

Common Council passes two ordinances

By Sean Douglas

The Marion Common Council passed two ordinances on Tuesday, sending them on to their next change.

General Ordinance No. 3, an ordinance that would establish the American Rescue Plan Local Fiscal Recovery Grant Fund, passed by a 7-0 margin, while General Ordinance No. 4, an ordinance regulating motorized scooters, was passed to a second reading by a 6-1 vote.

Recently, the \$350 billion American Rescue Plan, which was established in order to help the country get back on its feet in the midst of the on-going pandemic, was passed. As part of this plan, the city of Marion will receive 5.82 million dollars, according to Marion City Controller Julie Flores.

The Indiana State Board of Accounts provided two pieces of correspondence to all municipalities in the state receiving any funding. First, each city or town must establish a local, separate grand fund where the money is to be deposited. Second, the fund must be established as soon as possible since Indiana will receive the money from the federal government on May 11.

The ordinance would establish the ARP Coronavirus Local Fiscal Recovery Grant Fund, Fund 176. The single source of income for Fund 176 will include monies allocated to the City of Marion from the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021. Furthermore, funds deposited into Fund 176 shall require additional appropriation approval from the Marion Common Council,

and the fiscal officer will review the requested use of monies along with the City attorney and financial advisor for compliance with ARPA requirements.

The money must be spent by December 2024, according to Flores.

General Ordinance No. 4 has been in the works for months. Common Council Vice President Brian Cowgill, in accordance with fellow Councilwoman Robin Fouce, President Deb Cain, Jerry Foustnight, City Engineer Mike Graft, Morrell's Scooters owner Ronald Morrell Jr., and others, believe they have devised an effective ordinance, which will allow the city of Marion to use motorized scooters in a safe and legal manner.

The ordinance will ensure that motorized scooters are operated in a way that is

safe for riders, pedestrians, and drivers, and that scooters are parked in a manner that does not clutter the public right-of-way or obstruct access for pedestrians, cars, bicycles, or buses.

"We went over some of these subjects two and three times, and we really feel like this is the best that we can start with," Cowgill

said. "We know how first readings like this go...but the committee felt really good [about it] once we got our final draft, and we unanimously voted to bring it to the council. Hopefully, we pass it."

The ordinance tackles many other different topics as well, including obedience to traffic control signals, regulations to riding on

roadways, bicycle paths, and sidewalks, rules and regulations regarding the operation of motorized scooters, licensing, motorized scooter and rider restrictions, and enforcement.

The ordinance will be read again, with public comment, at the next Common Council meeting scheduled for May 25.

Taylor University commencement May 15

Four-hundred-three students are set to graduate during Taylor University's 2021 Commencement exercises on Saturday, May 15, at 10:00 am, in the Kesler Student Activities Center (KSAC) Fieldhouse.

The event marks its return to the KSAC Fieldhouse following last year's Commencement exercises, which were delayed after Taylor officials closed the campus in the face of the then-spreading Covid 19 pandemic. Commencement was rescheduled and held outdoors near the Rice Bell Tower on August 15.

The featured Commencement speaker will be Dr. Walter Kim, the President of the National Association of Evangelicals (NAE). He holds a Ph.D. from Harvard University, an M.Div. from Regent College, and a B.A. from Northwestern University. Kim has taught classes at Boston College and at Harvard University, and contributed to the



Encyclopedia of Hebrew Language and Linguistics, Archaeological Study Bible, and The Soul of Medicine. He is an ordained minister in the Presbyterian Church in America and a licensed minister in the Conservative Congregational Christian Conference.

"Commencement is a day of celebration and the crowning achievement for our graduating students," said Dr. Michael Hammond '92, Taylor's Provost and Executive Vice President. "We consider Commencement as one of Taylor's 'high holidays,' meaning that it is a high-profile day marked with importance and spiritual significance for our community. As Covid infection rates continue to fall and we see businesses and public spaces reopen, we are confident that

Taylor University will be able to host this event in a way that honors God and places a memorable capstone on the stellar educations our students have received."

Taylor University's graduating class of 2021 represents 32 states throughout the United States and 14 different countries.

Indianapolis woman injured in Grant County

On Thursday, May 7, at approximately 2:15 p.m., officers from the Indiana State Police and the Grant County Sheriff's Department responded to a two-vehicle crash on I-69 near the 261-mile marker in which an Indianapolis woman was injured.

The preliminary crash investigation by Senior Trooper Jeremy Perez revealed that traffic was backed up due to a work zone lane restriction on I-69 southbound near the 261-mile marker. Laurie Collins 46, of Indianapolis, was driving a 2016 Jeep Wrangler on I-69 near the 261-mile marker. Collins failed to stop for the slowing or stopped traffic and drove into the back of an enclosed

semi-trailer. The trailer was being pulled by a 2015 Mack semi-tractor driven by Robert Wineberg, 54, of Onsted, Michigan

Collins was flown from the crash scene, via medical helicopter, to a Fort Wayne hospital with serious injuries. Wineberg was not injured.

This crash is still under investigation, but at this time neither the use of alcohol nor narcotics is suspected as having contributed to the crash.

Perez was assisted by ISP Major Tony Casto, Senior Trooper A.J. Coffee, Master Trooper Randy McPike, the Grant County Sheriff's Department, the Gas City Fire Department, the Jefferson Fire Department, and Grant County EMS.

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