

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

The City of Whittier's May's 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

Manager's Monthly Wilde Recognition

This month's Manager's Monthly Wilde Recognition goes to the Whittier School Park Kids for their hard work and dedication helping with the new micro park project at Memorial Park. These young adults spent time shoveling, raking, and working through sleet, rain, wind, and sunshine to help improve our community.

Their work ethic, positive attitude, and pride in their community should make all of Whittier proud. It is inspiring to see young people stepping up and taking part in projects that help make our town a better place for everyone.

The City would like to recognize: Charity Atonio, Jesaiah Atonio, William Carlson, Andrew Castagno, Priann Faamatuainu, Gabe Fausto, Shelton Graham, Malachi Pese, Katriona Pese, Joseph Macal tao, Kaitlyn Macal tao, Taeli Muaulu, Hannah Nuusolia, Lander Pantaleon, Larra Pantaleon, Ana Romero-Hernandez, Rachel Talia, TJ Taulealo, and Tom Taulealo.

A special thank you also goes to the Whittier School, Ms. Borg, and the Public Works crew, including Cam, Ross, Junior, and Mark, for their continued support, assistance, and encouragement throughout this community project.

Alaska Railroad Corporation (ARRC) Land Sale-The City continues to work closely with the Alaska Railroad Corporation (ARRC), legislative leadership, and state agencies to advance the conveyance of non-operational ARRC lands to the City of Whittier. During this reporting period, the legislation was heard on May 12, 2026, and successfully advanced through the Senate process. Administrative work on the Conditional Letter of Intent and Purchase and Sale Agreement continues, including refinement of survey boundaries, transaction terms, and coordination associated with future site control and infrastructure planning efforts. Achieving site control remains essential to securing future funding opportunities, advancing infrastructure development, and supporting long-term economic stability for the community.

DeLong Dock Project-The City continues advancing planning efforts for the DeLong Dock replacement project following the recent award of approximately \$4.1 million through the U.S. Department of Transportation Maritime Administration (MARAD) Port Infrastructure Development Program (PIDP) for design and engineering work. Staff continues coordination efforts related to

project planning, updated cost estimates, grant readiness, and future phased construction planning. The project remains a critical infrastructure priority supporting freight movement, fuel delivery, transportation resiliency, and statewide supply chain operations.

Buckner Building Update-The City recently met with our contractor, NORTECH, to initiate discussions and coordination efforts related to ongoing environmental and planning work associated with the Buckner Building. Discussions focused on current project status, future planning considerations, and continued coordination efforts tied to long-term environmental and infrastructure priorities.

Shotgun Cove Road Project-The City continues to pursue phased funding opportunities for the Shotgun Cove Road extension project. Current planning efforts remain focused on advancing the next segment of roadway development to support future infrastructure expansion, long-term access improvements, and construction material access associated with future development opportunities.

Community Beautification and Micro Parks-The City continues working with the Whittier School and community volunteers on beautification efforts at Memorial Park located in the triangle area. This work represents the initial phase of developing future micro park spaces intended to improve public areas, enhance community gathering opportunities, and encourage continued community involvement in maintaining shared public spaces. Special thanks to the Whittier School and Ms. Borg for their continued support and participation in these efforts.

Shuttle Stops and Visitor Coordination-Administration continues working on the establishment of designated shuttle stop locations to improve visitor movement, safety, accessibility, and transportation coordination within the community. Proposed locations currently include the Triangle area, Whittier Falls Park as a trails stop, and the Museum area. These efforts are intended to support tourism operations, improve pedestrian flow, and provide clearer direction for visitors during the busy summer season.

Temporary Sign Coordination-Administration continues reviewing temporary sign placement and permitting procedures throughout the community to ensure consistency, safety, and compliance with City code requirements. Staff has been working with local businesses, tourism operators, and community organizations to improve communication regarding temporary signage expectations while balancing visibility needs during the busy summer season. Efforts remain focused on maintaining a clean and organized appearance throughout the community while supporting local events, businesses, and visitor services.

Public Safety Coordination-Public safety leadership continues preparing for increased seasonal demand associated with tourism, cruise activity, and community events. Coordination efforts remain focused on emergency response readiness, staffing, resource allocation, and operational planning to support safe and efficient operations throughout the summer season.

Federal Advocacy and Washington, D.C. Coordination-By the time this report is presented, the Mayor, Assistant City Manager, and City Manager will have completed meetings and advocacy efforts in Washington, D.C. focused on transportation infrastructure, port development, tourism impacts, federal funding opportunities, and long-term community infrastructure priorities. The trip

included coordination with federal agencies, legislative offices, and national partners to continue advancing the City's infrastructure and economic development goals.

