

## CALL TO ORDER

The July 15, 2025, regular meeting of the Whittier City Council was called to order at 7:10 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  
David Pinguoch, Renner Macal tao, Victor Shen, Peter Denmark, and Tom Wagner,  
comprising a quorum of the Board.

Also Present:

Jackie C. Wilde, City Manager  
Scott Korbe, Public Works Director  
David Borg, Harbormaster  
Kris Erchinger, Finance Director  
Andre Achee, Public Safety Director  
Shelby Carlson, City Clerk

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

**Marie Wagner** brought forward an opportunity to participate in water testing and monitoring of fecal matter contamination through Alaska's Beach Monitoring Program.

**Lori Borg** spoke in support of Jamie Loan as a candidate for the vacant City Council Seat C.

**Jamie Loan** provided a statement regarding her candidacy for the vacant City Council Seat C.

**Jason Zentz** stated he tried submitting a letter of intent for the vacant City Council Seat C and would like to be considered for the vacancy, if possible.

## APPROVAL OF THE REGULAR MEETING AGENDA AND CONSENT AGENDA

**Motion** (Wagner/Macal tao)

Approve Agenda and Consent Agenda

**Motion to Amend #1** (Blair/Denmark)  
of Interest.

Move Item 10 to immediately after Conflict

Motion to Amend #1 Passed

Unanimous

**Motion to Amend #2** (Denmark/Pinguoch) Add Items 5 and 6 to the Consent Agenda.

General discussion given.

Motion to Amend #2 Passed

Unanimous

**Motion to Amend #3** (Wagner/Pinguoch) Postpone Item 8 to the August Regular

Meeting.

Motion to Amend #3 Passed

Unanimous

**Motion Passed as Amended**

Unanimous

*Items Approved on Consent Agenda:*

\* Introduction of Ordinance 2025-003 An Ordinance Amending WMC 2.10.038 “Definitions” and 2.16.010 “City Manager” and Adding WMC 2.26.060 “Finance Director” and WMC 2.26.070 “Duties of the Finance Director” to Update Position Titles and Align the Code With Title 29 of the Alaska Statutes and Current Organizational Practices and Repealing WMC 2.26.080 “Executive Assistant,” 2.26.090 “Duties of Executive Assistant,” and WMC Chapter 2.15 “Director of Administration” to Remove the Executive Assistant and Director of Administration Positions From the Code and set for public hearing at the August 19, 2025 regular meeting

\* Resolution 2025-025 A Resolution Approving a Contract With Quality Asphalt Paving (QAP) to Construct Mile 2.0 to 3.0 of Shotgun Cove Road, and Appropriating Funds

\*Approval of the June 17, 2025 Regular Meeting Minutes

**CONFLICT OF INTEREST – None**

## **APPOINTMENT TO FILL VACANT COUNCIL SEAT C UNTIL THE OCTOBER 7, 2025 REGULAR ELECTION**

There was no objection to allowing the present candidates to speak. No candidates made additional statements.

As there were multiple nominees, elections were held by ballot.

### **TELLER’S REPORT**

Number of votes cast .....	6
Necessary for election (majority) .....	4
Ms. Loan received .....	4
Mr. Brazelton received .....	1
Ms. Baker received .....	1

Jamie Loan was elected to fill the vacant City Council Seat C until the October 7, 2025 Regular Election.

**Denmark left the meeting at 7:32 p.m.**

## **PRESENTATIONS AND REPORTS**

### **Presentations**

**Manager’s Monthly Wilde Recognition** was presented by **Wilde** to the staff of the Whittier Fire Department.

**Altman, Rogers & Co.** Joe Bergene of Altman, Rogers & Co gave a brief report on the audit findings.

**Multi-Factor Authentication Micro-Training** was presented by **Carlson**.

**Mayor Report** – None

**Vice Mayor Report** – None

**City Manager Report** – **Wilde** highlighted the pop-up event for the Whittier Moves: Transportation Master Plan happening the following day and the slug out happening Monday, July 28.

