

To: Whittier City Council  
From: City Manager Jackie C. Wilde  
Re: City Manager Report for February 2026 Council Meeting

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The City of Whittier's February report captures significant progress and critical updates across multiple departments, showcasing the city's continued commitment to infrastructure development, financial accountability, and community engagement.

### **City Manager Office**

As a heads up, I will be out of the office from February 24 – March 9.

This month's Wilde Recognition goes to **Amy Pantaleon**. Amy has long played an essential role in the organization, providing steady, reliable support beyond this past year. As our Accounts Payable rock star, she has consistently helped every department function smoothly, ensuring day-to-day operations continue without disruption.

Amy is always willing to learn more so she can better support the City and serve our citizens. Her curiosity, adaptability, and commitment to understanding the broader picture strengthen not only the Finance Department but the organization as a whole. During challenging periods, she has been instrumental in supporting the Finance Director and helping keep the City on track month to month.

Amy's professionalism, institutional knowledge, and dedication to service make her a valued and trusted member of the team. Her contributions often happen behind the scenes, but their impact is felt across the City every day.

### **Alaska Railroad Corporation (ARRC) Land Purchase:**

Work continues on the proposed land purchase with the Alaska Railroad Corporation. Over the past month, Administration has worked closely with legal counsel, contracted consultants, and state legislative partners to advance both the transaction framework and the enabling legislation necessary to complete the purchase. Efforts have focused on refining transaction terms, confirming survey boundaries, coordinating appraisal and documentation timelines, and ensuring alignment between the proposed land purchase structure and pending state legislation.



Administration has actively participated in and monitored ARRC Real Estate Committee and Board proceedings. Following action by the Real Estate Committee in January, the ARRC Board voted on February 5 to approve the resolution authorizing the land sale. In parallel, Administration has

provided legislative coordination, testimony, and ongoing updates related to House Bill 216 and Senate Bill 191, which are critical to enabling the transaction.

Updates and final documents will be brought forward to Council as milestones are achieved and materials are ready for formal review and action.

## Finance Department Report

This report reflects an abbreviated look at finance-related *activities* through the end of January, 2026, with financial statements through December, 2025. Through December, 100% of the fiscal year has elapsed.

### FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS THROUGH DECEMBER

**GENERAL FUND:** Cash Balance in the General Fund at December is \$2,188,853. Based on 2025 Budgeted expenditures of \$4,798,458 (following Council reappropriation of unspent grant funds), that level of cash is sufficient to cover 5.5 months of operations. The City's budget policy reflects the goal of establishing a reserve of between nine (9) and twelve (12) months. Revenues and transfers-in through December are at 100.7%, or actual of \$4,557,096 versus budget of \$4,526,774. Overall, Taxes are at 98.1%, with personal property tax at 101.3% of budget, real property tax at 91.4%, and sales tax at 111%, or \$758,365. Sales Tax through December is higher than the prior year by \$105,249. Fish tax revenues total only \$1,644, significantly lower than the budgeted \$60,000, and a <\$82,258> reduction from the prior year. Although Passenger Transportation Business Tax (PTBT) ceased in 2025 when it was replaced with the water-borne transportation fee, there remain \$10,491 in unbudgeted Business Transportation Tax revenues recorded in 2025 which were related to the prior year. The new Water-Borne Transportation Fee is reported not in the General Fund as the PTBT was in previous years, but in the Harbor Major Repair and Replacement Fund #73. Through December, *collections* from the Water-Borne Transportation Fee total \$484,604 versus a budget of \$520,000, or 93.2% of budget. This reflects no change from the prior month of approximately \$120,000. These water-borne transportation fees are used for capital assets and infrastructure in the harbor, benefitting the payers of the fee.

The bulk of expected intergovernmental revenues for State revenue sharing and state and federal grants, have come in, with some grants being re-appropriated out of 2025 and into 2026, for grant projects that were not completed by year-end. Lease revenues are higher than budget due largely to Huna-Totem's request to delay payment of their 2024 lease until 2025, as authorized by Resolution 2024-042. That lease payment has been made, resulting in two years' worth of lease revenues being recorded (\$200,000 x 2 = \$400,000) rather than only a single year. Lease Revenues will be further adjusted at year-end to reflect the GASB87 accounting treatment for leases. A complete picture of lease revenues also requires examining lease interest (account 01-360-4903) which is budgeted at \$373,000 with actuals to be recorded as part of the year-end closing process. Investment earnings are at approximately \$164,175 through December, which is more than \$84,000 higher than the budget estimate of \$80,000.