Administration remains focused on advancing infrastructure priorities, maintaining operational readiness, supporting responsible growth, and continuing to provide reliable services to the community.

Finance Department Report

This report reflects an abbreviated look at finance-related *activities* through the end of April, 2026, with financial statements through March, 2026, where 25% of the fiscal year has elapsed.

FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS THROUGH FEBRUARY

GENERAL FUND: Cash Balance in the General Fund at March is \$1,901,255. Based on 2026 Budgeted expenditures of \$5,136,920 that level of cash is sufficient to cover 4.4 months of operations. The City's budget policy reflects the goal of establishing a reserve of between nine (9) and twelve (12) months, or between \$3,852,690 and \$5,136,920. The current level of cash is lower than the 9-month goal by \$1,951,435. Revenues through March are at 7.8%, or actual of \$358,044 versus budget of \$4,608,378. Taxes are at 1.9%, with Property Tax at 0% of budget and sales tax at 5.9%, as little tax is generated and reported early in the calendar year. The new Water-Borne Transportation Fee is reported in the Harbor Major Repair and Replacement Fund #73 and through March, passenger fees total \$3,744. These water-borne transportation fees are used for capital assets and infrastructure in the harbor, benefitting the payers of the fee.

License and Permits are at 24% largely reflecting collection of \$15,408 in ambulance fees. Intergovernmental Revenues (from state and federal sources) are at 11.2% of budget, or \$27,470 largely due to the receipt of National Forest Receipts.

General Fund expenditures are at 22.8% of budget through March, with 25% of the year having elapsed. Transfers between Funds have not been recorded. All General Fund departments are under budget through except for City Council/City Clerk and Property and Facilities. The largest budget overage is in community support, where contributions toward BTI/Whittier Manor capital repairs have been recorded as future liabilities, increasing actual expenses early in the year. Property and Facilities budget is higher than year-to-date estimates due to payment for boiler repairs at the Public Safety Building totaling.

WATER AND SEWER FUND: The Cash balance in the Water and Sewer Fund (the "operating fund", Fund 50) is \$660,002 in addition to cash available in the Water and Sewer Major Maintenance and Repair Fund (the "capital fund", Fund 75) of \$1,369,927. Based on 2026 Budgeted Expenses (excluding depreciation) of \$380,511, 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 64 months of operations. Water and Sewer Fund revenues through March are at 11% of the budget. The Water and Sewer Fund revenues are largely seasonal and will increase during the busier summer months. It is not anticipated that the community's largest seafood operator will be

open for business in 2026; this is not expected to have a large impact on revenues since it was foreseen that the seafood industry would not contribute significantly to water/sewer revenues in the coming year. Investment income has not been recorded nor have for one-time cash transfers from the General Fund of \$23,341, in repayment of a short-term loan for the purchase of a loader.

HARBOR FUND: The Cash balance in the Harbor Fund (the “operating fund”, Fund 51) is \$987,685, in addition to cash available in the Harbor Major Repair and Replacement Fund (the “capital fund”, Fund 73) of \$674,939, at March 31. Based on 2026 Budgeted Expenses (excluding depreciation) of \$2,026,967, cash reserves available in the operating fund are sufficient to cover 5.9 months of expenses. Cash reserves available in both the operating and capital funds (total \$1,662,624), are sufficient to cover 9.8 months of operations. Harbor Fund Revenues for the Harbor Fund are at 39.5%, as the largest source of revenue, preferential (annual) moorage, is brought in early in the year. Transfers-In and Transfers-Out have yet to be recorded. Overall, Charges for Services (includes moorage, utilities, wharfage, launch, parking, etc) are at 43%; Lease revenues appear higher than they actually are, as they reflect the full amount of lease billings without offsets for payments to the Alaska Railroad representing 40% of Railroad master lease revenues. Investment income has not been recorded.

DELONG DOCK: The Cash balance in the Delong Dock Fund is \$1,446,418. These reserves are intended for future use as matching funds for the replacement of the dock. Delong Dock actual revenues reflect only a single permit for the use of the dock in the coming year. Otherwise, revenues are not expected to be recorded until the summer season. Interest revenues have not been recorded and only \$32,461 in expenses have been recorded through March, related to electricity and insurance.

HARBOR MRRF: The Cash balance in the Harbor MRRF Fund is \$674,939 to be used for the repair and replacement of major Harbor capital assets. This Fund accounts for the Water-Borne Passenger Fee which was implemented in January, 2025, and which accounts for per-passenger fees of \$8 set aside entirely to pay for capital asset and infrastructure replacement in the Harbor, to benefit payers of the fee. Revenues through March are entirely related to the Water-Borne Passenger Fee collections of \$3,744.

