them to go somewhere else. Ashland already has a pretty bad reputation for over-regulating people and this ban would do no good except to reinforce that reputation. I appose continually regulating people and hope the city and chamber of commerce will rethink this silly plan.

How do you feel about the ordinance provision for a limited exception for OLCC licensed businesses?

The reason our beaches are covered with cigarette butts is because we banned indoor smoking and now everyone smokes in the streets and instead of putting their butts in ashtrays which are emptied into the garbage they end up in our streams and beaches. If people can't smoke in or around the bars, business will suffer and you will have a lot of upset business owners.

Are there other changes to the ordinance you'd suggest?

Quit creating new ordinances and trying to regulate everyone! Who do you folks think you are?

Downtown Smoking Ban

How do you feel about a smoking ban downtown?

Helga Motley outside Ashland

January 20, 2016, 6:54 AM

What is your general reaction to this proposal and to the idea of banning smoking in downtown Ashland?

Even though I've been a non smoker all my life, I find this proposal excessively controlling of public behavior. It is also another way to criminalize the homeless travelers who hang around in the downtown. This should NOT be declared to be issued from "the people of Ashland", as the decision can be made by a very few (city council) for all people. It promises to be a major problem for tourists who may not be aware of the ordinance. It could lead to needing to hire more people for enforcement. This reminds me of laws in an oppressive police state. The people who are addicted to smoking harm themselves more than others. Smoking outside is enough protective measure for the non-smoking public. Think of all the other toxic substances that are getting spewed into the air (like fumes from cars and trucks). If Ashland passes this ordinance, it will be the laughing stock of the nation and open itself up to lawsuits from the ACLU - and deservedly so.

How do you feel about the ordinance provision for a limited exception for OLCC licensed businesses?

Well, since the downtown is dependent on serving liquor and having bars it would be necessary to make this exception. Otherwise you'd wipe out the tourism business. Will people have to have a home, have to be in their own private car, or have money to be in a bar in order to smoke downtown? Let's not forget about the exception given to motels. This ordinance goes too far with its efforts to control and penalize.

Are there other changes to the ordinance you'd suggest?

Drop the entire ordinance and stop trying to control the public in those areas. The whole designation of the downtown as a special legal code area is so offensive!!

Downtown Smoking Ban

How do you feel about a smoking ban downtown?

Jerome Nitzberg inside Ashland

January 20, 2016, 6:42 AM

What is your general reaction to this proposal and to the idea of banning smoking in downtown Ashland?

Seems like a good proposal.

How do you feel about the ordinance provision for a limited exception for OLCC licensed businesses?

Seems reasonable.

Are there other changes to the ordinance you'd suggest?

No Response

Downtown Smoking Ban

How do you feel about a smoking ban downtown?

Peter Finkle inside Ashland

January 20, 2016, 5:25 AM

What is your general reaction to this proposal and to the idea of banning smoking in downtown Ashland?

While I like the intention of the proposal, I think banning outdoor smoking is excessive.

How do you feel about the ordinance provision for a limited exception for OLCC licensed businesses?

Seems like people would just gather in clumps in front of those businesses, which might be as bad as, or worse than, current clumps of people in the sidewalks.

Are there other changes to the ordinance you'd suggest?

No

Downtown Smoking Ban

How do you feel about a smoking ban downtown?

Steve Weyer inside Ashland

January 20, 2016, 5:23 AM

What is your general reaction to this proposal and to the idea of banning smoking in downtown Ashland?

If legal, I'm generally in favor of it to improve air quality for pedestrians. I assume this applies to recreational marijuana & e-cigarettes too? Maybe it'll decrease litter also.

How do you feel about the ordinance provision for a limited exception for OLCC licensed businesses?

How many such businesses are there? this could tend to concentrate same number of smokers in more places, though if exception areas were in back rather than at main entrances, that could reduce impact.

Are there other changes to the ordinance you'd suggest?

No Response