

CALL TO ORDER

The October 21, 2025, regular meeting of the Whittier City Council was called to order at 7:01 p.m. by Mayor Blair.

OPENING CEREMONY

Mayor Blair led the pledge of allegiance to the flag.

SWEAR-IN OF NEWLY ELECTED OFFICIALS

The City Clerk swore in the newly elected officials, Thomas Wagner (Seat B), Jamie Loan (Seat C), and Lorianne Borg (Seat G).

ROLL CALL

There were present:

Peter Denmark, David Pinguoch, Renner Macal tao, Jamie Loan, Tom Wagner, Victor Shen, and Lorianne Borg, comprising a quorum of the Board.

Also Present:

Jackie C. Wilde, City Manager
Kris Erchinger, Finance Director (virtual)
Scott Korbe, Public Works Director (virtual)
Andre Achee, Public Safety Director
Jason Cates, Fire/EMS Chief
Kyle Loan, Deputy Harbormaster
Shelby Carlson, City Clerk
Richard Moses, City Attorney

ELECTION OF MAYOR AND VICE MAYOR

Motion (Wagner/Loan)

Motion to adopt the procedure for electing Mayor and Vice Mayor.

Motion Passed

Unanimous

Carlson asked for nominations for the Mayor of the City of Whittier.

Wagner nominated **Denmark**.

Denmark declined the nomination.

Denmark nominated **Wagner**.

Wagner accepted the nomination.

Borg nominated **Shen**.

Shen accepted the nomination.

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

TELLER'S REPORT

Number of votes cast 7
Necessary for election (majority) 4
Mr. Wagner received 3
Mr. Shen received 4

Shen was elected Mayor.

Carlson asked for nominations for the Vice Mayor of the City of Whittier.

Wagner nominated **Denmark**.

Denmark accepted the nomination.

Denmark nominated **Wagner**.

Wagner accepted the nomination.

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

TELLER'S REPORT

Number of votes cast 7
Necessary for election (majority) 4
Mr. Denmark received 3
Mr. Wagner received 3
Ms. Loan received 1

As no candidate received a majority, elections were again held by ballot.

TELLER'S REPORT

Number of votes cast 7
Necessary for election (majority) 4
Mr. Denmark received 3
Mr. Wagner received 3
Ms. Loan received 1

As no candidate received a majority, elections were again held by ballot.

TELLER'S REPORT

Number of votes cast 7
Necessary for election (majority) 4
Mr. Denmark received 4
Mr. Wagner received 3

Denmark was elected Vice Mayor.

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

Mike Bender of Lazy Otter Charters commented regarding agenda item 14, expressing concern about the objection to the Outpost Liquor Store alcohol license renewal. He stated that he has known the owner, R.C. Collins, for many years and noted that Collins has been living with Parkinson's disease. Bender urged the Council to ensure Collins was given the opportunity to address any concerns and to show compassion in their decision.

APPROVAL OF THE REGULAR MEETING AGENDA AND CONSENT AGENDA

Motion (Wagner/Loan) Approve Agenda and Consent Agenda

Motion Passed **Unanimous**

Items Approved on Consent Agenda:

- **Resolution 2025-036** A Resolution Supporting the Development of a Safety Action Plan and Committing to the Goal of Zero Roadway Fatalities and Serious Injuries
- Approval of the September 23, 2025, Rescheduled Regular Meeting Minutes
- Commission Member Appointments: Aubrey Jurgerson – Planning and Zoning, Seat C

CONFLICT OF INTEREST – None

PRESENTATIONS AND REPORTS

Presentations

Years of Service – Achee presented an award to Officer Timothy Sampson for his five years of service, announced the promotion of Officer Jerry Herrod to Police Lieutenant, and introduced Officer Colin Neace as the newest full-time police officer.

Mayor Report – None.

Vice Mayor Report – None.

City Manager Report – **Wilde** shared highlights from the written report.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

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

Public Hearing Opened at 7:27 p.m.

No public comment was provided.

Public Hearing Closed at 7:28 p.m.

Motion (Wagner/Denmark)

Adopt **Ordinance 2025-003**.

Motion to Amend (Pinquoch/Denmark)

Amend Ordinance 2025-003, line 65, by inserting “(quorum vote)” after “majority vote of its membership”.

General discussion given.

Motion to Amend Passed

Unanimous

Motion Passed as Amended

Unanimous

NEW BUSINESS

RESOLUTIONS

Resolution 2025-028 A Resolution Affirming Support for Ongoing City Efforts with State and Regional Partners to Plan and Implement Infrastructure Improvements to Address Increased Cruise Ship Traffic and Community Needs

Motion (Pinguoch/Denmark)

Table **Resolution 2025-028** indefinitely.

Motion Passed

Unanimous

Resolution 2025-034 A Resolution Directing the City Manager to Provide a Subsidy to Alaska Weather Consulting, LLC for the Continuation of Weather Forecasting Services for Passage Canal in the Amount of \$24,000

Motion (Denmark/Wagner)

Approve **Resolution 2025-034**.

General discussion given. **Wilde** noted the Administration would bring forward a resolution at the November regular meeting to establish an application process for applying for Community Support funds.

Motion Passed

Unanimous

Resolution 2025-035 A Resolution Authorizing the Demolition and Disposal of the East Finger Pier at the City Dock in the Amount of \$36,300, and Appropriating Funds

Motion (Wagner/Borg)

Approve **Resolution 2025-035**.

General discussion given.

Motion Passed

Unanimous

OTHER NEW BUSINESS

Evaluation Templates for City Manager and City Attorney Review

Wilde introduced a template for the City Manager and City Attorney reviews. A tallying team was established, composed of **Pinguoch, Borg, and Macal tao**, to review the individual results of the evaluations.