GRANTS: Since the previous months’ report, staff have successfully secured three additional grant as follows: 1) \$3,500 for Alaskans for Litter Patrol and Recycling, to allow the youth litter patrol program to take place; 2) \$4,074,500 in MARAD PIDP funding for engineering of the Delong Dock replacement; and 3) \$10,000 for accessible pocket parks. We continue to seek funding for a new ambulance and Delong Dock planning and construction, as well as Shotgun Cove Road. The Water Well Replacement Project is expected to kick-off this month, which will replace the City’s well field and significantly increase the capacity of the water system to handling the growth in demand. We expect to receive the backup generator for the City’s water system which will allow us to close out \$75,000 in funding from that grant.

OTHER: Staff are in the middle of the annual audit which takes place the week of May 11 and will continue on into next week.

City Clerk/Assistant City Manager Report

Leases: Since the April meeting, Administration has continued methodically working through the City’s lease files and waterfront property management practices. This work has included follow-up on expired leases, review of lease compliance requirements, preparation of use-certification correspondence, development of delinquency procedures, and continued work toward fair market value appraisal services. The goal is to move the City toward a more consistent, transparent, and code-based lease administration system.

Administration also continued work on waterfront support logistics, including seasonal garbage service implementation and potential use of the former Tank Farm area for limited, non-intrusive storage. Staff sent correspondence to ADEC regarding the City’s intent to place connex storage on the Tank Farm using dunnage, without grading, excavation, or intrusive site work.

Brownsfield Project and Buckner Building: As stated by the City Manager, a kickoff meeting was held with ADEC and NORTECH, the City’s Qualified Environmental Professional (QEP) on May 11. The City was notified on May 13 that the Buckner Building Site Eligibility Determination was approved by EPA, allowing the City to move forward with the Data Gap Analysis.

Administration also continued workplan development for the Buckner Building Congressionally Directed Spending project. The EPA Project Manager has tentatively approved the draft workplan, enabling the City to submit it to the EPA Grants Office for final approval. Once approved, the City will begin working on federal crosscutter requirements for remediation of the Buckner Building.

In addition, ADEC notified the City they had published the procurement documents for Phase II Environmental Site Assessment work on the South End Glacier Avenue site, also known as the site of the future Whittier Falls Park or the snow dump. This is a service provided free of charge under the Alaska DEC Brownfields Cleanup and Assessment Program.

Election Code: Administration is scheduling a work session prior to the June regular meeting to begin review of the draft Election code rewrite. The City Clerk submitted a comprehensive draft to legal counsel in January 2025 for their review. This update reorganizes and modernizes the chapter into its own title.

Harbor Department Report – *No Written Report Provided*

Police Department Report

Calls by Service Area

Service Area	Calls
Whittier	59
Girdwood Service Area	235
Other	5
Total	299

Summary

In April 2026, WPD handled 299 calls for service. The most common call types were, Traffic Stop (40), Parking (12), Disturbance (10), Welfare Check (8). Jurisdictional mix: Whittier 19.7%, Girdwood 78.6%, Other 1.7%.

- Whittier handled 59 calls.
- Girdwood handled 235 calls.
- Other jurisdictions accounted for 5 calls.
- High level of traffic enforcement this month.

Call Types by Jurisdiction

Call Type	Whittier	Girdwood	Other	Total
911 Abandoned Call	0	3	0	3
Abandoned Vehicle	1	0	0	1
Agency Assist	1	6	1	8
Alarm	0	1	0	1
Animal Call	0	1	0	1
Animal Complaint	0	1	0	1
Assault	0	1	0	1
Cad Testing	1	0	0	1
Citizen Assist	0	1	0	1
Citizen Contact	0	1	0	1
Civil Dispute	1	0	0	1
Criminal Mischief	2	0	0	2
Disorderly Conduct	0	1	0	1
Disturbance	2	8	0	10
Foot Patrol	0	1	0	1
Fraud	1	0	0	1
Juvenile Problem	0	3	0	3
Lost Property	0	1	0	1
MVA/Accident	0	3	1	4
Medical	1	0	0	1
Motorist Assist	0	1	0	1
Noise Complaint	0	4	0	4
Ordinance Violation	0	1	0	1
Parking	8	4	0	12
Pd Community Relations	1	1	0	2
Pd Training	1	0	0	1
Public Assist	1	0	0	1
Public Contact	0	1	0	1
Reddi	0	6	0	6
School Patrol	0	2	0	2

