

# West Liberty, Kent

Thursday, January 26, 2012

SPEAKING OF AND FOR MORGAN, THE BLUEGRASS COUNTY OF THE MOUNTAINS

50¢

## Council votes in favor of smoking ban

**Motion passes in 3-2 vote  
despite opposition from  
mayor, two councilmen**

By Miranda M. Cantrell

Councilman Mark Walter during the Jan. 23 city council meeting proposed a municipal smoking ban that passed in a 3-2 vote despite resistance from Mayor Jim Rupe and some council members.

Walter moved that all city-owned buildings – including City Hall, the police department, the fire department, the sewer plant and both water plants – eventually become smoke-free facilities.

Councilwoman Belinda Jordan seconded Walter's motion before the following vote:

*Yes – Phyllis Keeton, Belinda Jordan and Mark Walter.*

*No – John May and Tony Smith.*

*Abstain – Dwayne Nickell.*

Mayor Rupe – a smoker – advised council members to consider city employees who smoke, including City Clerk Sally Barker and some department heads.

Councilmen John May and Tony Smith also voiced opposition to the measure, which coincides with a legislative effort by Rep. Susann Westrom (D-Lexington) to enact a statewide smoking ban.

Walter clarified that his proposal was not intended as a personal slight against smokers, but as a measure to benefit the general public.

"The ban strictly has to do with the fact that these are public buildings," Walter said.

Jordan concurred with Walter's opinion.

"Smokers have rights," Jordan said. "But non-smokers have rights, too."

Clerk Barker said the council will likely revisit the smoking issue at next month's meeting. No effective date for the ban was suggested.

Council members will also consider at the next meeting the

*See CITY COUNCIL Page 4*