



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 JULY 20, 2021
7:00 PM
COUNCIL CHAMBERS
PUBLIC SAFETY BUILDING**

MINUTES

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor, Dave Dickason called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m.

2. OPENING CEREMONY

Dave Dickason led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. ROLL CALL

A. Council members present and establishing a quorum:

Victor Shen, Dan Blair, Monty Irvin, Tom Wagner, David Pinquoch and Dave Dickason.

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

SECOND: Victor Shen

DISCUSSION: None

VOTE: Motion passed unanimously

B. Administration Present:

Jim Hunt, City Manager

Annie Reeves, Assistant City Manager

Naelene Matsumiya, City Clerk

Kris Erchinger, Finance Director

Dave Borg, Harbormaster

Andre Achee, Police Chief

Others Present: Monica Reid, Joe Gerace, Alexandra Matsumiya, Bill Rome, Nick Olzenak, Brianna Olzenak, Kelly Bender, Dori Yelverton, Charlene Arneson, Anna Dickason, Roselle Medez, Dave Goldstein, Jamie Loan, Bonnie Lymer, Stephanie Carlson, Michaelo Medez, Cathy McCord, and Ted Spencer.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

June 15, 2021

MOTION: Dan Blair made a motion to approve the minutes of the June 15, 2021, City Council Regular Meeting.

SECOND: David Pinquoch

DISCUSSION: None

VOTE: Motion passed unanimously.

5. APPROVAL OF THE REGULAR MEETING AGENDA

MOTION: Victor Shen made a motion to approve the July 20, 2021 Regular Meeting Agenda with amendments to move the Presentation item to 5a and Executive Session to 19a

SECOND: Tom Wagner

DISCUSSION: None

VOTE: Motion passed unanimously.

6. MAYOR'S REPORT

A. Mayor Report

Dave Dickason reported on the newest contribution from Ted Spencer; an information sign on historic Engine 557 and the status of displaying. Dave mentioned the notice of no findings for the Shotgun Cove Road Project. Jim stated that the City is looking now to being fully permitted for the project. Dave reported on the communication for the tank farm land at the head of they bay from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. He said that it looks like it's getting closer. Jim stated that it is in the negotiating phase. Dave reported on the Chugach National forest taking possession of the Marsten property up by the Portage Pass trail. Said it is in the hands of the Forest Service now and mentioned future plans. Dave reported on the USGS meeting in regard to the Barry Arm tsunami potential and stated that the initial concern is not as bad as what was originally anticipated. Stated that instead of a 35-foot-high wave, Whittier is looking at closer to 2 meters, 500 ft offshore. Jim stated that equipment initially installed to monitor was removed by an avalanche but new, very expensive, but tried and true equipment has been put in at the site that focuses on radar. Dave stated that the resources in this process has been vital, and Whittier now has them if help was needed in the future. Jim reported on the application with PND for the Delong Dock repair and the financial impact of losing the dock and thanked Kris. David Pinquoch offered moving the boat lift to that area as it offers space for parking. Jim said he was open to all ideas. Dave gave an update on the barrier for the basketball court. He concluded his report by giving praise to Terry Bender and condolences to her family.

B. Vice Mayor Report

Not available to give a report.

7. MANAGER'S REPORT

A. City Manager and Director Reports- Jim Hunt

Jim reported on his meeting with Dan Sullivan and the discussion they had with himself and other Department Directors. Jim reported on the new ambulance and the restroom situation at the harbor. Michaelo Medez, Harbor staff, spoke about the restroom situation and that the Harbor staff is in the process of upgrading equipment. He stood by for Council comments.

Annie Reeves announced that she accepted a position in her hometown to be the Assistant City

Manager there. She used this time to thank the community and her coworkers. She shared fond memories and stated that Whittier has been a big part of her life. She sincerely thanked everyone again.

Andre Achee gave a report on the newest, state of the art ambulance that was delivered to the City yesterday. He reported on the 4th of July and the reporting from that day. Said it was successful in terms of ticketing and patrolling. He invited the public to join the event to learn about earthquakes at the parking lot of the Public Safety Building tomorrow, there will be an earthquake simulator. Andre stated that he is working with Nixile and updating some preferences that benefit Whittier. Andre answered questions about the earthquake simulation event and the incident that happened at the BTI.

B. Attorney's Comments

8. COMMISSION/COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Planning Commission

Nothing new to report

B. Port & Harbor Commission

Nothing new to report

C. Parks & Recreation Committee

Victor Shen reported on the volunteer day and that a service group will be coming in to work on the connector trail from the 26th-30th. Victor reported that community members have helped improve the basketball court. Dave mentioned that he and Victor are working on a master plan for the Parks and Recreation Committee that will highlight what has been done and what will be done. Victor stated announced that they are still looking for volunteers.

