

A recap of the latest City Commission meeting, April 7

by Louise Oleson, editor DLJ

The Devils Lake City Commission met Monday April 7 in the City Offices with a lengthy agenda to accomplish.

First they met as the Board of Equalization to address their annual report and allow residents to speak their appeals of the property tax changes.

One citizen came forward during that allotted time and asked the commission to do a study of affordability and capacity for housing within the community. Rick LaFleur talked a little about Academy Village, the vision for it and how it turned out asked for the commission to consider long-term decisions, what is fair and what is realistic. He asked that all the political subdivisions involved meet together to come up with ideas and solutions to the issues facing the city in the future.

Second the commission met as the Jobs Development Authority and heard a report on how Docks Family Entertainment Center is doing from the



manager, Christy Remmick. She told the commission that they were coming up to their first anniversary and they were pleased with the community's response, so far, but would continue to monitor it and report regularly to the Authority.

Following her report the Authority thanked Remmick for her work, expressed pleasure in how well it is doing and voted to release the annual funds pledged for the facility's operations, \$25,000.

A facade loan was

approved of for Old Spirit & Sushi and a small business revolving loan was approved of for Maid Right Cleaning LLC to expand, purchase equipment and add employees for the commercial cleaning business.

Then it was time for the City Commission meeting. The first action was to table a public hearing on the Pine Meadows Subdivision.

Suzie Kenner for Devils Lake Chamber and Tourism gave a report on her areas of responsibility and plans for the sum-

mer ahead. The Rib Fest will not be happening this year, but a long list of other activities will be taking place including the completion of the Ramsey County Event Center and The Shores at Woodland Resort, expansion of Bobbers and improvements planned at Ski Jump Hill. She discussed funding from the Garrison Diversion for wheelchair accessible fishing pier and improvements to the rest room facilities at Lakewood Park. Kenner also mentioned a Military Appreciation Day planned

for May in the community and a Mobility Festival that is being planned, as well.

A city resident came before the commission to appeal for help in covering a very large water bill created over two months by a leaking toilet in her basement. She explained about her circumstances and asked for whatever help they could give her would be appreciated. The City Manager Spencer Halvorson addressed the situation and explained to the commission that the sewer portion of the over \$1400 bill could be forgiven, amounting to approximately half the amount, if the commission wished, and that he would work with her to come up with a monthly payment plan to cover the remainder of the charges. The commission agreed to that plan.

Several items of business were then addressed under Commission Portfolios. Ten New Business items were discussed with action taken on the final four; approval of the Right of Way dedication for Ackerman Acres,

an agreement for aerial mosquito control for the season ahead, the 2025 Summer Maintenance contract with Ramsey County for maintenance of gravel roads within the city and a Quit Claim Deed approved for a property transfer to Jobs Development Authority. The Ordinances 1006 through 1011 comprised the first six items under New Business as they work to address planning and zoning at Camp Grafton and several issues concerning dealing with Nuisance including why this is an issue - "Purpose", Abatement Notice, Exemptions, and Penalties for non-compliance. These were the first hearing of these ordinances. There will be more discussion of these items to come.

The meeting ended at 7:40 p.m. with a motion to approve payment of the list of bills submitted. The Devils Lake City Commission meets the first and third Mondays of each month in City Hall except for Federal Holidays.

The Blonde on the Prairie: Prom!

by Jodi Ingstad

Prom night. A shimmering, sparkling, memory-making moment for so many young people. But this year, something a little extra magical happened—not just for the teens in tuxedos and gowns, but for the residents of our beloved nursing home.

It all started with a phone call to the head of the local prom committee. "Would the kids be willing to put on a little prom fashion show?" I asked. Would they?! She said she'd ask and get back to me.

The idea was simple: the prom-goers, all dressed to the nines, would swing by the nurs-

ing home before heading out for their big night. But what none of us expected was the profound impact this would have on all generations. We got busy.

The main room was transformed into our very own runway. Staff and I arranged the chairs in neat rows, queued up some elegant music, and helped a few eager residents create over 40 handmade signs. They scribbled words like "Stunning!", "Dapper!", "Beautiful!", "Perfect 10!", and "Wow!" with markers and glitter and enough enthusiasm to power a disco ball.

And then—at last, it was showtime!

One by one, the couples began to snake

through the rows, slowly and gracefully, like they were walking the red carpet at a Hollywood premiere. The room filled with cheers, claps, and hoots of delight. Residents waved their signs high in the air, some holding two at once.

You'd think Elvis himself had walked in.

What struck me most was the way these young people carried themselves. Every one of them treated our residents with such gentleness and respect. They knelt down to hold hands, posed for pictures, and soaked in the wisdom passed to them with smiles and gratitude. They were elegance, personified—inside and out. And just when we thought our hearts couldn't be more full, they went up and down every hallway, visiting those who couldn't make it out of their rooms. Not a single soul



was forgotten.

One resident whispered to me, tears in her eyes, "They brought the prom to me."

After our glittering guests had their photos taken and headed to the golf course for dinner and dancing, we gathered for our own kind of after-party—a discussion group about proms past. Or in some cases, the

wouldn't even want to do that!" The room erupted with laughter!

That night, we were reminded of something important. It's easy for older generations to misunderstand or even dismiss the younger ones. But when we meet each other with open hearts and open minds, there's so much love to be shared. These incredible teens gave our residents a night to remember. And I have a feeling they left with something just as meaningful in return.

Here's to every generation—dancing together, one hallway at a time.

The Blonde on the Prairie is a lover of ND. She is an author and motivational speaker, owner of "Monkey Balls" food truck and Joyologist to the elderly, the disabled and also to children wherever she is needed during the school year and beyond.



FARMERS UNION OIL
Devils Lake • McVillie • Lakota • Munich

94th Annual Meeting
Thursday, April 17th 2025 at 5:00 PM
KC Hall, Devils Lake, ND

Meeting at 5:00 pm with dinner to follow.
Voting of two board members by active growers.
All customers welcome!

MINNEWAUKAN TOWNSHIP
Tax Equalization Meeting

Monday
April 14, 2025
5pm at the Armory Meeting Room

Protest

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were working, which resulted in her having to wait in line for hours for an address change.

"It's not about right

versus left. It's more about right versus wrong," she said. "I believe what's happening by the current administration is just wrong."

Tabert added that one of the actions she'd like to see is getting rid of Elon Musk.

"He was not elected by the people."

Other protests happened throughout North Dakota, including in Fargo, Grand Forks, and Bismarck. It is estimated that 3 million demonstrators participated nationwide.



Darlene Brown
NMLS #486651

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Julie Lamb
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Holy Week
Schedule For
ST. JOSEPH CHURCH

HOLY THURSDAY, APRIL 17
MASS OF THE LORD'S SUPPER: 7:00PM

GOOD FRIDAY, APRIL 18
CELEBRATION OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD: 3:00PM
CELEBRATION OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD: 7:00PM

HOLY SATURDAY, APRIL 19
EASTER VIGIL: 8:30PM

EASTER SUNDAY, APRIL 20
MASSES ARE AT:
7:30AM, 9:00AM & 11:00AM

