

To: Whittier City Council  
From: City Manager Jackie C. Wilde  
Re: City Manager Report for January 2026 Council Meeting

---

The City of Whittier's January report captures significant progress and critical updates across multiple departments, showcasing the city's continued commitment to infrastructure development, financial accountability, and community engagement.

### **City Manager Office**

**Wilde Recognition** for this month goes to This month's Wilde Recognition goes to **Aniva Turituri**. Over the past several months, Aniva has led the modernization of the Harbor Department's marina management and financial reporting systems, transitioning from outdated desktop platforms to integrated cloud-based solutions. To ensure continuity and accuracy during the migration, she maintained dual data entry and consistent reporting across both systems. During this same period, Aniva also mailed several hundred waitlist, preferential, and annual moorage agreements for the 2026 season.

Aniva coordinated closely with Harris Sand and Gravel to communicate more than 100 vessel movements to Harbor operations staff, contributing to Phase III construction being completed at least one month ahead of schedule. Her customer service and attention to detail have been a strong asset to the Harbor Department during this period of change.

Aniva's professionalism, reliability, and quiet leadership have made a meaningful difference during a period of transition for the Harbor. Her willingness to take ownership of complex work, maintain high standards, and support both staff and customers reflects the level of service we strive to provide as an organization.

**Alaska Railroad Corporation (ARRC) Land Purchase:** Work continues on the land purchase with the Alaska Railroad Corporation. Administration is coordinating with the City's contractor to refine transaction terms, confirm survey boundaries, and advance required documentation. At the ARRC Real Estate Committee meeting on January 14, the committee voted to advance its resolution to the for consideration in February. Updates will be brought forward to Council as final documents are completed and ready for review.

### **Mountain Goat Court – Feasibility Study**

Pursuant to Council direction to evaluate land options suitable for future city-initiated lot creation and potential sale, Administration continues to coordinate with the project engineer on the Mountain Goat Court feasibility study. The engineer conducted a site visit via snowshoe on January 14 to assess existing conditions and access constraints. The feasibility study will be brought forward to Council upon completion.

### **Announcements / Community Events**

- **Ground Transportation Town Hall** – January 15, 2026, from 10:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m., Anchorage Morris Building, Conference Room, 301 Arctic Slope Avenue. The City will host a facilitated town hall to provide a structured opportunity for ground transportation providers to offer input and receive clarification regarding the City's Ground Transportation Impact Fee.

## Finance Department Report

This report reflects an abbreviated look at finance-related activities through the end of December, 2025, with financial statements through November, 2025. Through November, 92% of the fiscal year has elapsed.

### FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS THROUGH NOVEMBER

**GENERAL FUND:** Cash Balance in the General Fund at November is \$2,504,401. Based on 2025 Expenditure Budgeted expenditures of \$5,499,450, that level of cash is sufficient to cover 5.5 months of operations. The City's budget policy reflects the goal of establishing a reserve of between nine (9) and twelve (12) months. Revenues and transfers-in through November are at 98.1%, or actual of \$4,522,621 versus budget of \$4,608,374. Overall, Taxes are at 97.9%, with personal property tax at 101.2% of budget, real property tax at 91.4%, and sales tax at 110%. Sales Tax through November is higher than the prior year by \$152,479; it is too soon to discern whether the increase is the result of a move to a year-round sales tax, or higher summertime economic activity in 2025 versus 2024. Fish tax revenues received through November total only \$1,644, significantly lower than the budgeted \$60,000. Although Passenger Transportation Business Tax (PTBT) ceased in 2025 when it was replaced with the water-borne transportation fee, there remain \$10,491 in unbudgeted Business Transportation Tax revenues recorded in 2025 which were related to the prior year. The new Water-Borne Transportation Fee is reported not in the General Fund as the PTBT was in previous years, but in the Harbor Major Repair and Replacement Fund #73. Through November, collections from the Water-Borne Transportation Fee total \$484,604 versus a budget of \$520,000, or 93.2% of budget. This reflects an increase in collections from the prior month of approximately \$120,000. These water-borne transportation fees are used for capital assets and infrastructure in the harbor, benefitting the payers of the fee.