**PUBLIC HEARINGS** – None

**NEW BUSINESS**

**ORDINANCES FOR INTRODUCTION** – None

**RESOLUTIONS**

**RESOLUTION 2025-026** Authorizing the Reallocation and Appropriation of Funds in the Amount of \$250,210 Within the FY2025 Operating Budget for Contracted Services and Minor Capital Improvements

**Motion** (Wagner/Shen)

Approve **Resolution 2025-026**.

General discussion given.

**Motion to Amend** (Pinguoch/Macal tao)

Amend Resolution 2025-026 by striking, “Harbor Reserves” in line 50 and inserting “Harbor Enterprise Fund”.

General discussion given.

**Council member Wagner left the meeting at 8:09 p.m.**

**Motion to Amend Passed**

**AYES:** Pinguoch, Macal tao, Loan, Blair  
**NOES:** Shen

**Motion Passed as Amended**

**Unanimous**

**OTHER NEW BUSINESS**

**Reschedule September Regular Meeting to September 23**

Administration requested to reschedule the September regular meeting to September 23.

**Pinguoch** stated for the record that he had scheduled a moose hunt specifically to avoid conflict with the originally scheduled meeting date and would therefore be unable to attend the rescheduled meeting. He noted that he plans his schedule six months in advance to attend Council meetings and that the change in date was not initiated by him.

**Motion** (Macal tao/Loan)

Reschedule September regular meeting to September 23.

**Motion Passed**

**Unanimous**

**Consideration of Placing a Proposition on the October 2025 Local Election Ballot to Return to a Six-Month Sales Tax Period**

Blair stated the six-month tax was originally chosen because of limited local employment opportunities during half the year and noted he wished the question had been put to voters before moving to a year-round tax. **Erchinger** explained the main reason for the change was to reduce the burden on seasonal businesses, not to raise revenue, and asked Council to share if there are specific local groups paying more in winter so other options could be considered.

**Motion** (Pinguoch/Macal tao)

Direct Administration to write a resolution to place a non-binding advisory vote to return to a six-month sales tax period on the October 2025 Regular Election.

**Motion Passed**

**AYES:** Pinguoch, Macal tao, Loan, Blair

**NOES:** Shen

**COUNCIL COMMENTS** – None

**CITIZEN DISCUSSION**

**Ky Holland**, Representative for House District 9, thanked the City Manager, staff, Huna Totem, and the Alaska Railroad for hosting a group of about 20 visitors from Anchorage to learn about Whittier's operations, including police and fire services. He said the visit helped educate constituents about local opportunities and expressed interest in repeating it next year. Holland noted a special legislative session will begin August 2 to address education and agriculture, with expected discussion on recent vetoes. He invited Council and the public to share input or requests for assistance.

**Kelly Bender**, speaking on behalf of the Whittier Chamber, reported that the Fourth of July celebration was highly successful and thanked Stephanie Carlson for organizing the event. She shared background on why Whittier's fireworks are traditionally held on July 3, citing long-standing availability of the fireworks contractor, the ability to kick off the holiday, and the challenges for harbor businesses on July 4 when most visitors leave early. She noted the tradition is largely a local celebration and that other communities also hold fireworks on July 3. Bender said the Chamber has posted a community poll and will discuss the matter further at upcoming meetings.

**COUNCIL AND ADMINISTRATION RESPONSE TO CITIZEN COMMENTS**

**Wilde** shared an update on the 911 addressing project.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

**Discuss the Alaska Railroad Corporation Land Purchase**, as per Whittier Municipal Code 2.08.040(B)(1), matters that, if immediately disclosed, would tend to adversely affect the finances of the city.

**Motion** (Pinguoch/Macal tao)

Enter into executive session to discuss the Alaska Railroad Corporation Land Purchase as per WMC 2.08.040(B)(1).

**Motion Passed**

**Unanimous**

The City Manager, Harbormaster, Public Works Director, and Finance Director were asked to stay for Executive Session.

The Council went into executive session at 8:37 p.m.

**Motion** (Macal tao/Pinguoch)

Motion to exit executive session.

**Motion Passed**

**Unanimous**

The Council exited executive session at 8:59 p.m.

**ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 8:59 p.m.

---

**Shelby Carlson**  
City Clerk

---

**Daniel Blair**  
Mayor

(City Seal)