

## NITRO OKS VIDEO-LOTTERY ORDINANCE

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**Nitro City Council** on Tuesday approved changes to a zoning ordinance that opens a two-week window for new video lottery parlors in the city, but effectively bans them after that.

Starting today, new parlors will be allowed within 1,000 feet of churches, schools and current video lottery establishments.

After March 17, new parlors will be prohibited closer than 6,000 feet of those facilities. That distance will make it unlikely new video lottery establishments will be able to open within city limits, Councilman Dave Casebolt said.

Casebolt called the ordinance - which passed 5-3 - a compromise that permits some expansion of gambling in the city while keeping it under control.

"This **council** supported video lottery 100 percent with the smoking ordinance at Tri-State," said Councilman Bill Javins, who backed the ordinance. "I support it on the large as well as the small scale."

But not everyone was pleased.

"I think we're opening ourselves up to a lawsuit in the future," said Councilman Joe Savilla, a vocal opponent of video lottery. "I was against it before and I am against it now."

Also Tuesday night, Casebolt and Councilman Jim McKay urged Mayor Rusty Casto to use their recommendations when appointing members of the new Convention and Visitor's Bureau.

Casto said that he would be willing to take suggestions from **council** members and business owners, but made it clear he would make his own decisions.

The discussion grew heated after Casebolt said he didn't want the selections to be a political decision. McKay said business owners and developers would have better insight than **council**.

"They are going to have ways to promote this city that us on this **council** would never even think of," McKay said.

After the meeting, Casebolt said, "It's a very important board and I feel it must have strong representation from our business owners, developers and teachers."