The bulk of intergovernmental revenues for State revenue sharing and state and federal grants, have not come in through November resulting in that classification of revenues being under budget by more than \$131,409. The bulk of the remaining budgeted revenues (and their corresponding expenses), are related to grants that are in process, but will cross over fiscal years. The Administration has forwarded a Resolution to re-appropriate these unspent grant funds to 2026 which will reduce both the grant revenue and grant expenditure budgets in 2025, and re-allocate those budgets to 2026, where the costs will be incurred to close out the grants. This includes, for example, \$81,600 related to the Safe Streets for All Grant, and a portion of Cyber Security Grants. Lease revenues are higher than budget due largely to the City Council having agreed to allow Huna-Totem to delay being charged for their 2024 lease until 2025. That lease payment has been made, resulting in two years' worth of lease revenues being recorded ( $\$200,000 \times 2 = \$400,000$ ) rather than only a single year. In addition, Lease Revenues will be further adjusted at year-end to reflect the GASB87 accounting treatment for leases. A complete picture of lease revenues also requires examining lease interest (account 01-360-4903) which is budgeted at \$373,000 with actuals to be recorded in December. Investment earnings are at approximately \$190,000 through November, which is more than \$100,000 higher than the conservative budget estimate of \$80,000.

General Fund expenditures and transfers-out are at 77.8%, or under budget by 14% through November. All General Fund departments are under budget through November except for Elections and Fire, but when Fire is properly combined with EMS, the divisions are well under budget. It is common for general government departments to delay purchases until later in the season to provide

flexibility to address unforeseen issues that may arise. In addition, some material grant-related contracted services are expected to be billed after the summer season (economic development plan, transportation study).

**WATER AND SEWER FUND:** The Cash balance in the Water and Sewer Fund (the “operating fund”, Fund 50) is \$732,915 in addition to cash available in the Water and Sewer Major Maintenance and Repair Fund (the “capital fund”, Fund 75) of \$1,077,582, at November 30. Based on 2025 Budgeted Expenses (excluding depreciation) of \$428,645, cash reserves available in the operating fund are sufficient to cover 20 months of expenses. Cash reserves available in both the operating and capital funds, are sufficient to cover 50 months of operations. Water and Sewer Fund revenues through November exceed the annual budget at 108%, despite the primary seafood operator not being open for business in 2025. The sale of the business to Great Whittier, who anticipates operations starting in 2026, will likely have a positive impact on the water/sewer utility. Investment income below budget due to the lower interest rate environment, offset in part, by state grant revenues coming in \$10,000 higher than budget, representing a State DEC Lead Service Line Grant. While the 2025 budget includes anticipated debt service principal and interest expense of \$52,639, the City will not owe a debt payment in 2025 based on delaying completion of the new Sewer Lift Station project, for which a loan was taken out from DEC for completion. A pending reduction in the budgeted principal/interest will reduce those budgets in 2025, and adjust them to reflect the anticipated new debt service costs which will be effective in 2026.

**HARBOR FUND:** The Cash balance in the Harbor Fund (the “operating fund”, Fund 51) is \$745,862, in addition to cash available in the Harbor Major Repair and Replacement Fund (the “capital fund”, Fund 73) of \$960,228, at November 30. Based on 2025 Budgeted Expenses (excluding depreciation) of \$2,235,210, cash reserves available in the operating fund are sufficient to cover 5.2 months of expenses. Cash reserves available in both the operating and capital funds (total \$1,706,090), are sufficient to cover 9.2 months of operations. Harbor Fund Revenues and Transfers-In for the Harbor Fund are at 88.2% through November. Overall, Charges for Services (includes moorage, utilities, wharfage, launch, parking, etc) are at 87% through November. Lease revenues exceed the annual budget but will be adjusted based on the new GASB67 accounting for leases, at year-end. Investment income is at 90.5% of budget and is expected to come in over budget by year-end. Grant revenues have been recorded for the Alaska Energy Authority RE-VEEP Harbor Lighting project. Expenses through November are at 84.6%. The Harbor also expects to come in under budget for the Outside Contractors line item, largely due to harbor staff being able to facilitate software conversions in-house rather than requiring costly outside assistance for much of the financial accounting conversion. The Administration has proposed a reduction in the 2025 budgeted contracted services to reflect certain contracts that came in significantly under budget.

