

CALL TO ORDER

The November 23, 2021 Special Meeting of the Whittier City Council was called to order at 5:01 p.m. by Mayor Dickason.

OPENING CEREMONY

Mayor Dickason led the pledge of allegiance to the flag

ROLL CALL

There were present:

Dave Dickason presiding, and
Dan Blair Cathy McCord Peter Denmark
Tom Wagner

Via Teams Peter Denmark
Comprising a quorum of the Board; and
Absent

Victor Shen, David Pinguoch

Also Present

Jackie C Wilde, Assistant City Manager
Kris Erchinger, Finance Director

SPECIAL ORDERS, PRESENTATIONS AND REPORTS- NONE

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

APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND CONSENT AGENDA

Motion (Blair/McCord)

Approval of Agenda and Consent Agenda

On Consent

Resolution 046-2021 Accepting Funding from The State of Alaska’s American Rescue Plan Act Covid Local Government Lost Revenue Relief Program, And Appropriating Funds

Motion Passed

Unanimous

PRESENTATIONS AND REPORTS- NONE

PUBLIC HEARINGS (NON-ORDINANCE)- NONE

NEW BUSINESS

Motion (Blair/McCord)

Resolution 045-2021 Authorizing the City Manager to Apply For A State Of Alaska Community

Development Block Grant Coronavirus Program
Grant

Finance Director Erchinger reported that previous public work sessions and hearings, citizens expressed concerns for the physical and mental health of our residents, especially children. The community's only healthcare facility, the community health clinic, has closed due to lack of staffing, leaving the community without any local options for healthcare, including mental health support. The residents of Whittier primarily live in a single building; that building previously had a single room available for residents to gather, but the room has been closed due to covid restrictions -- as has the school -- leaving no place for the children to recreate outside of school hours.

Erchinger stated numerous citizen requests have been made asking the city to install new playground equipment, offer outdoor basketball hoops/nets, purchase gaming tables (such as ping pong, foosball), assist with funding a new rock climbing wall, and improve access and linkage of local trails, to enable children (and adults) to recreate both indoors and outdoors. Residents expressed concerns that children are not able to safely play out-of-doors much of the year due to extreme wind, snow, and ice conditions, and with no other location in town to go (literally!), children and their families are often stuck indoors in their condo units (the building management does not allow folks to congregate in shared spaces due to covid social distancing requirements) with no opportunity to have physical separation from one another. Since this grant is directed toward low-and-moderate income households, offering healthy lifestyle options for youth and adults was seen as the option that would have the greatest positive impact on the lives of our residents.

Motion Passed

Unanimous Consent

CORRESPONDENCE, INFORMATIONAL ITEMS AND REPORTS- None

COUNCIL COMMENTS- None

CITIZENS' COMMENTS- None

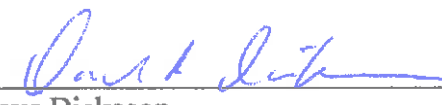
COUNCIL AND ADMINISTRATIVE RESPONSE TO CITIZENS' COMMENTS- None

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 5:21 p.m.



Jackie C. Wilde
Assistant City Manager/Acting Clerk



Dave Dickason
Mayor

(City Seal)