



# THE CITY OF WHITTIER

*Gateway to Western Prince William Sound*

P.O. Box 608 • Whittier, Alaska 99693 • (907) 472-2327 • Fax (907) 472-2404

**WHITTIER CITY COUNCIL  
REGULAR MEETING  
TUESDAY, JUNE 16, 2020  
AT 7:00 PM  
COUNCIL CHAMBERS  
3<sup>rd</sup> fl. PUBLIC SAFETY BUILDING**

**AGENDA**

- 1. CALL TO ORDER**
- 2. OPENING CEREMONY**
- 3. ROLL CALL**
  - A. Council Members Present
  - B. Administration Present
- 4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**
  - A. May 19, 2020 Regular Meeting Minutes
  - B. June 02, 2020 Emergency Special Meeting
  - C. June 04, 2020 Emergency Special Meeting
- 5. APPROVAL OF REGULAR MEETING AGENDA**
- 6. MAYOR'S REPORT**
  - A. Mayor Report – Dave Dickason
  - B. Vice Mayor Report – Peter Denmark
- 7. MANAGER'S REPORT**
  - A. City Manager and Director Reports
- 8. COMMISSION/COMMITTEE REPORTS**
  - A. Planning Commission
  - B. Port & Harbor Commission
  - C. Parks & Recreation Committee
  - D. Whittier Community School
  - E. Prince William Sound Aquaculture Corp.
  - F. Regional Citizen's Advisory Council
- 9. CITIZEN'S COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS NOT SCHEDULED FOR PUBLIC HEARING**
- 10. APPROVAL OF THE CONSENT AGENDA**
- 11. PUBLIC HEARINGS (NON-ORDINANCE)**
- 12. PRESENTATIONS**

**13. ORDINANCE**

**14. RESOLUTIONS**

**15. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

**16. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

**17. NEW BUSINESS**

A. Discussion Topic: Future Land Use Planning

B. Discussion Topic: Forming Whittier Public Safety Committee

**18. COUNCIL DISCUSSION**

**19. CITIZEN'S DISCUSSION**

**20. COUNCIL AND ADMINISTRATION'S RESPONSE TO CITIZEN'S COMMENTS**

**21. ADJOURNMENT**



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## **WHITTIER CITY COUNCIL**

### **REGULAR MEETING**

**TUESDAY MAY 19, 2020**

**7:00 PM**

**COUNCIL CHAMBERS**

**PUBLIC SAFETY BUILDING**

## **MINUTES**

### **1. CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor Dave Dickason called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

### **2. OPENING CEREMONY**

Mayor Dave Dickason led the Pledge of Allegiance.

### **3. ROLL CALL**

- A. Council members present and establishing a quorum:** David Pinquoch, Victor Shen, Debra Hicks, Tom Wagner, Monty Irvin, and Dave Dickason.

**MOTION:** David Pinquoch made a motion to excuse Peter Denmark from tonight's meeting

**SECOND:** Tom Wagner

**DISCUSSION:** None

**VOTE:** Motion passed unanimously

**B. Administration Present:**

Jim Hunt, City Manager

Annie Reeves, Assistant City Manager

Naelene Matsumiya, City Clerk

Andre Achee, Police Chief

Dave Borg, Harbormaster

**Others Present:**

### **4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

April 21, 2020 Regular Meeting Minutes

May 05, 2020 Emergency Special Meeting

**MOTION:** Victor Shen made a motion to approve the minutes as they are.

**SECOND:** Tom Wagner

**DISCUSSION:** None

**VOTE:** Motion passed unanimously

### **5. APPROVAL OF THE REGULAR MEETING AGENDA**

**MOTION:** Debra Hicks made a motion to approve the Regular Meeting Agenda as is.

**SECOND:** Victor

**DISCUSSION:** None

**VOTE:** Motion passed unanimously.

## **6. MAYOR'S REPORT**

### **A. Mayor Report**

Dave Dickason reflected on his report and commended those who put together the Prince William Sound Stewardship Foundation Virtual Symposium as it was a success. He continued on his report and reminded Council and Administration of a budget review.