**DELONG DOCK:** The Cash balance in the Delong Dock Fund is \$1,490,731 at November 30. Delong Dock revenues are expected to be adjusted in November but will still come in significantly under budget due to the closure of Whittier Seafoods plant in 2025. The Administration has proposed a downward adjustment to the wharfage fee budget to be more realistic. However, the City has been recently informed of an adjustment that could be coming related to the late reporting of wharfage product by dock users, anticipated to increase revenues by an additional \$50,000. Interest revenues are higher than budget at \$37,003 versus a conservative budget projection of \$20,000. On the expense side, an adjustment will be made to reduce the transfer-out to the General Fund at year-end, as this transfer represents a portion of the anticipated revenues paid in the form of payments-in-lieu-of-taxes,

and because revenues have come in under budget, Delong Dock transfers to the General Fund will also decline. Through November, expenses are at 90.5%.

HARBOR MRRF: The new Water-Borne Passenger Fee was implemented in January, 2025 and collections through November total \$484,604 which is approximately \$290,000 higher than the previous month, due in part, to a delay in the recording of tax filings due to staff turnover. However, we expect to end the year with total Water-Borne Passenger Fee revenues of approximately \$484,000, lower than the projected \$520,000 by <\$36,000>.

## City Clerk/Assistant City Manager Report

### Lease Administration & Land Use

Work continues on developing a progressive lease compliance framework. Staff have prepared a draft compliance plan addressing lease issues other than non-payment. That draft will return to the Port & Harbor Advisory Commission and the Planning & Zoning Commission for review before being scheduled for a Council work session for policy direction.

Separately, staff are awaiting completion of the draft Land Allocation Plan, which will inform next steps for several leases expiring at the end of March.

### Buckner Building & Brownfields

Staff have finalized a draft Request for Proposals (RFP) for a Qualified Environmental Professional to serve as the City's project manager for the Brownfield program, including the Buckner Building and other priority sites. This role will coordinate assessment, cleanup planning, grant compliance, and community engagement across the full lifecycle of the project.

### Transportation & Community Safety

The Whittier Transportation Master Plan (Whittier Moves) and the City's Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) Safety Action Plan are both advancing. A community Safety Summit is scheduled for **January 21** at the Whittier Community School—one day following this Council meeting—to share early findings and gather public input. The citywide Safety Survey remains open and will continue to inform identification of hazardous locations, near-miss trends, and safety priorities for all modes of travel.

### Recruitment Updates

The City Clerk and Police Chief positions are now open and posted on the City's website. Councilmembers are encouraged to share these opportunities and encourage qualified applicants to apply.

## Harbor Department Report

### Admin

We have received 80% of the preferential/annual moorage contracts for the 2026 season. The deadline is 15 January. Admin staff will be reaching to ensure compliance with our deadline.

We want to hear from **YOU!**



Scan the QR code to take the short Safety Survey

**Contact Information**

DOWL Public Involvement  
Phone: 907-562-2000

Aniva has completed the migration over to the cloud based marina and Quickbook platforms. We are still doing dual data entry into the old desktop versions to proof out the future system. So far we are seeing excellent results and plan to be dedicated to the cloud based programs in March 2026. Aniva hopes to initiate the online portal in the coming months which will allow customers to log in to the own accounts, review balances and pay online.

Harbormaster is working with the State to take full advantage of the Harbor Grant funds and they are agreeable. The additional \$277k (states portion) will allow us to purchase safety ladders and life ring brackets for lifering cabinets that will be placed throughout the entire harbor. This will be a major safety upgrade that will impact the entire harbor.

