

## **CALL TO ORDER**

The June 17, 2025, regular meeting of the Whittier City Council was called to order at 7:05 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 Pinquoch, Renner Macal tao, Victor Shen, Peter Denmark, and Tom Wagner,  
comprising a quorum of the Board.

And Absent:

Dave Dickason

Also Present:

Jackie C. Wilde, City Manager  
Adison Spafford, Assistant City Manager  
David Borg, Harbormaster  
Kris Erchinger, Finance Director  
Andre Achee, Public Safety Director  
Shelby Carlson, City Clerk  
Holly Wells, City Attorney

**Wilde** read Dickason's letter of resignation from City Council Seat C. There was no objection to accepting his letter of resignation, effective immediately. Whittier City Council Seat C was declared vacant.

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

**Representative Ky Holland** provided an update on the most recent State of Alaska legislative session and awarded a legislative citation to the Whittier Police Department.

## **APPROVAL OF THE REGULAR MEETING AGENDA AND CONSENT AGENDA**

**Motion (Wagner/Macal tao)**

Approve Agenda and Consent Agenda

**Motion Passed**

Unanimous

*Items Approved on Consent Agenda:*

- \*Approval of the May 19, 2025 Board of Equalization Meeting Minutes
- \*Approval of the May 19, 2025 Regular Meeting Minutes

**CONFLICT OF INTEREST** – None

## **PRESENTATIONS AND REPORTS**

**Presentations** – None

**Mayor Report** – None

**Vice Mayor Report** – None

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

**PUBLIC HEARINGS** – None

## **NEW BUSINESS**

**ORDINANCES FOR INTRODUCTION** – None

## **RESOLUTIONS**

**RESOLUTION 2025-023** Authorizing the City Manager to Engage a Contractor to Install Newly Purchased Children’s Playground Equipment According to Playground Safety Standards, and to Purchase Related Fill and Other Materials, in an Amount Not to Exceed \$35,000, and Appropriating Funds

**Motion (Shen/Macal tao)**

Approve **Resolution 2025-023**.

General discussion given.

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

Amend Resolution 2025-023 by inserting, “This playground equipment shall be placed at or near the basketball court”.

General discussion given.

**Motion to Amend Failed**

**AYES:** Macal tao, Denmark, Blair  
**NOES:** Pinquoch, Wagner, Shen

**Motion Passed**

**Unanimous**

**RESOLUTION 2025-024** Authorizing the Reappropriation of 2024 Motor Pool Funding for the Purchase of a Police Cruiser and Associated Patrol Unit Equipment in an Amount Not to Exceed \$60,000, and Appropriating Funds

**Motion (Shen/Pinquoch)**

Approve **Resolution 2025-024**.

General discussion given.

**Motion Passed**

**Unanimous**

## **OTHER NEW BUSINESS**

**Solid Waste Services Discussion**

Council discussed ongoing solid waste challenges, including commercial dumpster overuse, and

supported exploring a pilot project to place a locked 20-yard dumpster at the Head of the Bay to better track and manage trash volume and costs.

### **Schedule Upcoming Work Session on Title 2 Updates**

Administration requested a work session prior to the Council's regular meeting in July to review the proposed updates to Title 2.

#### **Motion (Wagner/Shen)**

Schedule work session at 6:00pm on July 15<sup>th</sup>.

#### **Motion Passed**

**AYES:** Wagner, Shen, Macal tao, Denmark  
**NOES:** Pinguoch, Blair

### **Discussion of Request for Foreign Visitors**

Administration requested Council support drafting a letter inviting a delegation from Whittier Seafoods' new ownership group to visit and present redevelopment plans.

#### **Motion (Wagner/Denmark)**

Direct Administration to draft a letter request a visit from foreign visitors relating to Whittier Seafoods.

#### **Motion Passed**

**Unanimously**

### **COUNCIL COMMENTS**

**Shen** requested the City Manager explore opportunities for partnerships with the School District. **Blair** said he's open to working with the school but questioned spending more to move things like the slide, saying the park has served its purpose. He asked the City Manager to focus on what's needed now and said future plans shouldn't be rushed.

**Pinguoch** shared that local charter businesses have different systems for calculating passenger counts and that the current tax form is too rigid. He suggested letting businesses choose between the new form and the older, simpler version, since the final totals reported would be the same. He clarified that he wasn't trying to direct staff but hoped to work with the Finance Director on a more flexible approach. He added that some businesses might be using outdated versions of the form and may not have seen recent changes.

**Blair** raised concerns about the 5% building permit fee for residential construction, saying it seemed high compared to other municipalities and might discourage new housing; he requested data on how the fee compares statewide and agreed to discuss it further at a future meeting.

**Shen** proposed a motion to direct the city manager to explore broader partnership opportunities with the school district, beyond just playground equipment. **Wilde** responded that a motion wasn't necessary—she was already willing to pursue stronger collaboration and suggested a resolution could follow once specific opportunities are identified.

### **CITIZEN DISCUSSION – None**

### **COUNCIL AND ADMINISTRATION RESPONSE TO CITIZEN COMMENTS – None**

## **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

**Discuss the Alaska Railroad Corporation Land Purchase and Girdwood Policing Contract,** 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 (Shen/Wagner)**

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

### **Motion Passed**

### **Unanimous**

The City Attorney, City Manager, Assistant City Manager, Harbormaster, Public Works Director, Public Safety Director, Finance Director, and Winfluence Consultants were asked to stay for Executive Session.

The Council went into executive session at 8:58 p.m.

### **Motion (Pinquoch/Macal tao)**

Motion to exit executive session.

### **Motion Passed**

### **Unanimous**

The Council exited executive session at 10:33 p.m.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 10:33 p.m.

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**Shelby Carlson**  
City Clerk

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**Daniel Blair**  
Mayor

(City Seal)