

CALL TO ORDER

The November 18, 2025, regular meeting of the Whittier City Council was called to order at 7:02 p.m. by Mayor Shen.

OPENING CEREMONY

Mayor Shen led the pledge of allegiance to the flag. There was a moment of silence for the recent losses in the community.

ROLL CALL

There were present:

Victor Shen, presiding, and
Peter Denmark, David Pinquoch (virtual), Renner Macaldao, Jamie Loan, Tom Wagner, 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
Andre Achee, Public Safety Director
Jason Cates, Fire/EMS Chief
David Borg, Harbormaster
Shelby Carlson, Assistant City Manager/Acting City Clerk
Holly Wells, City Attorney

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

Vovsg Xxall proposed collaborating with DOT, the Chamber, and local businesses to install historic-district signage, starting with a small “diverter” sign at the head of the bay. About \$500 in donations is already pledged. He noted larger Seward Highway signs may follow and said he previously shared mock-ups with the former Assistant City Manager.

APPROVAL OF THE REGULAR MEETING AGENDA AND CONSENT AGENDA

Motion (Borg/Denmark)	Approve Agenda and Consent Agenda
Motion to Amend (Wagner/ Denmark)	Remove Item 8, Resolution 2025-039
Motion to Amend Passed	Unanimous
Motion Passed	Unanimous

Items Approved on Consent Agenda:

13. Approval of the October 14, 2025 Canvass Board Meeting Minutes
14. Approval of the October 21, 2025 Regular Meeting Minutes

15. Approval of the October 27, 2025 Special Meeting Minutes
16. Commissioner Appointments – Benjamin Derting, Planning & Zoning Commission, Seat D

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

Shen declared a potential conflict of interest in Item 12, Resolution 2025-043.

Motion Does Mr. Shen have a substantial financial conflict of interest in Item 12?

Motion Failed **AYES:** Shen
NOES: Loan, Macal tao, Denmark, Wagner, Pinquoch, Borg

The Council determined **Shen** did not have a substantial financial conflict of interest in Item 12.

PRESENTATIONS AND REPORTS

Presentations

Alaska's Best Tasting Water Award – **Cam Bender**, Senior Water/Wastewater Operator, presented the award.

Gold Certified Alaska Clean Harbor Award – **Borg** presented the award.

Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy – **Kristin Smith** of the Prince William Sound Economic Development District explained the purpose of the plan and Whittier's role in it.

Mayor Report – **Shen** highlighted the Whittier Community School student fundraiser for relief efforts in Western Alaska.

Vice Mayor Report – None.

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

City Attorney Report – **Wells** noted a written report was provided in the packet.

PUBLIC HEARINGS – None

NEW BUSINESS

ORDINANCES FOR INTRODUCTION

ORDINANCE 2025-004 An Ordinance Adopting a New Chapter 13.12.025 of the Whittier Municipal Code Entitled "Water and Sewer Utility Service Deposit"

Motion (Wagner/Loan) Introduce **Ordinance 2025-004** and set a public hearing for the December 16, 2025 regular meeting.

Erchinger provided a staff report and fielded questions from the Council.

Motion Passed **Unanimous**

NON-CODE ORDINANCE 2025-005 An Ordinance Repealing the Discounted Winter Transient Moorage Rate and Adding a 40% Discount Rate for Transient Moorage Paid in Full and Non-Refundable for a 12 Month Period

Motion (Wagner/Pinquocho)

Introduce **Non-Code Ordinance 2025-005** and set a public hearing for the January 2026 regular meeting.

Pinquocho provided background on the ordinance. **Wagner** requested a work session. **Wells** advised that the Council may either postpone the ordinance to a time certain or postpone it indefinitely, depending on whether they intend to revive it later. She noted that a joint work session is appropriate but stressed that legal counsel must be present, since harbor regulations and vessel-related property rights involve federal and state constitutional issues and should be reviewed with attorneys before further discussion.

Motion (Wagner/Pinquocho)

Postpone Non-Code Ordinance 2025-005 indefinitely.

Motion Passed

Unanimous

NEW BUSINESS

RESOLUTIONS

Resolution 2025-040 A Resolution Supporting Full Funding (\$18,186,535) for the State of Alaska Municipal Harbor Facility Grant Program in the FY2027 State Capital Budget

Motion (Borg/Wagner)

Approve **Resolution 2025-040**.

Wilde provided a staff report.

Motion Passed

Unanimous

Resolution 2025-041 A Resolution Supporting Raising the Maximum Available Alaska Department of Transportation Harbor Facility Grant to \$7,500,000 for Eligible Projects on an Annual Basis

Motion (Loan/Wagner)

Approve **Resolution 2025-041**.