Security Check	29	127	0	156
Suspicious Activity	0	2	0	2
Suspicious Circumstances	1	1	0	2
Suspicious Person	0	1	0	1
Suspicious Person/Vehicle	0	1	0	1
Theft	0	1	0	1
Threatening	0	1	0	1
Traffic Complaint	0	5	0	5
Traffic Enforcement	1	0	0	1
Traffic Stop	4	36	0	40
Transport	1	0	0	1
Trespassing	0	1	0	1
Unspecified in CAD	1	1	1	3
Vehicle Check	0	1	0	1
Welfare Check	1	5	2	8

Citation Information

Category	Whittier	Girdwood	Other	Total
Parking	12	0	0	12
Speeding	4	5	0	9
Other	1	0	1	2
Total	17	5	1	23

Other Activities

On May 14, 2026, Whittier Police Department conducted traffic control detail on Alyeska Highway for the 2026 Graduation Parade for Girdwood students. Congratulations to the Class of 2026.

Over the weekend of May 15-17, 2026, the Whittier Police Department conducted courtesy compliance checks on several commercial passenger transportation vehicles in the Whittier area. The purpose of these checks was to educate drivers and their companies about recent changes to the Whittier ordinance regarding passenger ground transportation requirements. No citations were issued. Nine companies were contacted, and two were found to be in compliance with the new ordinance. Whittier police will continue the courtesy compliance check for an additional week.

Transportation passenger vehicle companies who have any questions regarding this ordinance, are encouraged to contact the City of Whittier Finance Department.

Fire Department Report

During the month of April, Whittier Fire/EMS responded to a total of **15 calls for service** throughout the community.

Call Volume Summary

- **8 EMS Calls**
- **5 Fire Calls**
- **2 Rescue Calls**

Community Support & Outreach: Whittier Fire/EMS continues to partner with the Children's Lunch Box program to provide meals for children and community members in need. Meals remain available daily at the fire station between **9:00 AM and 5:00 PM**.

- **Total Meals Provided:** 74

Community Relations & Public Outreach: Throughout April, personnel remained actively engaged in several community-focused events and outreach activities, including:

- Breakfast at the School
- Community Bike Safety Class
- CPR/First Aid Training for Volunteers
- Spray down of the terminal parking lot for arrival of the first cruise ship
- Deck gun salute honoring Captain Gar

Grants Applied For: Whittier Fire/EMS continued pursuing funding opportunities to support operational readiness and firefighter safety through the following grant applications:

- Nutella Stacks for Giving Back Department Grants 2026
- MSA Cairns® 1836 Fire Helmet Giveaway

Whittier Fire/EMS remains committed to providing emergency response services, community outreach, training, and public safety support to the residents and visitors of Whittier.



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			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	A	B	C
EMS/Medical	4	1	2	6	1	7	1	7																			
Fire	2	2	1	2				5																			
Rescue	2			1		1		2																			
Walk-In			1			1		2																			
Transport out of Whittier	1		1	5	1	5	1	1																			
After hrs call duty phone				2			4	2	6																		
Out of Service Area																											
Sub-total	2	8	2	2	9	0	1	8	1	14	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		
Totals	12		11		10		15		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					
Station Tours				1			1			7																	
Meals Provided	30			16			127			74																	
Outreach				1			3			16																	
Totals	30			18			131			97			0			0			0			0			0		

2026 Calls
 48 Total calls for service
 1 Calls for cruise ship related calls
 2% of all calls cruise ship related

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



Public Works Monthly Report

During May 2026, the Public Works, Water, and Wastewater Departments focused on the seasonal transition from winter to summer operations, with emphasis on preparing City infrastructure and equipment for the upcoming tourist season. Public Works completed the winter-to-summer changeover, organized seasonal equipment, and prepared facilities to support increased summer activity and visitation. Fleet and maintenance staff conducted widespread preventative maintenance

across all City departments, including Department of Public Safety vehicles, the Water Department crane, and completion of the winter tire changeover for the entire fleet to ensure operational readiness.

The Water Department completed significant seasonal startup work, including installation of twenty-three water meters and thawing hydrants and water lines to support business openings and system readiness. In addition, the City received three bids for the Whittier Well Field Improvement Project, and Council is being presented with a recommendation for award from CRW Engineering Group. If approved, construction will begin this season, with project completion anticipated by mid-summer 2027.

The Wastewater Department continued regulatory and capital planning efforts by submitting the Draft Preliminary Engineering Report to ADEC and the State Revolving Fund (SRF) in support of the City's 301H Waiver Permit process. The City was not selected for the SRF Sewer Infiltration planning grant; however, staff will continue pursuing alternative funding opportunities to address infiltration and inflow challenges associated with local rainfall and flooding conditions.

The Shotgun Cove Road project resumed construction in early May following winter shutdown, with QAP continuing work through the 2026 construction season. The Emerald Cove Trail will remain closed for the duration of construction, with project completion expected in November 2026.