General Fund expenditures and transfers-out are at 86.8%, or under budget by \$706,801 through December. All General Fund departments are under budget through except for Elections, Fire and Public Facilities. When the Fire Department is properly combined with EMS, the divisions are well under budget. Given the uncertainty surrounding the level of compliance with the new Ground Transportation

Fee, departments have been asked to postpone all but necessary spending through year-end.

**WATER AND SEWER FUND:** The Cash balance in the Water and Sewer Fund (the “operating fund”, Fund 50) is \$723,493 in addition to cash available in the Water and Sewer Major Maintenance and Repair Fund (the “capital fund”, Fund 75) of \$1,077,582. Based on 2025 Budgeted Expenses (excluding depreciation) of \$412,280, cash reserves available in the operating fund are sufficient to cover 21 months of expenses. Cash reserves available in both the operating and capital funds, are sufficient to cover 52 months of operations. Water and Sewer Fund revenues through December exceed the annual budget at 110%, despite the primary seafood operator not being open for business in 2025. The sale of the business to Great Whittier, who anticipates operations starting in 2026, will likely have a positive impact on the water/sewer utility. Investment income came in at 89% based on preliminary year-end figures. State grant revenues of \$10,000 reflect funding from a State DEC Lead Service Line Grant. The 2025 Budget was downward adjusted to remove previously expected 2025 debt service principal and interest expense of \$52,639, due to a delay in the completion of the Lift Station Project and a corresponding delay in the start of debt repayment.

**HARBOR FUND:** The Cash balance in the Harbor Fund (the “operating fund”, Fund 51) is \$902,419, in addition to cash available in the Harbor Major Repair and Replacement Fund (the “capital fund”, Fund 73) of \$960,228, at December 31. Based on 2025 Budgeted Expenses (excluding depreciation) of \$2,006,214, cash reserves available in the operating fund are sufficient to cover 5.4 months of expenses. Cash reserves available in both the operating and capital funds (total \$1,862,647), are sufficient to cover 11 months of operations. Harbor Fund Revenues and Transfers-In for the Harbor Fund are at 87%. Overall, Charges for Services (includes moorage, utilities, wharfage, launch, parking, etc) are at 87%; Lease revenues, at 113.5%, exceed the annual budget but will be adjusted based on the new GASB67 accounting for leases, at year-end. Investment income is at 117% of budget at year-end. Expenses and Transfers-Out to Other Funds through December are at 87.7%. services to reflect certain contracts that came in significantly under budget.

**DELONG DOCK:** The Cash balance in the Delong Dock Fund is \$1,508,047 at December 31. Delong Dock actual revenues were adjusted since prior month to reflect a late filing, coming in at \$46,709 versus a budget of \$40,000, although the revenue budget was downward adjusted by <\$80,000> from the previous years’ expectation of \$120,000 due to the closure of Whittier Seafoods plant in 2025. Interest revenues are higher than budget at \$47,010 versus a conservative budget projection of \$20,000. On the expense side, transfers-out to the General Fund were downward adjusted because revenues came in lower than expected. Payments-in-lieu of tax to the General Fund reflect 10% of operating revenue. Through December, expenses are at 89.7%.

**HARBOR MRRF:** The new Water-Borne Passenger Fee was implemented in January, 2025 and collections through December total \$484,604 versus a budget of \$520,000. All funds from this fee are used to pay for capital asset and infrastructure replacement in the Harbor, to benefit the payers of the fee.

## City Clerk/Assistant City Manager Report

### Lease Administration & Land Use

Work continues on developing a progressive lease compliance framework. Staff have prepared a draft compliance plan addressing lease issues other than non-payment. That draft will return to the Port &

Harbor Advisory Commission and the Planning & Zoning Commission for review before being scheduled for a Council work session for policy direction. Separately, staff are awaiting completion of the draft Land Allocation Plan, which will inform next steps for several leases expiring at the end of March.

### Buckner Building & Brownfields

Staff have finalized a draft Request for Proposals (RFP) for a Qualified Environmental Professional to serve as the City's project manager for the Brownfield program, including the Buckner Building and other priority sites. This role will coordinate assessment, cleanup planning, grant compliance, and community engagement across the full lifecycle of the project. The next step is to complete a cost analysis before posting the RFP.

