

CALL TO ORDER

The June 2, 2026, special meeting of the Whittier City Council was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Mayor Shen.

OPENING CEREMONY

Mayor Shen led the pledge of allegiance to the flag.

ROLL CALL

There were present:

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

Also Present:

Jackie C. Wilde, City Manager
Shelby Carlson, Assistant City Manager/Acting City Clerk
Kristin Erchinger, Finance Director (virtual)
David Borg, Harbormaster
Scott Korbe, Public Works Director
Jason Cates, Fire Chief
Richard Moses, City Attorney (virtual)

CITIZEN COMMENTS ON ANY SUBJECT EXCEPT THOSE ITEMS SCHEDULED FOR PUBLIC HEARING – None

APPROVAL OF THE SPECIAL AGENDA

Motion (Loan/Wagner)

Approval of Special Agenda

Motion Passed

Unanimous

CONFLICT OF INTEREST – None

SPECIAL MEETING BUSINESS

Resolution 2026-029, Appropriating \$145,000 from the Ground Transportation Fund for Temporary Safety Improvements and Roadway Repairs to Gateway Road, Providing Access to Glacier Creek Terminal and the Head of the Bay Area, to Address Transportation-Related Impacts Generated by Increased Visitation, Improve Public Safety, Preserve Access, and Mitigate Deteriorated Road Conditions

Motion (Borg/Wagner)

Approve Resolution 2026-029.

Wilde, Erchinger, and Korbe provided a staff report. **Shen** asked if any Council members would have a conflict of interest in this resolution. **Moses** stated as the members do not have ownership in the company, there is no substantial financial conflict of interest as per Whittier Municipal Code. General discussion given.

Motion Passed

Unanimous

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Denmark commented on the lease ordinance and shared he felt the Administration handled the recently expired leases poorly.

Pinguoch stated he felt the standing leaseholders should not have to compete to retain their lease. There was no objection to scheduling a work session immediately before the June 16, 2026 Regular Meeting to discuss Whittier Municipal Code 3.38.360-3.38.480 (leases).

Pinguoch proposed a motion to place a moratorium on any administrative action regarding expired leases until Ordinance 3.38.360 – 3.38.480 are determined by Council to not need reevaluation or if determined there is a need to reevaluate, until the reevaluation and subsequent ordinance changes are approved. **Wilde** requested a legal opinion on the legality of the motion as stated. **Moses** stated that voting on the motion would likely violate Whittier Municipal Code provisions and Alaska's Open Meetings Act regarding public notice of agenda items. General discussion given.

Pinguoch asked for legal opinion on the definition of "immediate family member" in a conflict of interest as it pertained to Victor Shen and Joe Shen in a previous meeting. **Moses** stated the context of the definition is important and urged the Council to follow the municipal code's definition as it pertains to conflicts of interest.

CITIZEN DISCUSSION

Sean Marx presented two federal grant funding pathways to increase cybersecurity and port security for Whittier.

Kelly Bender spoke regarding leases.

Cody Hannah spoke regarding leases.

David Goldstein spoke regarding leases.

Hai Han Ye spoke regarding the leases.

Matt Kopec spoke regarding the leases.

COUNCIL AND ADMINISTRATION RESPONSE TO CITIZEN COMMENTS

Denmark responded to Hannah's comment and noted these three expired leases are the oldest and do not include the 35-year renewal options.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Leases, 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 Manager, Assistant City Manager, Harbormaster, Finance Director, Public Works Director, and City Attorney were asked to stay for the executive session.

Motion Passed

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

The Council went into executive session at 7:10 p.m.

Motion (Wagner/Loan)

Motion to exit executive session.

Motion Passed

Unanimous

The Council came out of executive session at 8:27 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 8:27 p.m.

Shelby Carlson
Acting City Clerk

Victor Shen
Mayor

(City Seal)