Two representatives of the Alaska Energy Authority (AEA) visited Whittier the first week of January to finalize the grant for the replacement of the LED lighting on the harbor boardwalk and launch ramp. The project came in ahead of schedule and under budget, we were the first municipality to complete our RE-VEEP project. AEA was extremely happy with how the project came out.

## **Operations**

The new floats are in as well as the power and lighting. G and H float were powered up on January 12 and the new lighting is a major up grade on H float (A float is expected to be powered up this week). There was some spalling discovered on the new floats. BMI has been down to investigate and take core samples the week of January 12. We should see results of the core sample testing in the next 5-6 weeks. At the moment the spalling is cosmetic and the core sampling will result in more detailed report of the overall extent. More information will be provided as I receive it. Worth noting, Harris and BMI are extremely responsive to the issue. There was some additional damage to the adjacent float on the east side of the launch ramp that was hit with the pile. Harris came down the week of Januar 12 and dislodged the gluelam frame from the underside of the ramp and will be repairing in the near future. Affected ramp section has been noted with cones. Wind storms have been a little more frequent this past month and we have suffered some damage to a few power pedestals as a result. They have been fixed and made safe but parts are on order to make OEM repairs final. Wind has keep the crew busy re-mooring vessels and replacing broken mooring lines.

## **Police Department Report**

### **OVERVIEW**

During the reporting period, a total of **181 calls for service** were recorded. Call activity was primarily driven by patrol-initiated and preventive services. The majority of calls occurred in **Girdwood**, with **Whittier** accounting for a smaller but steady portion of overall activity.

Key observations include a high volume of security checks, limited serious criminal incidents, and manageable service demand across both towns.

## CALLS FOR SERVICE BY TOWN

### GIRDWOOD

**Total Calls for Service: 143**

**Call Type Breakdown:**

- Security Checks: **96**
- Disturbances: **7**
- Disorderly Conduct: **1**
- Noise Complaints: **3**
- Traffic Stops: **4**
- Motorist Assists: **1**
- Parking Problems: **3**
- Motor Vehicle Accidents (MVA): **3**
- MVA – Hit & Run: **2**
- Welfare Checks: **2**
- Citizen Contact / Assist: **2**
- Civil Problems: **1**
- Criminal Mischief: **2**
- Harassment: **1**
- Abandoned Vehicle: **1**
- Alarm Calls: **1**
- Agency Assist: **1**
- Paper Service: **1**
- Phone Call Requests: **2**
- Domestic Problem: **1**
- Suspicious Person / Vehicle: **2**
- Administrative / Unspecified: **2**

**Girdwood Summary:**

Security checks accounted for the majority of calls for service in Girdwood, representing approximately two-thirds of all activity. Traffic-related and disturbance calls were primarily concentrated along repeat locations, indicating predictable patrol demand patterns. Serious criminal incidents remained limited.

### WHITTIER

**Total Calls for Service: 37**

**Call Type Breakdown:**

- Security Checks: **22**
- Disturbances: **2**
- Disorderly Conduct: **1**
- Parking Problems: **1**
- Motor Vehicle Accidents (MVA): **2**
- Welfare Checks: **2**
- Citizen Contact / Assist: **2**
- Theft: **1**
- Burglary: **1**
- Information Reports: **1**
- Training: **1**
- Administrative / Unspecified: **1**

### **Whittier Summary:**

Whittier activity was primarily patrol- and security-focused, with security checks comprising the largest portion of calls. Property-related incidents were isolated in nature. Overall demand remained stable and consistent with routine patrol operations.

### **OTHER JURISDICTION**

- **Anchorage:** 1 call for service (Motor Vehicle Accident on Seward Highway)

### **CONCLUSION**

Calls for service during the reporting period reflect a stable operational environment with emphasis on preventive patrol and patrol-initiated activity. Both Girdwood and Whittier experienced manageable call volumes with minimal serious incidents. Current deployment and patrol strategies align well with observed service demand.