### **B. Vice Mayor Report**

## **7. MANAGER'S REPORT**

### **A. City Manager and Director Reports- Jim Hunt**

Jim and directors reported on the following:

Barry Arm Slough

Tsunami preparedness

Meeting with NOAA

CARES Act funds

Tunnel contract

Seasonal transition (ahead of schedule)

Shotgun Cove Road Project

Various other projects around town

## **8. COMMISSION/COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### **A. Planning Commission**

Nothing New to report

### **B. Port & Harbor Commission**

Greg Clifford commended Dave Borg's work at the launch ramp. Introduced newly appointed Chair, Steven Bender to Council. Steven gave a brief report and encourage Council members to attend future Port and Harbor Commission meetings.

### **C. Parks & Recreation Committee**

Victor reported on the meeting and stated the focus topic of the meeting was the Committee looking to become a Commission. He gave an update on volunteers and how they have been helping during the pandemic. Victor stated that he hopes for future collaborations with various department heads for projects and ideas. Victor concluded that the Parks and Recreation Committee is holding a Head of the Bay clean-up. Invited everyone to the event.

### **D. Whittier Community School**

Dave reported on behalf of Tim Wieland that school is officially over. Thanked parents, teachers and Whittier Seafood for contributions to the school year. Closed by reminding everyone that graduation was on the 17<sup>th</sup> at the Head of the Bay and it was a beautiful ceremony.

### **E. Prince William Sound Aquaculture Corp.**

Nothing new to report

### **F. Regional Citizen's Advisory Council**

Mike Bender spoke about the Zoom meeting with RCAC and Alyeska changing presidents. He reminded Council and Administration that the buoy still needs to be replaced.

**9. CITIZENS COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS NOT SCHEDULED FOR PUBLIC HEARING**

**10. APPROVAL OF CONSENT CALENDAR**

**11. PUBLIC HEARINGS (NON-ORDINANCE)**

None

**12. PRESENTATIONS**

None

**13. ORDINANCES**

(Emergency Ordinance)

A. Emergency Ordinance #03-2020 – An Emergency Ordinance Renewing the Proclamation of local Emergency and City Council's Ratification of the Proclamation and its Acknowledgement of the State-Declared Emergency Resulting from the Outbreak of COVID-19 in Alaska.

**MOTION:** Debra Hicks made a motion to open the public hearing for public testimony at 7:42 pm

**SECOND:** Victor Shen

**DISCUSSION:** None

**VOTE:** Motion passed unanimously

Seeing no member of the public present for testimony

**MOTION:** Debra Hicks made a motion to close the Public Testimony part of the Public Hearing and open it up for Council Discussion

**SECOND:** Tom Wagner

**DISCUSSION:** None

**VOTE:** Motion passed unanimously

Council asked questions on the extension of the proclamation. Administration responded.

**MOTION:** Tom Wagner made a motion to adopt Emergency Ordinance #03-2020 and close the public hearing at 7:46pm

**SECOND:** Debra Hicks

**DISCUSSION:** None

**VOTE:** Motion passed unanimously

**14. RESOLUTIONS**

A. Res. #17-2020 – A Resolution of The City Council of The City of Whittier, Alaska, has been advised by the USACE District Office that the total costs of the General Navigation Feature (GNF) may increase from what was estimated in the Integrated Feasibility Report (IFR)

Council and Administration spoke about the resolution at length. Jim explained that the USACE reported that there could be contamination and that the original cost could potentially increase due to the levels of contamination. Scott Korbe expanded on his knowledge of the project.

**MOTION:** Debra Hicks made a motion to adopt Res. #17-2020

**SECOND:** Victor Shen

**DISCUSSION:** Council discussed the resolution with Jim Hunt at length and asked questions about the surrounding lands

**VOTE:** Motion to adopt failed, 3-3

**15. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

None

**16. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

**17. NEW BUSINESS**

**A. Discussion topic: Renting out City owned Units (1507, 1509, 1511)**

Andre Achee explained that an option to have is to reserve one housing unit for Public Safety Housing in which tenants will pay for the units. Council discussed with Administration further.

**18. COUNCIL DISCUSSION**

Council Discussed the following:

Head of the Bay

Tsunami

**19. CITIZEN'S DISCUSSION**

Greg Clifford urged Council to consider the Port and Harbor Commission in conversation of the Head of the Bay project.

