

Quad-City Times
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Thursday, May 9, 2019

Massage therapy ordinance passed

Aldermen passed an ordinance establishing regulations for massage therapists and reflexologists, responding to a larger effort aimed toward ridding the Quad-Cities of human trafficking and illegal sex work.

The ordinance, passed unanimously Tuesday night, establishes requirements for massage therapists to be licensed by the state in order to conduct business within city limits. Reflexologists, who massage feet, ears and hands, are required to obtain a license from the city.

Bettendorf Police Chief Keith Kimball said the measure gives local law enforcement another tool to investigate potentially illicit businesses. He added that local police are still looking into whether any such businesses currently exist in Bettendorf, adding that the ordinance is meant to be “proactive” by keeping them from setting up shop in town.

A similar law was recently passed in Davenport and across the river in Moline. Kimball said Bettendorf’s new rule mirrors the Davenport one by design, and the passage by council members makes Bettendorf one of more than a dozen Iowa cities to establish rules governing massage.

Motorcycle awareness

As a warmer spring is beginning to set in, Bettendorf officials have issued a proclamation establishing May as Motorcycle Awareness Month. The proclamation calls for motorcycle organizations, dealerships and clubs to actively promote safe motorcycle operation, increased rider training and motorist awareness. Following the proclamation, Alderman Greg Adamson, 4th Ward, recounted the death of his son-in-law during a motorcycle accident a few years ago.

Adamson said the driver who struck his son-in-law wasn't on drugs or driving erratically — he just didn't see him. The alderman called on motorists to be aware of their surroundings with that warning in mind.

“You got to really pay attention, keep of your phones and pay attention to what you're doing and save a life. It's real. It's real out there,” he said.