### Transportation & Community Safety

The Whittier Transportation Master Plan (Whittier Moves) and the City's Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) Safety Action Plan are both advancing. Staff are reviewing memos produced by our contractor and will continue posting updates on the project webpage.

## **Harbor Department Report**

### **Admin**

Annual and Preferential moorage for the 2026 season have been recieved and processed. Aniva has completed the migration over to the cloud based MarinaGO and Quickbook platforms. We continue doing dual data entry into the old desktop versions to proof out the future system. So far we are seeing excellent results and plan to be dedicated to the cloud based programs in March 2026. Aniva hopes to initiate the online portal in the coming months which will allow customers to log in to the own accounts, review balances and pay online. We have purchased two iPads that field staff will use for real time daily inventory. This upgrade will allow many new opprotunities for our customers such as dockside, launch ramp and campground point of sale to name a few.

We are still awaiting news from the State regarding our amendment to the Harbor Grant to purchase safety ladders and lifering materials.

### **Operations**

Phase III is 80% complete. There are still anodes to be welded on the steel pile and the water/fire lines need to be energized, clorinated and pressure tested. The issue of the concrete floats is still outstanding and awaiting performance reports. Harris has repaired the damaged launch ramp float and will replace in the coming weeks as weather permits. Field staff have been busy replacing broken electrical pedistal bases with new OEM bases. Field staff has purchased power cords that allow us to test vessels for power going to ground. This will allow us to test boats that are throwing GFCI breakers and which items on the vessel are causing the issue. Dive Alaska organized the third annual harbor clean-up 7 Feb. Over 100 divers and support personnel decended upon the harbor to remove several tons of debris from the harbor bottom. Some of the standout items, a large outboard and toilet bowl to name a few. Thanks to Public Works crew for assisting with the loader to remove some large items and WFD for standing by.

## Police Department Report

**Reporting Period:** January 2026

**Source:** Press / CAD Call Data

**Prepared For:** CMR

### I. OVERVIEW

During the January 2026 reporting period, officers handled a high volume of service calls across **Girdwood, Whittier, Anchorage** with the majority of activity concentrated in **Girdwood**, followed by **Whittier**. Call types reflected a mix of proactive patrol activity, quality-of-life complaints, traffic enforcement, and domestic-related incidents. **Anchorage calls result from traffic enforcement along the Seward Highway as officers are in transit between Girdwood and Whittier.**

### II. CALL VOLUME & GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION

#### Girdwood

- Primary driver of overall call volume
- Heavy emphasis on patrol activity and security checks
- Consistent disturbance and traffic-related workload

#### Whittier

- Moderate call volume
- Noticeable number of disturbances and parking-related issues
- Mix of community relations and enforcement activity

#### Anchorage

- Limited activity
- Primarily traffic enforcement and citizen contact

### III. NOTABLE CALL TYPE TRENDS

#### 1. Proactive & Patrol Activity

- **Security Checks**
  - Girdwood: **245**
  - Whittier: **62**

#### 2. Traffic-Related Activity

- **Traffic Stops**

- Girdwood: **10**
- Anchorage (Seward Highway): **2**
- **Motor Vehicle Accidents (MVA & Hit-and-Run combined)**
  - Girdwood: **9**
  - Whittier: **3**

### 3. Disturbances & Disorder

- **Disturbances**
  - Girdwood: **6**
  - Whittier: **2**
- **Disorderly Conduct**
  - Girdwood: **1**
  - Whittier: **1**
- **Noise Complaints**
  - Girdwood: **4**

### 4. Domestic-Related Incidents

- **Domestic Disturbance:** 2 (Girdwood)
- **Domestic Problem:** 1 (Girdwood)

### 5. Property & Criminal Activity

- **Criminal Mischief:** 2 (Girdwood)
- **Burglary:** 1 (Whittier)
- **Theft:** 1 (Whittier)
- Overall property crime volume remains low but present.

## IV. COMMUNITY & ADMINISTRATIVE ACTIVITY

- **Community Relations:** 1 (Whittier)
- **Civil Standby:** Multiple (Girdwood & Whittier)
- **Paper Service:** 2 (Girdwood)
- **Agency Assist:** 1 (Girdwood)

## V. OPERATIONAL OBSERVATIONS

- Girdwood continues to require the majority of patrol and enforcement resources.
- High security check volume suggests proactive strategies are being utilized effectively.
- Disturbance and domestic-related calls remain consistent.
- Whittier shows a concentration of parking problems and security checks.