**20. COUNCIL AND ADMINISTRATION'S RESPONSE TO CITIZEN'S COMMENTS**

None

**21. ADJOURNMENT**

Council adjourned the meeting at 8:54pm

**ATTEST:**

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**Naelene Matsumiya**  
**City Clerk**

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**Dave Dickason**  
**Mayor**



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**WHITTIER CITY COUNCIL  
EMERGENCY SPECIAL MEETING  
TUESDAY JUNE 02, 2020  
7:00 PM  
COUNCIL CHAMBERS  
PUBLIC SAFETY BUILDING**

## **MINUTES**

### **1. CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor Dave Dickason called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

### **2. OPENING CEREMONY**

Mayor Dave Dickason led the Pledge of Allegiance.

### **3. ROLL CALL**

**A. Council members present and establishing a quorum:** Peter Denmark, Debra Hicks, Tom Wagner, Victor Shen, David Pinquoch, Monty Irvin, and Dave Dickason

#### **B. Administration Present:**

Jim Hunt, City Manager  
Naelene Matsumiya, City Clerk,  
Kris Erchinger, Finance Director  
Andre Achec, Interim Chief of Police  
Dave Borg, Harbormaster

**Others present:** Mike Bender, Kelly Bender, Dan Blair, Chris Pallister and Dave Goldstein

### **4. APPROVAL OF THE EMERGENCY SPECIAL MEETING AGENDA**

**MOTION:** Victor Shen made a motion to approve the Emergency Special Meeting Agenda

**SECOND:** Monty Irvin

**DISCUSSION:** None

**VOTE:** Motion passed unanimously

### **5. ORDINANCES**

### **6. RESOLUTIONS**

**A. Resolution #18-2020-** A Resolution of The City Council Of The City Of Whittier, Alaska Recognizing The City of Whittier has been advised by the USACE District Office that the total costs of the General Navigation Feature (GNF) may increase from what estimated in the Integrated Feasibility Report (IFR)

**MOTION:** Monty Irvin made a motion to adopt Res. #18-2020

**SECOND:** Tom Wagner

**DISCUSSION:** Council discussed the resolution with Jim Hunt and Administration about why it was being brought back. Jim explained that there was a timeline. Council discussed various topics such as fees and previous administration. Monty thank Dan Blair for being a part of this ongoing project.

**VOTE:** Motion passed, 6-1

**7. COUNCIL DISCUSSION**

Council discussed the following:

Positive COVID-19 case in Whittier

Landslide and tsunami threat

Eastern Aleutian Tribes Clinic involvement in upcoming meetings

**8. CITIZEN'S DISCUSSION**

Dave Goldstein gave a presentation on the Head of the Bay project

Kelly Bender asked Council to consider the Chambers and existing businesses in Whittier regarding Head of the Bay project.

Chris Pallister stated his concerns about the Head of the Bay project

**9. COUNCIL AND ADMINISTRATION'S RESPONSE TO CITIZEN'S COMMENTS**

None

**10. ADJOURNMENT**

All were in favor of adjourning the meeting at 8:05 p.m.

**ATTEST:**

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Naelene Matsumiya  
City Clerk

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Dave Dickason  
Mayor





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**WHITTIER CITY COUNCIL  
EMERGENCY SPECIAL MEETING  
THURSDAY, JUNE 4, 2020  
5:00 PM  
COUNCIL CHAMBERS  
PUBLIC SAFETY BUILDING**

## **MINUTES**

### **1. CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor Dave Dickason called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m.

### **2. OPENING CEREMONY**

Mayor Dave Dickason led the Pledge of Allegiance.

### **3. ROLL CALL**

**A. Council members present and establishing a quorum:** Peter Denmark, Debra Hicks, Tom Wagner, Victor Shen, and Dave Dickason

#### **B. Administration Present:**

Jim Hunt, City Manager  
Naelene Matsumiya, City Clerk,  
Holly Wells, City Attorney

**Others present:** Alexandra Matsumiya, Cathy McCord, Anne Zink, Joseph McLaughlin, Donna Bean, and Paul Mueller

### **4. APPROVAL OF THE EMERGENCY SPECIAL MEETING AGENDA**

**MOTION:** Monty Irvin made a motion to approve the Emergency Special Meeting Agenda with amendments to move New Business item to 4a.

