

Morton County Chamber of Commerce Luncheon Meeting Minutes

Date: November 5, 2025

Time: 12:15 PM

Location: Morton County Museum

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at **12:15 PM**.

Approval of Minutes

Minutes from the previous meeting were reviewed.

Motion: To approve the minutes with correction (Overland Park, not Oberlin, per Mayor's report).

Moved by: Laura Martin

Seconded by: Ellie Bowman

Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report

Reported by: Marla Houtz

Balance: \$14,465.26

Old Business

A) Wine Walk

- 94 passports were sold, generating **\$2,915.00** in revenue.
- Expenses included printing, wine glasses, and live music.
- The event received **strong community feedback** and boosted local traffic.

B) Lights in the Park – Swimming Pool Park

- Setup scheduled for **November 21st**.
- Businesses are encouraged to bring and set up their own light displays.
- Contact **Alexis or Natasha** to be added to the participation map.

C) Pink Friday – November 14th

- Chamber distributed participation information to businesses.

- A “Shop Small” marketing initiative promoting local shopping.

D) Shop Small Saturday – November 29th

- Marketing collaboration with **American Express**.
- Chamber and Alexis will send out participation ideas and promotional materials.

E) Christmas Parade – December 6th

- Theme: *Winter Wonderland*
 - Includes **Chili Feed, Tree Lighting, and Ham & Turkey Giveaway**.
 - Sign-up forms will be available online; **volunteers needed** for the Chili Feed.
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New Business

A) Ribbon Cuttings

- Recent and upcoming ribbon cuttings include:
 - **Vision N Motion (Main Street Clinic)**
 - **Simply Blessed**
 - **Lasso & Latte**
- More new businesses and ribbon cuttings are forthcoming.

B) Open Board Positions

- Two open Chamber Board seats are available.
 - Interested parties should submit a **letter of interest** to the Chamber office.
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Business Reports

School Reports

- **Students of the Month:**
 - Max Tucker
 - Grady Jones
 - Raegan Escalera
 - Zoe Quigley
- **Zombie Fun Run:** Scheduled for **November 16 at 5:30 PM**, free for elementary students.

- **School Play:** *Alice in Wonderland* opening soon.

Marla Houtz – Morton County Health Department

- Offering **flu shots** and **Medicaid information assistance**.
- Working with **Hands for Hope** for donation support.
- **Over 250** drive-through flu shots administered during recent clinic.

Olivia Cano – Simply Blessed

- Business has been open since June; official ribbon cutting held on **November 1st**.
- The **Wine Walk** was a great success and helped introduce new customers to the store.

Tim Hardy – City/School Board

- **City:**
 - Council installed **extra electrical outlets** in parks for Christmas displays.
 - **Veterans Day displays** will be installed soon and later transitioned to Christmas themes.
 - Council voted to **reinstate the Elkhart Chief of Police** position, separate from the County Sheriff.
- **School Board:**
 - Reported all **Elkhart rental properties are full**.
 - **Quail and pheasant season** begins Saturday, boosting local tourism.

Nancy Brewer – U.S. Forestry Service

- Office currently closed due to **federal government shutdown**.
- Nancy is still monitoring calls and maintaining facilities.
- **Cattle grazing** to continue through the **end of November**.

Cinthia Sanchez – Seaboard Foods

- Business operations are **steady and normal**.

Laura Martin – Sew Loved

- **Storefront update completed**, receiving positive community feedback.
- Currently busy with **holiday projects**.
- Preparing for **Holly Days**, and **spring sewing classes** are already filling up.

Ellie Bowman – The Prickly Pear & Lumber Yard

- Business **no longer affiliated with True Value.**
- Remodeling of **storefront interior** underway.
- **Greenhouse opening planned for spring.**
- **Restocked lumber and sheetrock**, inventory updates ongoing.
- Encourages customers to share **product requests and suggestions.**

Kent & Diana Boaldin – Boaldin Electric, Prairie Park RV & Car Wash

- Operations are running smoothly.
- **Car wash winterized**, RV park preparing for cold weather.
- **New grandbaby** added to the family!

Becky Ellis – Morton County Museum

- Successful participation in **Main Street Trick-or-Treat** and **Wine Walk.**
- Installed new **Santa Fe Trail interpretive graphic** in the museum.
- Visitor numbers have been **strong** in recent weeks.

Sherry Butler – Morton County Senior Center

- **Trick-or-Treat Parade** and **Wine Walk** participation both went well.
- Continuing **Medicare assistance** appointments.
- Hosting **Christmas Market** on **December 13th.**

April Kerbo – Big C's Café

- **Sold out of steaks** during the Wine Walk event.
- **New website** and online ordering system launched.
- **Trivia Night** scheduled for **November 11th (Veterans Day)** at **7:00 PM.**
- **New lunch special calendar** in place and **Christmas catering scheduling** underway.
- **New deli cooler installed**, introducing **salads, sandwiches, and quick lunch options.**

Becky Ellis – Prairie Point Quilt Guild

- Hosting the **Veterans Day Ham & Bean Dinner** at **City Hall, 11 AM – 1 PM.**

Adjournment

Motion to Adjourn: Nancy Brewer
Seconded by: Olivia Cano
Meeting adjourned at: 12:47 PM

Reminders

- **Holly Days** this weekend at the Civic Center.
- **Community newsletter** scheduled to go out **Friday**.
- **Upcoming Event Flyer (Lindsay Alvarado):**
 - *A Walk in Their Shoes – Dyslexia Simulation*
 - Scheduled for **December 3rd**.