

CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS
Kate Henson, Mayor
Tony Iannelli, Mayor Pro Tem
Sam Angus
Jacquelyn Bullerman
Eric Keaton
George Merkel
Felix Stump

**CITY OF CHELSEA
SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING
THURSDAY, AUGUST 27, 2026, AT 7:00 PM
311 S. MAIN ST.
CHELSEA, MI 48118**

CITY MANAGER
Elle Cole

CITY CLERK
Lyn Sebestyen

DEPUTY CLERK
Ashley Money

Call to Order

Present: Mayor Henson, Council Members Angus, Bullerman, Iannelli, Keaton, Merkel, Stump, Clerk Sebestyen, Attorney Fink

Absent:

Mayor Henson called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States

Approval of Agenda

MOTION Keaton SECONDED Merkel to approve the regular agenda. All ayes. Motion carried.

Mayor Henson provided an opening statement relating to the purpose of the Special Meeting.

Public Comments (available in person and via Zoom)

Bill Ruddock, a Chelsea resident, expressed his support for the Council. He had two points to make this evening. First, there are consequences to what they do tonight. If they dismiss the City Manager, who will want to work for the City of Chelsea? Secondly, he spoke about the process. He stated that the motion to enter into Closed Session was flawed.

Cathy Bean, a Chelsea resident, was present to speak about the potential loss of the City Manager. She spoke about the City Manager's success in getting a stop sign installed at the corner of East and Washington. She is concerned with the turnover and the cost of such.

Gaye Morgenthaler, a Chelsea resident, was present to speak to Council about their current work. She thanked Council Member Bullerman for her questions and actions. Ms. Morgenthaler spoke about the meeting on Wednesday with the Department of Natural Resources regarding the deer population.

Ms. Morgenthaler stated her misgivings about City Manager Cole's work relating to a forensic audit. She then went on to discuss budget failures by Democrats.

Tom Higgins, a Chelsea resident, was present to say that he appreciated working with the last two City Managers. He stated that he understood that the City Council's silence was evidence of the law working. He spoke about the good work the Council was still doing. He stated that he supports the Council.

Shawn Personke, a Chelsea resident, urged Council to work towards helping City Manager Cole stay and be successful.

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Laura Damschroeder, a Chelsea resident, was present to speak to Council about making an effort to keep City Manager Cole.

Jeremy Montange, a Chelsea resident, stated that he thought that City Manager Cole was the best City Manager the City had in a long time.

Council Business

CLOSED SESSION under MCL 15.268 (1) (a) "to consider the dismissal, suspension, or disciplining of, or to hear complaints or charges brought against, or to consider a periodic personnel evaluation of, a public officer, employee, staff member or individual agent, if the named individual requests a closed hearing."

MOTION Keaton SECONDED Merkel to enter into Closed Session to consider the dismissal, suspension, or discipline of, or to hear complaints or charges brought against, or to consider a periodic personnel evaluation of, a public officer, employee, staff member or individual agent, if the named individual requests a closed hearing. All ayes. Motion carried.

MOTION Merkel SECONDED Stump to exit Closed Session. All ayes. Motion carried.

MOTION Keaton SECONDED Merkel to adopt the resolution to terminate/remove the City Manager, Elle Cole, for cause. All ayes. Motion carried.

MOTION Keaton SECONDED Merkel to retain the services of Management Advisory Group for Interim City Management services for a term of one year. All ayes. Motion carried.

Adjournment

MOTION Stump SECONDED Merkel to adjourn at 8:07 p.m. All ayes. Motion carried.

Approved:

Kate Henson, Mayor

Lyn Sebestyen, Clerk