Objection to the Outpost Liquor Door Alcohol License Renewal

Wilde provided a staff report. General discussion given. **Moses** explained that the correspondence from the Alaska Alcohol & Marijuana Control Office (AMCO) was a routine notice sent to both the licensee and the City, as required under Title 4 of Alaska Statutes. The notice gives the City 60 days to protest the renewal of an alcohol license “as a matter of course,” and is standard boilerplate language sent for all renewals and new applications statewide. **Moses** clarified that nothing in

AMCO's letter suggested the state was aware of the local compliance issues noted in the City's memorandum, such as the business's lease status or physical location discrepancy.

Moses further advised that, under Alaska law, if the City Council files a protest, the Alcoholic Beverage Control Board must uphold the protest unless it finds the Council's action arbitrary or capricious. In effect, a valid protest would prevent renewal of the license unless overturned through a hearing. The licensee would have the right to administratively appeal the decision and, if necessary, pursue review in superior court.

Finally, **Moses** noted that if the Council takes no action by October 27, the statutory deadline following the City's receipt of the notice, the City forfeits its legal right to object to the renewal.

Motion (Pinguoch/Denmark)

Non-objection to the alcohol license renewal for the Outpost Liquor Door.

General discussion continued. Council members voiced support for continued lease clean-up.

Motion Passed

AYES: Pinguoch, Denmark, Wagner,
Macal tao, Loan, Shen
NOES: Borg

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Wagner thanked Daniel Blair for serving on the Council for two decades.

Pinguoch asked if the survey lines for leases had all been corrected and suggested approaching the lease non-compliance issues by issue and not leaseholder. **Wilde** noted the main issues with the non-compliant leases is the intended use; she noted the GIS project helped with lot line issues.

Shen proposed allowing individuals to come to meetings to reply to lease compliance issues.

CITIZEN DISCUSSION

Representative Ky Holland congratulated the newly appointed Mayor and Vice Mayor and provided a legislative update. He noted that his office is assisting with efforts to support communities affected by the recent storm in southwest Alaska through the Alaska Community Foundation. Holland shared highlights from the Confluence Conference in Kodiak and the Alaska Travel Industry Association conference, emphasizing topics relevant to Whittier's tourism and outdoor recreation goals. He reported ongoing monitoring of railroad legislation and invited City input on next steps. Holland encouraged the City to resubmit its EMS ambulance replacement request through the upcoming CAPSIS capital projects process, noting that although last year's proposals were unfunded, submissions remain important for visibility and advocacy. He also mentioned interest in helping secure newer-generation extrication equipment for Whittier's emergency services. Finally, Holland discussed his bill to end biannual time changes by keeping Alaska on Standard Time, explaining that this option can be enacted without federal approval, and invited public feedback on whether Standard or Daylight Saving Time better serves the community.

Cherie Curry, representing the USS Ted Stevens Commissioning Committee, announced that the Navy has selected Alaska for the ship's commissioning and that Whittier is expected to be confirmed as the host site once federal approvals resume. The event is tentatively planned for the

week of September 28–October 3, 2026, with commissioning on October 3. She said planning committees are forming, coordination is underway with the Harbor Master and Huna Totem, and about 350 sailors are expected to attend. Curry encouraged local participation and noted that some hospitality businesses may need to extend operations for the event.

Nick Olzenak congratulated newly elected officials and urged the Council to avoid setting precedents based on personal relationships in lease enforcement. He supported separating the liquor license issue from lease compliance but emphasized consistent standards and improving the city’s appearance for residents and visitors. Olzenak also expressed support for the USS Ted Stevens commissioning event and said his business would stay open to serve attendees.

Ross Carlson congratulated the newly elected officials and spoke in support of stronger enforcement of lease and property standards. He emphasized that the ongoing clutter harms Whittier’s appearance and costs the city money, arguing that after years of opportunities for compliance, stricter action is overdue.

COUNCIL AND ADMINISTRATION RESPONSE TO CITIZEN COMMENTS

Pinguoch commented that visiting sailors from the USS Ted Stevens could help determine whether local mooring equipment should be considered art or junk, or possibly paint it as part of community beautification. He also referenced a state House bill from the previous session that would change the composition of the Board of Fisheries to include two sport, two commercial, two subsistence representatives, and one scientist. Pinguoch said the proposal would better balance user interests and noted a federal study indicating that sport-caught fish generate significantly more economic impact per pound than commercial catches, suggesting that small shifts in allocation could benefit Alaska’s economy.

Wilde asked Representative Holland if a resolution from the Council supporting his bill regarding Alaska Standard Time would be beneficial. There was no objection to writing a resolution supporting Representative Holland’s bill.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

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

Motion (Wagner/Loan)

Motion to enter into executive session.

The City Attorney, City Contractors, Acting Assistant City Manager, and Finance Director were asked to stay for the executive session.

Motion Passed

Unanimous

The Council went into executive session at 8:57 p.m.

Motion (Wagner/Loan)

Motion to exit executive session.

Motion Passed

Unanimous

The Council came out of executive session at 9:50 p.m.

Motion (Wagner/Borg)

Motion to direct Administration to respond to Alaska Railroad Corporation's 2nd proposal with agreement to purchase ARRC AOI Lot 1, ARRC AOI Lot 2, and ARRC AOI Lot 3 at a total of \$4,893,321.

Motion Passed

AYES: Wagner, Borg, Loan, Shen, Macal tao

NOES: Denmark, Pinguoch

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 9:53 p.m.

Shelby Carlson
City Clerk

Victor Shen
Mayor

(City Seal)

DRAFT