

## NITRO COUNCIL RETAINS VIDEO LOTTERY LIMITS

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**Nitro** City Council members could not agree to change the rules for video lottery parlors in the city on Tuesday night, and appear ready to leave distance requirements in the city where they are now.

Nitro's laws prohibit video lottery establishments within 3,000 feet of schools, churches and other video lottery parlors. An ordinance before council Tuesday would have reduced that to 1,000 feet.

Councilmen Joe Savilla and Jim McKay disagreed adamantly with the change and wanted the video lottery restriction to remain at 3,000 feet, which would effectively prevent any new video lottery establishments from being opened in the city.

Councilman Bill Javins supported the ordinance as written. "This council does support video lottery," Javins said.

Marsha Long, representing Castaways Bar and Grill, urged council members to pass the change.

"We just want a chance to improve our business," she said.

Council will vote on the ordinance again at the next meeting, to deal with other aspects of it, but the distance restriction will be reset to 3,000 feet.

Also, Town Recorder Rita Cox criticized the **Nitro** Development Authority for letting a stretch of Main Avenue become rundown and not working hard enough to bring in new businesses.

She contrasted that with the time spent on the video lottery issue.

Hershel Facemyre, vice president of the development authority, replied, "The idea of promoting business is our No. 1 priority."

He also said that at times the council has mixed goals and that members need to make sure they're always putting the city first.