D. Whittier Community School

Nothing new to report

E. Prince William Sound Aquaculture Corp.

Nothing new to report

F. Regional Citizen's Advisory Council

Nothing new to report

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

Kelly Bender mentioned that Dan Sullivan knew about the landslide 10 years ago. She said it was important that people stay involved to avoid what happened when the news of the landslide made it to the public.

10. APPROVAL OF THE CONSENT AGENDA

None

11. PUBLIC HEARINGS (NON-ORDINANCE)

None

12. PRESENTATIONS (Item moved to 5a)

Altman Rogers & Co. Presentation for the City of Whittier Audit o 2020 – Monica Reid

Monica went over the 3 different opinions and that all the opinions were clean, and the audit went very smoothly. She gave praise Kris Erchinger and Kris' team for a successful audit.

13. ORDINANCES

None

14. RESOLUTIONS

A. Resolution #21-2021 – A Resolution of the City Council of the City of Whittier, Alaska, Establishing a New Water/Wastewater Major Repair and Replacement Fund and Allocating Former Harbor and Water/Wastewater UBS Capital Reserves Set Aside for Capital Purposes to Each Fund's Respective Major Repair and Replacement Fund, and Appropriating Funds

Kris explained that the purpose of the resolution is to continue on getting on track on following up with the budget goals, and policies in order to set aside money to address depreciation in the City's enterprise fund. She continued to speak about enterprise funds and capital funds and the replacements of assets and creating a MRRF (Major Repair and Replacement Fund) Fund.

MOTION: Victor Shen made a motion to adopt Res. #21-2021

SECOND: David Pinquoch

DISCUSSION: None

VOTE: Motion passed unanimously

B. Resolution #22-2102 – A Resolution of the City Council of the City Of Whittier, Alaska, Accepting Funds Through the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARPA) for Non-Entitlement Units of Local Government as Distributed Through the State of Alaska, and Appropriating Funds

She stated that this resolution was to be eligible to receive federal funds from the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 for COVID-19.

MOTION: Victor Shen made a motion to adopt Res. #22-2021

SECOND: Tom Wagner

DISCUSSION: None

VOTE: Motion passed unanimously

C. Resolution #23-2021 – A Resolution Of The City Council Of The City Of Whittier Rescinding Resolution #25-2020 Changing The Election Polling Place From The Homeowners

MOTION: Dan Blair made a motion to adopt Res. #23-2021

SECOND: Tom Wagner

DISCUSSION: None

VOTE: Motion passed unanimously

15. EXECUTIVE SESSION (Item was moved to 19a)

A. Discussion Pertaining to Property Leases - Matters that, if immediately disclosed, would tend to adversely affect the finances of the City; WMC 2.08.040 (1)

B. Discussion on Alaska Railroad's Proposed Study on Replacement of Marine Facilities - Matters that, if immediately disclosed, would tend to adversely affect the finances of the City;

WMC 2.08.040 (1)

MOTION: Dan Blair made a motion to enter into Executive Session to discuss the mentioned items

SECOND: David Pinguoch

DISCUSSION: None

VOTE: Motion passed unanimously

Council entered into Executive Session at 8:47 pm

MOTION: Tom Wagner made a motion to exit out of Executive Session and resume Regular Meeting

SECOND: David Pinguoch

DISCUSSION: None

VOTE: Motion passed unanimously

Council exited out of Executive Session at 9:35 pm and resumed the Regular Meeting

16. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. Res. #12-2021, Regarding Ad Hoc Committee

B. Personnel Policy and Procedures

17. NEW BUSINESS

A. Commission Appointments

1. Port and Harbor Commission Seat A – Nick Olzenak

Council discussed briefly the reasons Nick Olzenak was not eligible to fill the seat as he is not a resident of the City and the seat requires the candidate be domicile in the City of Whittier for a year.

2. Planning and Zoning Commission Seat C – Stephanie Carlson

The Mayor appointed Stephanie Carlson to the Planning and Zoning Commission for the 1 year remaining on a 3 year term.

18. COUNCIL DISCUSSION

None

19. CITIZEN'S DISCUSSION

Kelly Bender spoke about the Fudge Shop lease and shared her concerns. She asked what the proper venue would be.

Joe Gerace announced that he is looking for support to be a volunteer liaison for FEMA.

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

Jim responded to Kelly that the City is working with the attorney as we are following legal's advice.

Dave Dickason thanked Joe Gerace.

21. ADJOURNMENT

Council adjourned the meeting at 9:36pm

ATTEST:



Naelene Matsumiya
City Clerk

Dave Dickason
Mayor