**SECOND:** Debra Hicks

**DISCUSSION:** None

**VOTE:** Motion passed unanimously

### **5. ORDINANCES**

### **6. RESOLUTIONS**

### **7. NEW BUSINESS**

#### **A. Addressing New COVID-19 Cases (Item was moved to 4a)**

Anne Zink and her team with the State gave a summary of the investigation of the COVID-19 cases in Whittier. The State reported that they had met with City Officials as well as Whittier Seafood staff to gather data. They stated that so far, the first person who had tested

positive was no longer within city limits. Council asked questions of what constitutes a campus and where the workers who tested positive were being quarantined. Cathy addressed the concerns. Council asked if residents of the BTI and/or the Manor who work for Whittier Seafood has had contact with those who were quarantine. Holly Wells spoke on the meetings she has had with Administration and the State and clarified concerns with Council from a legal standpoint. Cathy McCord answered questions asked by the State team and asked question for Paul Mueller of the Eastern Aleutian Tribes Clinic as well. Discussion continued for some time.

#### **8. COUNCIL DISCUSSION**

Council discussed the following:

Q&A for community to promote a better understanding of COVID-19

Testing protocol clarification

Rapid case increase

Potential Code Orange alert

Council polled for an Emergency Special Meeting for Monday, June 8. Time tentative.

#### **9. CITIZEN'S DISCUSSION**

#### **10. COUNCIL AND ADMINISTRATION'S RESPONSE TO CITIZEN'S COMMENTS**

#### **11. ADJOURNMENT**

All were in favor of adjourning the meeting at 6:28 p.m.

**ATTEST:**

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**Naelene Matsumiya**  
**City Clerk**

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**Dave Dickason**  
**Mayor**

**Date:** June 16, 2020  
**To:** Whittier City Council and Administration  
**From:** Dave Dickason  
**Subject:** Mayor's Report – May/June 2020

**Meetings Attended:**

- Parks & Rec Meeting June 16<sup>th</sup>
- Ports and Harbor Meeting June 4<sup>th</sup>
- Emergency Council Meeting June 2<sup>nd</sup>

**Upcoming Schedule:**

- P&Z Meeting: Wednesday, July 1st - 6:00 PM (Tentative) Need updated zoning map
- Port & Harbor Meeting: Thursday, July 2nd - 6:00 PM (Tentative)
- Parks & Rec Meeting: Tuesday, July 21<sup>st</sup> - 6:00 PM
- Next Regular Meeting: Tuesday, July 21<sup>st</sup> - 7:00 PM

**Recently Accomplished Goals:**

- Response to COVID-19

**Follow-up:**

- Budget Review Schedule
- Barry Arm Tsunami Warning Sensors & Weather Buoy
- City Beautification Plan for 2020: Harbor boardwalk, Derelict boats, Boneyard
- Determine Future Status of Remaining City-owned Condominiums
- Harbor Infrastructure Grant Application
- Future Land-use Development Plan (Begin in August / September?)

**Open Goals:**

Short Term:

- Policies and Procedures / Code Update
- Lease Standardization & Enforcement: Some enforcement currently taking place.

Mid Term:

- DOD Tank-Farm Land Transfer of 58 Acres: Need to coordinate with breakwater construction project.
- Community Park Construction Funding
- Determine Funding for Final Harbor Construction Phase

Long Term:

- Shotgun Cove Road Extension: Next construction phase in 2021.
- Head of Bay Development (After Future Land Use Plan)
- Buckner Building: Environmental Remediation.

## JUNE CITY MANAGER REPORT

Senator Lisa Murkowski called to express support regarding the positive COVID tests in Whittier and offered aid if she and the federal delegation can be of help. We asked for help in acquiring rapid testing equipment. We are to receive a unit for EAT ASAP.

Alaska State Representative Rauscher called to express support and to keep lines of communication open

We have been working consistently with EAT regarding testing

We have been regularly working every week with our state and federal lobbyists. Exceptional work is being done on our behalf in D.C. for COVID and the Tsunami threat.

