

## CALL TO ORDER

The May 19, 2025, rescheduled regular meeting of the Whittier City Council was called to order at 7:22 p.m. by Vice Mayor Denmark.

## OPENING CEREMONY

Vice Mayor Denmark led the pledge of allegiance to the flag.

## ROLL CALL

There were present:

Peter Denmark, presiding, and  
Renner Macal tao, Victor Shen, Daniel Blair (virtual), and Tom Wagner (virtual),  
comprising a quorum of the Board.

And Absent:

Dave Dickason  
David Pinquoch

Also Present:

Jackie C. Wilde, City Manager  
Adison Spafford, Assistant City Manager  
Kris Erchinger, Finance Director  
David Borg, Harbormaster  
Jason Cates, Fire Chief  
Andre Achee, Public Safety Director  
Shelby Carlson, City Clerk  
Jessica Spuhler, City Attorney (virtual)

**Motion (Wagner/Macal tao)**

Excuse Dave Dickason and David Pinquoch  
from tonight's meeting.

**Motion Passed**

Unanimous

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

David Goldstein spoke in support of Resolution 2025-021.

## APPROVAL OF THE REGULAR MEETING AGENDA AND CONSENT AGENDA

**Motion (Wagner/Macal tao)**

Approve Agenda and Consent Agenda

**Blair joined the meeting at 7:29 p.m.**

**Motion Passed**

Unanimous

*Items Approved on Consent Agenda:*

\*Resolution 2025-021 Expressing Support for the Conditional Use Permit Application Submitted by Verizon Wireless to the Anchorage Planning and Zoning Commission for a Type 1 Monopole Telecommunications Tower in Portage Valley (Project No. 2025-0067, Portage Lake Site)

\*Resolution 2025-022 Authorizing the City Manager to Sign the Whittier Tourism Best Management Practices Statement of Agreement and to Support the Whittier TBMPs

\*Approval of the April 15, 2025 Regular Meeting Minutes

\*Approval of the April 29, 2025 Special 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.

**City Attorney Report – Spuhler** noted that a written report was included in the meeting packet and asked Council to review the list of priorities at the end of the report and advise if they would prefer a different order of prioritization.

## **PUBLIC HEARINGS**

**ORDINANCE 2025-002** Amending Whittier Municipal Code 2.08.330(A) to Authorize Introduction of Resolutions by the City Manager, Mayor, or Two Council Members

**Public Hearing Opened at 7:35 p.m.**

No public comment was provided.

**Public Hearing Closed at 7:36 p.m.**

**Blair** provided a report on the purpose of the ordinance.

**Motion (Blair/Wagner)**

Adopt **Ordinance 2025-002.**

**Motion Passed**

**Unanimous**

## **NEW BUSINESS**

**ORDINANCES FOR INTRODUCTION – None**

**RESOLUTIONS – None**

**OTHER NEW BUSINESS – None**

## **COUNCIL COMMENTS**

**Denmark** raised concerns about tsunami readiness, specifically the lack of FM or AM radio coverage for public announcements in Whittier. Police Chief Achee responded that while FM radio is unavailable, AM radio is accessible in Whittier. He committed to notifying the AM broadcaster that Whittier relies on them during emergencies and will coordinate with staff to share this information with residents via social media.

**Shen** shared a summary of the recent trip to Washington, D.C., noting that the City Manager, Assistant City Manager, and lobbyist Sebastian O'Kelly met with members of Alaska's congressional delegation and several federal agencies, including the Forest Service, Army Corps, and Department of Defense. The group discussed Whittier's challenges, emphasized the importance of continued federal support, and ensured the city remains visible in federal conversations. Shen commended the city staff and lobbyist for effectively representing Whittier's interests and coordinating a full schedule of meetings.

## **CITIZEN DISCUSSION**

**Samuel Schilling** expressed interest in partnering with the City as a nonprofit to pursue grants for local trail systems and reiterated his desire for open communication. **Shen** asked about a recent letter that appeared inconsistent with prior collaborative outreach. **Schilling** clarified that the letter was intended as a precaution due to past experiences of being dismissed statewide, but affirmed his desire to move forward in partnership and rebuild trust with the City.

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

## **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

**Discuss the Alaska Railroad Corporation Land Purchase**, 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 (Blair/Wagner)**

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

### **Motion Passed**

**Unanimous**

The City Attorney, City Manager, Assistant City Manager, and Finance Director were asked to stay for Executive Session.

The Council went into executive session at 7:54 p.m.

*[Clerk's Note: While no formal vote to exit executive session was observed, the Council exited executive session without objection at 8:34 p.m.]*

### **Motion (Macaldao/Denmark)**

Motion to direct Administration to continue moving forward in negotiations with the Railroad as discussed in Executive Session.

**Motion Passed**

**Unanimous**

**ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 8:38 p.m.

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**Shelby Carlson**  
City Clerk

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**Peter Denmark**  
Vice Mayor

(City Seal)

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