

CALL TO ORDER

The February 17, 2026, regular meeting of the Whittier City Council was called to order at 7:01 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 (virtual), Renner Macal tao, Jamie Loan, Peter Denmark, 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
Nicholas Cooley, Fire/EMS Captain
David Borg, Harbormaster
Kyle Loan, Deputy Harbormaster
Shelby Carlson, Assistant City Manager/Acting City Clerk

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

APPROVAL OF THE REGULAR MEETING AGENDA AND CONSENT AGENDA

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|--|
| Motion (Wagner/Borg) | Approve Agenda and Consent Agenda |
| Motion to Amend (Shen/Wagner) | Amend the agenda by adding Items 8, 10, 11, 12 to the consent agenda. |
| Motion to Amend Passed | AYES: Wagner, Shen, Macal tao, Loan, Borg, Denmark
ABSENT: Pinguoch (due to technical issues) |
| Motion Passed | AYES: Wagner, Shen, Macal tao, Loan, Borg, Denmark
ABSENT: Pinguoch (due to technical issues) |

Items Approved on Consent Agenda:

8. Resolution 2026-006 Setting the Mill Levy at 8.00 Mills, Setting the Date of the Board of Equalization Hearing, and Establishing the Date On Which Property Taxes Become Delinquent for the 2026 Tax Roll

10. Resolution 2026-008 Extending a Legal Services Agreement with Birch Horton Bittner & Cherot and Authorizing the City Manager to Execute the Contract

11. Resolution 2026-009 Approving the Continued Appointment of Doctor Donald Hudson as Medical Director for the Whittier Fire Department, Authorizing the City Manager to Execute a Professional Services Agreement, and Appropriating Funds

12. Resolution 2026-010 Amending the 2026 Budget, and Appropriating Funds

14. Approval of the January 20, 2026 Regular Meeting Minutes

CONFLICT OF INTEREST – None

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Correspondence Received, as per Whittier Municipal Code 2.08.040(B)(2), matters that would tend to injure the reputation of a person; provided, however, that the person may request a public discussion.

Motion (Borg/Wagner)

Motion to enter into executive session.

The City Manager, Harbormaster, and Deputy Harbormaster were asked to stay for the executive session.

Motion Passed

Unanimous

The Council went into executive session at 7:15 p.m.

Motion (Wagner/Macal tao)

Motion to exit executive session.

Motion Passed

Unanimous

The Council came out of executive session at 7:48 p.m. No action vote was required.

PRESENTATIONS AND REPORTS

Presentations

- A. Prince William Sound Proposed Project Areas - Jess Barbeau**, Department of Natural Resources, shared preliminary information on the upcoming Public Scoping meeting scheduled for Thursday, February 19, 2026.
- B. Legislative Update – Representative Ky Holland** shared an update on the current legislative session. He encouraged all to engage in the Safer Seward Highway project.
- C. City Manager Wilde Recognition – Wilde** recognized Amy Pantaleon for her reliable leadership in Accounts Payable and unwavering support of City operations.

Mayor Report – Shen shared his attendance at the January 19th meeting with ground transportation fee stakeholders.

Vice Mayor Report – None

City Manager Report – Wilde shared highlights from her written report. She reported on her advocacy in Juneau to support the passage of House Bill 216 and Senate Bill 191.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

Ordinance 2026-001, An Ordinance Amending Chapter 10.30 of the Whittier Municipal Code to Clarify Reporting Procedures and Timelines for Businesses Registered and Subject to the Commercial Ground Passenger Fee

Public Hearing Opened at 8:06 p.m.

Tom Marriage, representing Phillips Cruises, spoke in opposition of the ordinance.

Tor Wallen, representing Huna Totem Corporation, spoke in opposition of the ordinance.

Public Hearing Closed at 8:15 p.m.

Motion (Borg/Denmark)

Adopt **Ordinance 2026-001**.

Wilde provided a staff report. General discussion given. **Wells** clarified that this is a fee and not a tax, as the amounts charged must be used to benefit the users.

Motion Passed

Unanimous

ORDINANCES FOR INTRODUCTION – None

RESOLUTIONS

Resolution 2026-007, Expanding the Scope of Grant Application Funding to Solstice Alaska Consulting to Apply for PIDP Funding to Replace the DeLong Dock, and Appropriating Funds

Motion (Denmark/Wagner)

Approve **Resolution 2026-007**.

Wilde provided a staff report.

Motion Passed

Unanimous

Resolution 2026-011, Retroactively Amending the 2025 Budget to Record Expenditures of \$105,824.78 Paid by the State of Alaska on Behalf of the City Toward the City's Public Employees Retirement System Liability for the Period January Through December, 2025, and Appropriating Funds

Motion (Wagner/Macal tao)

Approve **Resolution 2026-011**.

Erchinger provided a staff report.

Motion Passed

Unanimous

OTHER NEW BUSINESS – None

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Shen shared the Parks & Recreation Committee has identified several small grants, noting they would be willing to prepare the grant applications. General discussion given.

Motion (Wagner/Borg)

Authorize Parks and Recreation Committee members to draft grant applications on behalf of the City with final approval from Administration.

Motion Passed

Unanimous

Denmark requested the printed agenda packets include page numbers for each item.

Pinguoch noted the virtual attendance method, Restream, is consistently problematic and requested the Administration find an alternative.

CITIZEN DISCUSSION

Stephanie Carlson, representing the Whittier Chamber of Commerce, read a letter from Kelly Bender regarding the commercial ground transportation fee and the City's discontinuation of its membership with the Chamber of Commerce.

Chris Herman, representing Premier Tours, spoke in opposition to the commercial ground transportation fee.

Tom Marriage, representing Phillips Cruises, spoke in opposition to the commercial ground transportation fee.

Michelle Lang, representing Three Helms LLC DBA Lazy Otter Charters, spoke in opposition to the commercial ground transportation fee.

Tor Wallen, representing Huna Totem Corporation, spoke in opposition to the commercial ground transportation fee.

COUNCIL AND ADMINISTRATION RESPONSE TO CITIZEN COMMENTS – None

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Alaska Railroad Corporation Land Purchase, 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, Public Works Director, Harbormaster, Finance Director, and City Attorney were asked to stay for the executive session.

Motion Passed

Unanimous

The Council went into executive session at 9:00 p.m.

Motion (Wagner/Borg)

Motion to exit executive session.

Motion Passed

Unanimous

The Council came out of executive session at 10:09 p.m.

Motion (Wagner/Loan)

Direct the City Manager to engage in surveying and preliminary platting of certain City-owned lands as directed for negotiations with Alaska Railroad Corporation.

Motion Passed

Unanimous

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 10:10 p.m.

Shelby Carlson
Acting City Clerk

Victor Shen
Mayor

(City Seal)

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