Called into two AML conference calls regarding use of CARES ACT Funding

Attended two Alaganik DeLong Dock Mediation meetings

Working with PWS Economic Development Board on many subjects

Completed State of Alaska Congregate Care Survey

Held a staff meeting now that everyone is back

Communicated with the Corps of Engineers

Had multiple interviews with ADN, AK Public Media, KTUU, KTVA and others

Staff has a meeting scheduled June 12 with AK DNR Geological and Geophysical Survey and US Geological Survey to discuss the Tsunami threat and options for Whittier.

The City is working to schedule a Tsunami Warning Center information meeting for the public

## HARBOR ADMIN:

Office remains closed to the public

Staff is back to normal work schedule

Impound paperwork issued to owner of the Scandia, Marlee and Shearwater

Campground hosts John & Natnaree Norris will be set up on 10 June

Conducting a thorough review of harbor staffing

Working to identify/notify accounts past due 60 days +

Conducting a thorough review of current harbor fee and tariff schedules

Invoicing now in place to recover Delong dock power usage by permit holders

May launch ramp/parking receipts equaled \$56,000 compared to 2019 numbers of \$39,000 (Launch ramp management is key)

2<sup>nd</sup> half of preferential/Annual moorage due by July 15<sup>th</sup>

#### HARBOR:

Harbor is open for business in all aspects

Coho release conducted on the evening of 29 May

King fry to be delivered 17 June

Awaiting bid for City dock ladder replacement

Replacing lighting control on Delong dock to reduce electrical costs

Scott and I are working on a plan to address Smitty's Cove launch ramp deteriorating conditions.

Continue to stress the importance of maintaining harbor assets with training and oversight.

Procuring signage for dumpsters to curtail unauthorized use. Continue to identify ways to reduce costs to the harbor.

The transformer on C float has been replaced and is operational.

Need staff after hours to direct traffic for Friday, Saturday and Sunday

Extending cart racks, and bike parking rack at the launch ramp

#### FINANCE MONTHLY REPORT

May Finance Monthly Report – with April PRELIMINARY financials

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This report reflects an abbreviated look at finance-related activities through the end of May. Financial Report information is provided in the packet through the end of April. All interfund transfers budgeted for 2020 have been entered and posted; an adjustment will be made to allocate the inter-department support out over twelve months. The entire year's entry was posted as a single entry and needs to be allocated.

#### AUDIT PREPARATION

Most of the finance effort has been directed at preparation for the annual audit. This year's audit was conducted virtually by Altman Rogers, due to the need to social distance in response to COVID19. The auditors conducted the primary portion of the audit the week of May 18 and a final exit conference was held by telephone with the mayor Dave Dickason, finance director Erchinger, and the audit team, on June 9, 2020. The audit went very well and ended with no audit findings this year. The auditors will recommend that management implement an additional internal control measure and have the city manager approve journal entries. The auditors did suggest that the City move the CPV grant funds that were received by the City on March 2, into 2020 instead of 2019, despite the fact that the grant funds were related to 2019, as they were not received within 60 days of year-end, which is a common cut-off point for considering a prior

year's revenue to be "available." The draft financial statements will be ready for review mid-June and the auditors are prepared to attend an audit worksession prior to the regularly scheduled Council meeting on July 21, to present the results of the financial audit and to discuss the results of the 2019 financial statements with Council.

## INSURANCE

The City completed the insurance exposure questionnaire and updated all insurance coverage schedules in preparation for the insurance company's upcoming fiscal year (July 1, 2020 to June 30, 2021). Property insurance is slated to rise considerably (20%) due to major storm events throughout the country in 2020. The administration will continue to monitor insurance costs and options, to ensure that we are getting the best bang for the taxpayers' buck. Health insurance costs are increasing approximately 9% year-over-year. As a result, the administration will be doing a review in coming months, to shop health insurance options to see whether it is possible to reduce costs while maintaining coverages that would attract and/or retain employees.