Motion Passed

Unanimous

Resolution 2025-042 A Resolution Authorizing the City Manager to Execute the First Amendment to the Memorandum of Understanding Between the City of Whittier and the Alaska Railroad Corporation Regarding Land Purchase/Sale, Exchange, or Combination Thereof at Fair Market Value and Management Within the City of Whittier

Motion (Wagner/Borg)

Approve **Resolution 2025-042**.

Wilde provided a staff report. General discussion given.

Motion Passed

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

Resolution 2025-043 A Resolution Accepting the Alaska Railroad Corporation’s Revised Land Purchase Proposal for Areas of Interest ARRC AOI 1, AOI 2, and AOI 3, and Authorizing the City Manager to Proceed with the Purchase Process Consistent with the Terms Provided by the Alaska Railroad Corporation in the Total Estimated Amount of \$4,893,321 and Appropriating Funds

Motion (Wagner/Borg)

Approve **Resolution 2025-043**.

Wilde provided a staff report. General discussion given.

Motion to Amend (Pinguoch/Wagner)

Amend Resolution 2025-043, line 45, to insert, “and subject to appropriation by Council”

Motion to Amend Passed

Unanimous

General discussion continued.

Motion Passed as Amended

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

OTHER NEW BUSINESS

Appointment of Council Members to Council Committees

The following members were appointed or confirmed:

- **Parks and Recreation Committee:** Victor Shen, Jamie Loan
- **Historical Preservation Committee:** Lorianne Borg, Jamie Loan, City Manager, and three members of the public
- **Council Policy & Procedures Manual Committee:** discontinuing
- **City Lands Advisory Committee:** Tom Wagner, Renner Macal tao, three city residents, and one subject matter expert
- **Whittier Moves Technical Advisory Committee:** no members were assigned to this committee

Council Manual Work Session

There was no objection to a December 16 work session on the topic of the Council Policy & Procedures Manual.

Evaluation of the City Attorney

Pinguoch provided a summary of the City Attorney evaluation results. General discussion given.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Wagner asked for a note on executive sessions when they are just placeholders and asked for an executive session on the Ground Transportation Fee. **Wilde** suggested a work session instead; there was no objection from Council for scheduling a work session.

Borg stated that a colleague's public social media post prompted concerns about how council conduct affects public trust, affirmed her intent to follow all ethics and conflict-of-interest requirements, and asked the council to move forward collaboratively.

Loan noted that she and her spouse were also referenced in recent comments, emphasized that councilmembers should work as a team and avoid disparaging one another on social media, and expressed concern that such actions may discourage community members from serving.

Shen highlighted recent community service efforts by the Fire/EMS Department and the Whittier Community School, proposed that the City match the students' \$700 fundraising for Western Alaska relief through the Community Support Fund.

Motion (Wagner/Loan)

Match the Whittier Community School's \$700 contribution to the Western Alaska Relief efforts from the Community Support fund.

Motion Passed

Unanimous

CITIZEN DISCUSSION

Representative Ky Holland updated the Council on his office's support for the Shotgun Cove Road FLAP grant, ongoing work to address Portage Valley communication gaps affecting EMS and police response, and continued advocacy for Whittier's ambulance, extraction, and communications equipment requests. He congratulated the City on progress with the railroad land issue, requested timely coordination on updated legislation, noted prior discussion about Alaska Standard Time, and invited the Council and public to meet with him during his upcoming visit to Whittier.

Ross Carlson commented that City rules appear to be applied inconsistently and asked the Council to clarify expectations so that all residents understand which rules apply and that they apply uniformly.

COUNCIL AND ADMINISTRATION RESPONSE TO CITIZEN COMMENTS – None

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Girdwood Policing Contract, as per WMC 2.08.040(B)(1), matters that, if immediately disclosed, would tend to adversely affect the finances of the city and **City Manager Performance**, as per WMC 2.08.040(B)(2), matters that would tend to injure the reputation of a person.

Motion (Wagner/Loan)

Motion to enter into executive session.

The City Attorney, City Manager, Assistant City Manager, Public Safety Director, and Finance Director were asked to stay for the first executive session, with the City Manager being asked to stay for the second executive session.

Motion Passed

Unanimous

The Council went into executive session at 8:55 p.m.

Motion (Loan/Borg)

Motion to exit executive session.

Motion Passed

Unanimous

The Council came out of executive session at 11:01 p.m.

Motion (Borg/Loan)

Direct Administration to bring forward a resolution to consider approval of the Girdwood Police Services Contract.

Motion Passed

Unanimous

Motion (Denmark/Wagner)

Direct Administration to bring forward a resolution to consider approval of the City Manager Employment Agreement changes.

Motion Passed

Unanimous

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 11:03 p.m.

Shelby Carlson
Acting City Clerk

Victor Shen
Mayor

(City Seal)