**VI. COMMAND CONSIDERATIONS**

- The police department is constantly monitoring and evaluating strategy for proactivity and monitoring repeat locations and individuals while maintaining a constant public presence and keeping community relations.

**Fire Department Report**

In January, Whittier Fire/EMS responded to a total of 12 calls for service.

These included 5 emergency medical service (EMS) calls, 5 fire-related calls, and 2 rescue calls.

Whittier Fire/EMS also continued its partnership with Children’s Lunch Box to support children and other members of the community. Meals are available to the public at the Fire Station between 9:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m.

Throughout the month, a total of 30 meals were distributed to individuals in need.



City of Whittier  
Fire/EMS Department  
Yearly Statistics  
2026



	Jan		Feb		Mar		Apr		May		Jun		Jul		Aug		Sep		Oct		Nov		Dec	
	Time		Time		Time		Time		Time		Time		Time		Time		Time		Time		Time		Shift	
	A	B	C	A	B	C	A	B	C	A	B	C	A	B	C	A	B	C	A	B	C	A	B	C
EMS/Medical	4	1																						
Fire	2	2	1																					
Rescue	2																							
Walk-In			1																					
Transport out of Whittier	1																							
After hrs call duty phone																								
Out of Service Area																								
Sub-total	2	8	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Totals	12		0		0		0		0		0		0		0		0		0		0		0	
Community Outreach																								
	Jan		Feb		Mar		Apr		May		Jun		Jul		Aug		Sep		Oct		Nov		Dec	
	Time B		Time B		Time B		Time B		Time B		Time B		Time B		Time B		Time B		Time B		Time B		Time B	
Station Tours																								
Meals Provided		30																						
Other																								
Totals																								

2026 Calls  
12 Total calls for service  
Calls for cruise ship related calls  
0% of all calls cruise ship related

Time  
A - 0000-0800  
B - 0800-1800  
C - 1800-2400

**Public Works Monthly Report**

During the past month, the Public Works, Water, and Wastewater Departments focused on winter operations, equipment commissioning, emergency response, and ongoing planning for major capital projects.

Public Works received a new CAT grader, completed operator training, and placed the equipment into service for snow removal operations. The department responded to a significant amount of rainfall by clearing ditches and removing ice buildup from drainage structures to maintain roadway function and prevent flooding. Staff also continued organizing the shop, removing accumulated garbage, and ensuring only relevant and necessary supplies are retained to improve efficiency and safety.

The City mechanic commissioned the new CAT 160 grader and completed removal and replacement of brakes on the fire engine, including required inspections. Additional work included preventative maintenance on Public Safety and Harbor vehicles and installation of fixed radios in mobile equipment.

The Public Safety Facility boiler replacement has been completed on time and on budget. Staff would like to thank the City Council for their prompt action in approving the project and supporting the system upgrade, which now provides an appropriate level of heat to the facility during adverse weather conditions while operating with a single boiler.

The Water Department responded to three emergency shutoffs due to freezing conditions and completed meter repairs. Staff began annual inspection and testing of all seasonal meters. Electrical repairs were completed to address a breaker issue at a well house facility, and diagnostics are ongoing to resolve an unbalanced load error at Well House #3.

The Water Department is preparing plans and specifications to bid the Well Field Improvement Automation Project. Funding will be provided through Congressional Directed Spending (CDS) and the State Revolving Fund (SRF) Loan Subsidy Program. Construction is anticipated to begin in summer 2026, with commissioning planned for winter 2026.

The Water Department submitted Whittier's drinking water to the National Rural Water Association "Best Tasting Water in the Nation" competition. Participation is earned by being selected "Best Tasting Water in Alaska 2026." The department has received this distinction 12 times over the past 26 years, reflecting long-term excellence in water quality and system operations.

The Shotgun Cove Road project remains in winter shutdown, with construction anticipated to resume in late April 2026 and completion expected in fall 2026. A FLAP grant application has been submitted for construction of the next phase, with results anticipated in summer 2026. The City continues to pursue additional federal and state funding sources.

The Wastewater Department continues work on the 301H waiver. A draft Sludge Management and Secondary Treatment Plan has been submitted to ADEC and SRF for collaboration, which may allow the City to access future funding opportunities.