Staff continue to work together to cross-train on accounts payable, utility billing, payroll and accounts receivable. Cross-training allows multiple staff to assist with various functions and provide opportunities for segregation of duties, which is a key component of a robust system of internal controls. In addition, detailed procedures are being created for each of the major finance-related functions, to ensure that job functions are not dependent on certain individuals with unique knowledge. This allows for better job coverage during times of employee absence and for tasks to be conducted when some individuals may be required to work from home, as was recently the case due to COVID19 social distancing requirements.

## GRANTS

The City administration continues to receive information and participate in meetings regarding state and federal funding opportunities related to COVID19. Many communities in the State have decided to allocate funding various ways; most include prioritizing reimbursement to the City for direct costs associated with COVID19 mitigation and response, followed by allocation on various bases to small businesses, utility reimbursements, non-profit organizations, local dividends, etc. We are in a somewhat unique position in that unlike most communities, Whittier has experienced a recent significant outbreak of cases, and the potential for continued impacts is therefore higher in Whittier. That makes it more important than ever to ensure that whatever approach we take as a community, we not jump the gun and distribute the funds before fully recognizing the areas of greatest impact and need. The administration continues to look at various scenarios and will be prepared to discuss with Council when we see a marked improvement in the current state of COVID cases.

## MISCELLANEOUS

We are still awaiting a response from the Internal Revenue Service regarding the finance director's request for abatement of penalties assessed against the City for failure to file W2 and W3 Forms with the Social Security Administration in 2015.

Public Works – Oral Report

LISA MURKOWSKI  
ALASKA

COMMITTEES:  
ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES  
CHAIRMAN  
APPROPRIATIONS  
SUBCOMMITTEE ON INTERIOR,  
ENVIRONMENT, AND RELATED AGENCIES  
CHAIRMAN  
HEALTH, EDUCATION, LABOR,  
AND PENSIONS  
INDIAN AFFAIRS

## United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-0203  
(202) 224-6665  
(202) 224-5301 FAX

June 10, 2020

510 L STREET, SUITE 600  
ANCHORAGE, AK 99501-1956  
(907) 271-3735

250 CUSHMAN STREET, SUITE 20  
FAIRBANKS, AK 99701  
(907) 456-0233

800 GLACIER AVENUE, SUITE 101  
JUNEAU, AK 99801  
(907) 586-7277

44539 STERLING HIGHWAY, SUITE 203  
SOLDOTNA, AK 99669  
(907) 262-4220

1900 FIRST AVENUE, SUITE 225  
KETCHIKAN, AK 99901-6059  
(907) 225-6880

851 EAST WESTPOINT DRIVE, SUITE 307  
WASILLA, AK 99654-7142  
(907) 376-7665

Dr. Neil Jacobs  
Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere (Acting)  
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration  
U.S. Department of Commerce

Dr. Louis W. Uccellini  
Assistant Administrator for Weather Services  
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration  
U.S. Department of Commerce

Dear Dr. Jacobs and Dr. Uccellini:

On May 14, 2020, the Alaska Departments of Natural Resources and Fish and Game announced the discovery of a large and potentially destructive landslide hazard at the head of Barry Arm, in Prince William Sound. The retreat of the Barry Glacier has exposed a significant deposit of unstable sediment and loose material, which could release millions of tons of rock into the waters of Barry Arm. A landslide of such magnitude in a narrow waterway could cause a devastating tsunami and impact communities nearby. The community of Whittier, Alaska, is most at risk from such an event.

Alaska is no stranger to geologic hazards or natural disasters. In 1964, a magnitude 9.2 earthquake struck the southcentral region, resulting in 131 fatalities and billions of dollars in damages. More recently, in November 2018, a magnitude 7.0 earthquake hit Anchorage, disrupting major transportation corridors and causing extensive damage. This followed another magnitude 7.9 event in January 2018, which provoked mass evacuations across the state. In addition to earthquakes, Alaska's history is punctuated with tsunamis, landslides, and volcanic eruptions, some of which have been recorded in the oral histories of Alaska Native communities.

In partnership with State agencies and research institutions, federal agencies play a key role in monitoring and predicting potential hazards before they cause widespread damage or loss of life. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) plays an especially important role in supporting both the physical instrumentation to capture hazardous tsunami events as they occur, and the public-facing infrastructure used to notify Alaskans when a disaster is imminent.