### **DATA NOTE**

All data contained in this memorandum is based on the official CAD Calls for Service log for the reporting period and reflects a total of **181 calls**.

### **Fire Department Report**

During the month of December, Whittier Fire/EMS responded to 12 calls, finishing off the year with a total of 240 calls.

### **Including:**

- A possible ammonia leak
- A search and rescue operation on Portage Lake (Out of service are)

- A broken water line
- A lock-out

### **Call Breakdown**

- **7 EMS Calls**
- **2 Rescue Calls**
- **2 Fire Calls**

### **Community Engagement & Outreach**

Whittier Fire/EMS attended breakfast with the children and staff at Whittier Community School. The City Management Team raised funds to purchase gifts for every child in Whittier. These gifts were purchased, wrapped, and labeled by the Whittier Fire Department and volunteers, and distributed during the Whittier Community School Holiday Event.

A special thank you to **the Grahams** for generously purchasing goodie bags and treats for the children.

Assisted BTI Management find and purchase an AED for the building.

### **Community Support & Meals**

We continue to partner with **Children's Lunch Box** to provide meals for children and less-fortunate members of our community. Individuals were able to stop by the station between **9:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m.**, and a total of **50 meals** were provided during the month.

Additionally, we worked with the **Whittier Baptist Church** to provide meals to families in need, ensuring that no community members went without food during the holiday season.



## City of Whittier Fire/EMS Department Yearly Statistics 2025



	Jan			Feb			Mar			Apr			May			Jun			Jul			Aug			Sep			Oct			Nov			Dec					
	Time			Time			Time			Time			Time			Time			Time			Time			Time			Time			Shift								
	A	B	C	A	B	C	A	B	C	A	B	C	A	B	C	A	B	C	A	B	C	A	B	C	A	B	C	A	B	C	A	B	C	A	B	C			
EMS/Medical	5	1	1	5	1	1	4	4	5	6	5	2	11	4	1	8	12	4	13	6	7	8	8	3	10	3	1	4	2	5	3	2	4	1	1	2			
Fire	3			2			2			5			6	1		6			1	3					3	2		3						1	1				
Rescue				2			2						1			1	2		2	1		2	7		1	1		1			1			2					
Walk-In	1			2			3	2		4	1		3			4			5			5			1			2			1								
Transport out of Whittier	1			3			2	2		3	1		2	3	3	1	6	9	3	6	4	7	6	3	3	6	2	3	1		2	1	4						
After hrs call duty phone							1							4		2				4			7			1	2	6			3								
Out of Service Area				1			1						2							2	2		1	1	1			1						1					
Sub-total	0	8	1	1	10	1	1	9	0	5	11	5	2	20	5	1	15	14	4	16	12	7	12	15	4	15	7	1	8	3	0	6	3	4	6	2			
Totals	9			12			10			21			27			30			32			34			26			12			15			12					
Community Outreach																																							
	Jan			Feb			Mar			Apr			May			Jun			Jul			Aug			Sep			Oct			Nov			Dec					
	Time B			Time B			Time B			Time B			Time B			Time B			Time B			Time B			Time B			Time B			Time B								
Station Tours	2	7	8	11	25	40	61	11	9	9	2	0																											
Meals Provided	50	33	24	11	118	123	196	53	12	55	210	50																											
Other	1	5	6	8	9	11	8	3	3	1	1	3																											
Totals	53			45			38			30			152			174			265			67			24			65			213			53					

2025 Calls  
 240 Total calls for service  
 44 Calls for cruise ship related calls  
 18% of all calls cruise ship related

2025 Cruise Ship Calendar 4/28-10/3/2025 Calls  
 Time  
 A - 0000-0800  
 B - 0800-1800  
 C - 1800-2400  
 154 Total calls for service  
 44 Calls for cruise ship related calls  
 29% of all calls cruise ship related

**Public Works Monthly Report – Verbal Report to be Provided**