



THE

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LEBANON CITY COUNCIL

Council OKs historic district ordinance

■ City considers ban on roadblocks

STAFF REPORT

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LEBANON — The Lebanon City Council has passed an ordinance that allows the creation of a historic district in Lebanon's downtown Courthouse square area.

The council Monday approved the ordinance on its second reading.

Councilmen Keith Campbell, John Copeland, Jeremy Lamar, Steve Large, Dick Robertson and Brent Wheat and Mike Kincaid all voted

in favor of the ordinance.

The next step is for the council to create a five-member commission to determine the boundaries for the commercial historic district. The area being considered encompasses the Courthouse square along with an additional block in each direction. The commission will also create the preservation guidelines that will apply to the buildings' facades.

The purpose of creating a historic district is to preserve the historic character of downtown and property values.

Rebecca Smith, community preservation specialist with the Historic Landmarks Foundation of Indiana, has said that Lebanon is a

good place for a historic district, because the city has several historic buildings that are still intact.

About 40 cities and towns in Indiana have historic commissions and ordinances, Smith has said.

Also at Monday's meeting, the council approved on first reading an ordinance that would prohibit fundraising roadblocks on any of Lebanon's streets.

The ordinance, as first presented, was written to keep pedestrians from collecting funds on Ind. 32 and Ind. 39 within Lebanon's city limits, and required groups to get permission before setting up roadblocks on other city streets.

Lebanon Mayor Huck Lewis said he asked city attorney Bob Clutter to look into creating an ordinance because of increasing concerns about public safety and traffic issues.

"As time has gone on, it gets more and more dangerous," Lewis said.

During discussion before the vote, Councilman Copeland asked if requiring groups to seek permission might ultimately make the city responsible in the event of an accident at the site of a fundraising roadblock.

Councilman Wheat opposed any roadblocks in the city. "Pedestrians in the flow of traffic is a bad idea," he said.

Council President Lamar said he

has participated in roadblocks in the past and they were good fundraising activities for his Relay for Life team, but he acknowledged that the streets were busy and the situation was sometimes dangerous.

After a suggestion by Robertson to ban roadblocks on all streets and a brief discussion, Wheat made a motion to approve the ordinance with wording to prohibit roadblocks on any city street. Robertson made the second and the motion was approved on first reading, with Kincaid casting the sole "no" vote.

The ordinance will be heard for a final vote at the council's next meeting.