



# 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  
EMERGENCY SPECIAL MEETING  
MONDAY, JUNE 8, 2020  
3:00 PM  
COUNCIL CHAMBERS  
PUBLIC SAFETY BUILDING**

## MINUTES

### 1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Dave Dickason called the meeting to order at 3:00 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  
Annie Reeves, Assistant City Manager  
Naelene Matsumiya, City Clerk,  
Kris Erchinger, Finance Director  
Andre Achee, Chief of Police  
Dave Borg, Harbormaster  
Holly Wells, City Attorney

**Others present:** Anne Zink, Donna Bean, Joe McLaughlin, Tom Koloski, Paul Mueller, Mike Bender, Perry Solmonson, Ken Newman, and Joe Shen

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

**MOTION:** Debra Hicks made a motion to approve the Emergency Special Meeting Agenda

**SECOND:** Tom Wagner

**DISCUSSION:** None

**VOTE:** Motion passed unanimously

### 5. EXECUTIVE SESSION

**A.** Regarding Whittier Seafood COVID-19 outbreak requested by the City Attorney to discuss legal matters or receive legal advice from an attorney, including but not limited to recommendations regarding proposed City Council action having serious legal implications, the disclosure or public

discussion of which may tend to adversely affect the legal or financial positions of the City per WMC 2.08.040 (c)

**MOTION:** Tom Wagner made a motion to enter Executive Session at 3:03 pm

**SECOND:** Debra Hicks

**DISCUSSION:** None

**VOTE:** Motion passed unanimously

Council entered Executive Session at 3:03pm

**MOTION:** Tom Wagner made a motion to exit out of Executive Session at 4:01 pm

**SECOND:** Debra Hicks

**DISCUSSION:** None

**VOTE:** Motion passed unanimously

Council exited Executive Session at 4:01 pm and resumed the Emergency Special Meeting

## 6. PRESENTATION

A. Whittier Seafood COVID-19 Update from the State – Dr. Anne Zink and team

Dr. Zink and her team reported on the findings after further examination was done at the Whittier Seafood plant and around the City. Dr. Joe McLaughlin and Donna Bean shared statistics and updated the Council on the status of the cases. Ken Newman with Whittier Seafood spoke at the podium about what was currently being done and reassured that Whittier Seafood, The City, and the State are all working together to create stringent protocols via Mutual Aid Agreement. Dr. McLaughlin and Dr. Bean expanded on the situation at length. Council discussed options with Holly regarding the City's Recovery Plan. Holly summarized the *Code Orange* option for the Council and Council discussed. Suggestions such as a two-week closure, recreational areas for plant workers, and strict social distancing protocols were explored. Holly addressed these concerns. Dr. Zink's team reassured that the Coronavirus has not made it to residential areas of the City and that Paul Mueller is working closely with Administration to provide testing.

**MOTION:** Debra Hicks made a motion to direct Administration to work with Whittier Seafood to create more stringent requirements and amendments to the Mutual Aid Agreement and an oversight structure

**SECOND:** Tom Wagner

**DISCUSSION:** Holly Wells reminded the Council that if there are material breaches, or conduct and activity that cannot be corrected and remedied by Whittier Seafood, it will be within the City's legal rights to consider taking action under the current Mutual Aid Agreement. But the first step is to work with Whittier Seafood to accomplish the goals of the Council. She expanded.

**VOTE:** Motion passed, 5-1

## 7. RESOLUTIONS

A. Resolution #19-2020- A Resolution of The City Council Of The City Of Whittier, Alaska directing the City Manager, in his capacity as the Director of Civil Defense and Disaster, to declare the City of Whittier to be in "Local Orange Alert" and to implement the City of Whittier "Orange Alert Emergency Rules."

**MOTION:** Peter Denmark made a motion to adopt Res. #19-2020

**SECOND:** Debra Hicks

**DISCUSSION:** Holly explained the Orange Alert rules. Council discussed the resolution and explained how Orange Alert would potentially harm local businesses as opposed to essential businesses. Ideas were explored at the Dais. Council welcomed comments from the audience on Resolution #19-2020.

**VOTE:** Motion failed, 5-1

**8. COUNCIL DISCUSSION**

Council briefly discussed improving the ventilation system at the BTI.

**9. CITIZEN'S DISCUSSION**

Annie read comments that were sent via text messages regarding COVID-19. Paul Mueller addressed. Perry Solmonson expressed his concerns with the Orange Alert idea.

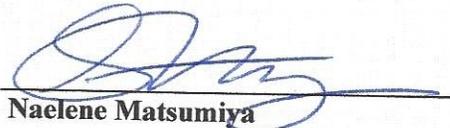
**10. COUNCIL AND ADMINISTRATION'S RESPONSE TO CITIZEN'S COMMENTS**

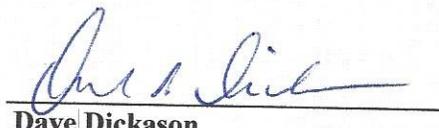
None

**11. ADJOURNMENT**

All were in favor of adjourning the meeting at 5:39 p.m.

**ATTEST:**

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
**Naelene Matsumiya**  
City Clerk

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
**Dave Dickason**  
Mayor