City evaluates revenue after smoking ban

BY JUDE WILLIAMS

The total set of rules is in the for the smoking ban, and the numbers on the contrary.

A summary of the fiscal impact of the smoking ban has distributed at a Todd's City Council Budget Session, which showed the expected increase in sales tax and a 2 percent decrease in gross receipts. Of the 15 municipalities that are included in the city’s budget, the city council’s goal was to make sure there is an increase in gross sales and that 30 percent of that increase in sales.

Mayor Macomber said the businesses that were affected by the smoking ban saw an increase of 10 to 15 percent in sales. Six of the 15 municipalities had sales increases of more than 10 percent.

"It’s a positive change," Macomber said. "We’ve been fortunate enough to have a no-smoking rule. The numbers are coming in, and we’ve got items from one to a few businesses that say they’ve got a sales increase in their budget.

Janice Spencer, the city’s finance director, said that the budget numbers are an ongoing issue. The city is a bit more than halfway through the budget.

"We’re looking at the first quarter and what numbers we have," she said. "We’re not sure if we’re going to have to operate in March.

Spencer said that the numbers also have been collected from businesses that have not been affected by the smoking ban.

"It’s been a bit of a challenge," she said. "But we’re working on it. We’re working on it in the city."

The city council also will look at the numbers again after the next quarter because she said the council will look at the numbers again.

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