

CALL TO ORDER

The September 23, 2025, rescheduled regular meeting of the Whittier City Council was called to order at 7:04 p.m. by Mayor Blair.

OPENING CEREMONY

Mayor Blair led the pledge of allegiance to the flag.

ROLL CALL

There were present:

Daniel Blair, presiding, and
Renner Macal tao, Peter Denmark, Jamie Loan, and Tom Wagner, comprising a quorum of the Board.

And Absent:

Victor Shen and David Pinquoch

Also Present:

Jackie C. Wilde, City Manager
Adison Spafford, Assistant City Manager
Scott Korbe, Public Works Director (virtual)
David Borg, Harbormaster
Kris Erchinger, Finance Director
Andre Achee, Public Safety Director
Holly Wells, City Attorney (virtual)
Jes Spuhler, City Attorney (virtual)
Richard Moses, City Attorney (virtual)
Jennifer Alexander, City Attorney (virtual)
Shelby Carlson, City Clerk

CITIZEN COMMENTS ON ANY SUBJECT EXCEPT THOSE ITEMS SCHEDULED FOR PUBLIC HEARING

Linda Merhoff, representing the Girdwood Health Clinic, provided an update following Senator Giessel's recent visit to Whittier and shared upcoming opportunities for improving health.

Mike Bender shared updates on the recent Ship Escort Response Vessel System (SERVS) training and Prince William Sound Regional Citizens' Advisory Council meeting.

APPROVAL OF THE REGULAR MEETING AGENDA AND CONSENT AGENDA

Motion (Wagner/Loan) Approve Agenda and Consent Agenda

Motion to Amend (Denmark/Wagner) Remove items 12 and 1C

Motion to Amend Passed Unanimous

Motion to Amend (Wagner/Denmark)

Insert an Executive Session to discuss City Manager Performance, as per Whittier Municipal Code 2.08.040(B)(2), matters that would tend to injure the reputation of a person; provided, however, that the person may request a public discussion.

Motion to Amend Passed

Unanimous

Motion Passed as Amended

Unanimous

Items Approved on Consent Agenda:

*Approval of the August 19, 2025 Regular Meeting Minutes

PRESENTATIONS AND REPORTS

Whittier Waterfront and Economic Development Plan (Corvus Design)

General discussion given. There was no objection to relax the rules to allow for discussion of the Waterfront and Economic Development Plan. General discussion continued.

Motion (Wagner/Macal tao)

Direct Administration to hold a work session on the Waterfront and Economic Development Plan on a date to be determined by survey.

General discussion given.

Motion Passed

Unanimous

Great Whittier LLC Operational Plans

Jordan introduced Great Whittier LLC and shared the company's plans for demolition and construction over the coming months. He highlighted the issue of land ownership.

Mayor Report – Blair shared that Loan, Macal tao, Wagner, and he toured the Huna Totem operations in another community. He stated the community needs the community park project completed and residential housing construction.

Vice Mayor Report – None

City Manager Report – Wilde shared highlights from her written report and shared progress on the community park project. **Denmark** requested the police report include the breakdown of Girdwood and Whittier calls each month.

PUBLIC HEARINGS – None

NEW BUSINESS

ORDINANCES FOR INTRODUCTION – None

RESOLUTIONS

RESOLUTION 2025-032 A Resolution Authorizing a Sole Source Contract with Sage Mechanical to Replace Boiler Pumps and Related Equipment in an Amount Not to Exceed \$22,573, and Appropriating Funds

Motion (Wagner/Loan)

Approve **Resolution 2025-032**.

General discussion given.

Motion Passed

Unanimous

OTHER NEW BUSINESS

Commissioner Appointments

General discussion given.

Motion (Loan/Wagner)

Confirm the commissioner appointment of Richard “Rick” Reger to Seat B, Port & Harbor Advisory Commission.

Motion Passed

Unanimous

Fireworks for New Years

General discussion given.

Motion (Wagner/Macal tao)

Approve \$5,000 for a fireworks display for New Year’s Eve.

Motion Passed

Unanimous

Community Holiday Dinner

Motion (Wagner/Loan)

Direct Administration to organize a Community Holiday Dinner.

General discussion given. **Blair** requested the dinner be held on Saturday, December 20th, 2025.

Motion Passed

Unanimous

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Motion (Denmark/Wagner)

Direct Administration to prepare a resolution for continued funding of Alaska Weather Consulting.

General discussion given.

Motion Passed

Unanimous

CITIZEN DISCUSSION

Ky Holland, State Representative for House District 9, highlighted opportunities to get involved. **Tor Wallen**, Huna Totem Corporation, thanked the City Council and shared highlights of their first summer season of operation. He noted the Huna Totem operations in Hoonah were built over the long term.

COUNCIL AND ADMINISTRATION RESPONSE TO CITIZEN COMMENTS – None

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Discuss the **Potential Litigation Against the State of Alaska for Failure to Respond to Public Records Request and Submitted by the City**, matters of which, if immediately disclosed, would tend to adversely affect the finances of the City (WMC 2.08.040(B)(1)) and to discuss **City Manager Performance**, as per Whittier Municipal Code 2.08.040(B)(2), matters that would tend to injure the reputation of a person; provided, however, that the person may request a public discussion.

The City Manager and City Attorney were asked to stay for the first Executive Session and the City Attorney (Jennifer Alexander) was asked to stay for the second Executive Session.

Motion (Wagner/Macal tao)

Enter into executive session to discuss the Potential Litigation Against the State of Alaska for Failure to Respond to Public Records Request and Submitted by the City as per WMC 2.08.040(B)(1) and City Manager Performance as WMC 2.0.040(B)(2).

Motion Passed

Unanimous

The Council went into executive session at 8:44 p.m.

Motion (Wagner/Loan)

Motion to exit executive session.

Motion Passed

Unanimous

The Council exited executive session at 9:30 p.m.

Motion (Wagner/Macal tao)

Direct City Attorney to follow direction provided in Executive Session.

Motion Passed

Unanimous

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 9:31 p.m.

Shelby Carlson
City Clerk

Daniel Blair
Mayor

(City Seal)

DRAFT