Indoor vaping ban approved in Hiawatha

(KNZA)--The Hiawatha City Commission has approved an indoor vaping ban.

The Commission Monday evening approved an ordinance that prohibits the use of electronic cigarettes in enclosed public places and places of employment within the city.

Due to the increase in illnesses linked to vaping, Mayor Bill Collin said he thinks its something that needs to be addressed.

City Attorney Andy Delaney said the ordinance mimics the Kansas Indoor Clean Air Act, which prohibits smoking within enclosed areas.

The new ordinance prohibits the use of electronic cigarettes in bars, restaurants, retail service establishments, retail stores and other indoor public places within the city.

Private residences, except those used as a state licensed child care, adult day care or health care facility would be exempt. Also E-cigarette shops are exempt.

Violation of the ordinance would be a misdemeanor punishable by a fine of at least \$50 for the first violation, at least \$100 for a second violation and at least \$200 for a third or subsequent violation.

The ordinance will be enforced by the Hiawatha Fire and Police Departments.

It will take effect following publication in the Hiawatha World.

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