In light of the newly discovered hazard in Barry Arm, I write to request updates on the status of NOAA's tsunami observing capabilities in Prince William Sound, long term plans for monitoring the Barry Arm tsunami hazard, and a summary of recent improvements made to the tsunami warning system in Alaska. Specifically, I request a response which includes the following:



1. Please provide a timeframe for redeployment of National Data Buoy Center Station #46081 in Prince William Sound.
2. Please provide a long-term plan for monitoring non-seismic landslide-induced tsunamis in Prince William Sound, and in any other areas where such hazards may occur, such as southeast Alaska.
3. Please provide a timeline for when tsunami inundation maps for Prince William Sound communities will be updated, given the discovery of this new hazard.
4. Please provide an update on improvements made to the tsunami alert system to address shortcomings identified after the November 2018 earthquake, the January 2018 earthquake, and the false alert event in May 2018.

NOAA's tsunami observation and prediction capabilities are critical to safeguarding the lives and property of Alaskans. As Alaska experiences deglaciation brought on by climate change, it is likely that new landslide hazards similar to the one in Barry Arm will be discovered. I urge you to devote any available resources to improving observation capabilities in Prince William Sound and ensuring that the U.S. Tsunami Warning System is capable of rapidly notifying at-risk communities, like Whittier.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



Lisa Murkowski  
United States Senator

DATE: June 11, 2020  
TO: Jim Hunt, City Manager  
FROM: Andre Achee, DPS Director  
SUBJECT: Monthly Report June 2020

#### Statistics:

May of 2020 the Whittier Department of Public Safety responded to a total of 208 calls for service in both Whittier and Girdwood, Alaska. The Whittier service area accounted for 118 calls for service and the Girdwood service area accounted for 90 calls for service.

The statistical breakdown for the Whittier and Girdwood service areas are as follows:

	<b>Whittier</b>	<b>Girdwood</b>
Traffic/DUI/Driving Violations	65	44
Security Checks	6	4
Suspicious Activities	6	5
Property Crimes	10	3
Assault / Disturbances	3	9
Welfare Checks	9	5
Other	13	20
Fire /EMS	6	0
<b>Total Calls for Service Whittier area:</b>	<b>118</b>	<b>90</b>

May 2020 has seen an increase to two categories in our statistical break down. There has been an increase in the Traffic and Other categories. The traffic increase is attributed to the increase of vehicle traffic into Whittier for the start of the summer season. The Other categories is due the increase bear sighting reports in Whittier.

#### Personnel:

We recently hired a temporary Paramedic / Fighter to supplement our Fire/EMS staffing for the month of May. Bart Grabman will be working with our team till the end of the month.

#### Training:

May 2020, the Whittier Police Department is conducting our annual firearms qualifications. Firearm qualifications consist of all police officers successfully completing the courses of

instruction in handgun, rifle and/or shotgun. We anticipate all officers completing their qualifications by the end of the month.

Our recent Provisional EMT 1's will be working on their skill test during this month. Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, all previous skill testing was cancelled, and provisional status was given to all EMT students. We are preparing to complete the skill testing for the provisional EMT 1's by the end of the month.

#### Of Interest:

May 2020 has seen some unique circumstances throughout Alaska. One of which the special provisions for high school graduates not being able to graduate in the traditional sense. The Whittier Police Department attended the "head of the bay" graduation ceremony to show support and encouragement to our recent high school graduates in Whittier. We also participate in supporting the high school graduates in Girdwood area during their graduation march in the town square of Girdwood.

The Whittier Department of Public Safety has signed up for the Nixle alert system. I have attended an online webinar on the system administration and currently planning another online webinar for other members of the City of Whittier team so will have access to information delivery system.

Nixle has already created a keyword access for any citizen who wished to subscribe to Whittier's Nixle alerts. The community can start the subscription process by texting "WhittierAK" to "888777". This will give the community member a link to register specifically for the Whittier, Alaska Nixle alert.

I also plan to put access links on the City's website and post flyers about Whittier with quick references on how to sign up.

Currently we have Earthquake and Tsunami alerts already configured in the Nixle system specifically for the Whittier area.

If you have any questions regarding this month's management report, please do not hesitate to contact me.