



City Council Special Meeting Agenda

October 13, 2026 at 7:30 PM

City Council Chambers, Whittier Alaska

Mayor: Victor Shen

City Manager: Jackie C. Wilde

City Clerk: Shelby Carlson

City Attorney: Holly Wells

Council Members: Tom Wagner, Seat B, Jamie Loan, Seat C, Renner Macal tao, Seat D, David Pinquoch, Seat E, Peter Denmark, Seat F, Lorianne Borg, Seat G

Call to Order

Opening Ceremony

Roll Call

Citizen Comments on Any Agenda Item Except Those Items Scheduled For Public

Hearing: Those who have signed in will be given the first opportunity to speak on any agenda item except those scheduled for Public Hearing. Time is limited to two (2) minutes per speaker and thirty (30) minutes total time for this agenda item.

Approval of Agenda

Conflict of Interest: Immediately after the Council approves the agenda at a regular or special meeting, each Council member shall declare any financial interest in a matter appearing on the agenda. Any Council member or member of the public present at the meeting may question whether another Council member has a financial interest in a matter appearing on the agenda.

Public Hearings

1. Community Development Block Grant

Council Comments

Citizen Discussion: Those signed-in will be given the first opportunity to speak on any subject over which the Council has control. Time is limited to five (5) minutes per speaker.

2. Citizen Comments

Council and Administration Response to Citizen Comments

3. Memo re: Fleming Injunction

Executive Session

4. Review City Manager Contract with Consideration of Contract Termination as per Whittier Municipal Code 2.08.040(B)(1), matters that, if immediately disclosed, would tend to adversely affect the finances of the city and WMC 2.08.040(C), to discuss legal matters or receive legal advice from an attorney (*requested by Councilmember Wagner*)

Adjournment

10/13/2026

Dear Mrs. Jackie Wilde,

I'm writing to express my sincere gratitude to you and your administration for the work and improvements made throughout our small town of Whittier, we call home. These include the DeLong Dock replacement, the small boat harbor rebuilds, well-field improvements, water and sewer projects, the Shotgun Cove Road extension, Whittier Falls Park, and the recent USS Ted Stevens commissioning. I also appreciate the urgent plan developed just days after the fire and your prompt responses and what other community concerns.

There is much more I could say about the progress and the longevity made under your administration. These improvements have made a meaningful difference in our daily lives, strengthened local infrastructure, and helped make our community safer. They show your commitment to the well-being of the Whittier and its residents, that some may have declined, ignored and be furious to acknowledge and applaud the huge significance and difference "From Whittier then to what is Whittier now".

Nevertheless, many of us are thankful for your steady, principled leadership, dedication, and hard work to make the City of Whittier a better place to live—for everyone today and for generations to come.

Sincerely grateful,

Roma

Resident of Whittier



Mayor and Members of City Council
City of Whittier
PO Box 608
Whittier, AK 99639

October 13, 2026

Re: Support for Jackie Wilde

Dear Mayor and Council Members,

On behalf of Chugach Alaska Corporation, I am writing to share our appreciation for the partnership we have developed with Jackie Wilde during her tenure as City Manager for the City of Whittier and to express our support for her continued leadership in that role.

Throughout our interactions, Jackie has been a responsive, professional, and collaborative partner. She has consistently demonstrated a willingness to engage with regional stakeholders, facilitate productive discussions, and foster relationships that support the interests of Whittier and the surrounding region.

In particular, Jackie helped facilitate communication and coordination related to the Shotgun Cove Road project. Her efforts helped advance discussions among stakeholders regarding a project that has the potential to create economic opportunities for state, federal, Native and private landowners while supporting future growth in the region.

Jackie also helped facilitate a meeting between Chugach's Board of Directors, executive leadership, and City representatives, providing an opportunity to discuss shared priorities, ongoing projects, and opportunities for future collaboration. We appreciated her efforts in bringing partners together and fostering constructive dialogue that strengthened the relationship between our organizations.

Based on our experience working with her, Jackie has been a valued partner and an effective representative of the City. We appreciate her commitment to building strong working relationships and believe those efforts have contributed positively to our partnership with the City of Whittier.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Katherine Carlton

Katherine Carlton
President
Chugach Alaska Corporation



Public Comment – My Support for Jackie C. Wilde

From Darlene Pese <darlenepese684@gmail.com>
Date Tue 10/13/2026 1:48 PM
To Shelby Carlson <scarlson@whittieralaska.gov>

I would like to ask that the following statement be read into the record during public comment at the October 13 meeting.

Dear Whittier City Council Members,

As a homeowner and proud member of the Whittier community, I am writing to express my strong support for Jackie C. Wilde and to share my concerns regarding the proposed termination of her employment as City Manager.

Whittier is more than just a place we live. It is our home, where we raise our families, build relationships, and invest in our community's future. As homeowners and residents, we deserve leadership decisions that are fair, transparent, and made in the best interests of our entire community.

I believe Jackie's work and contributions to Whittier deserve serious consideration. A decision that could affect the future of our city should never be taken lightly. If there are concerns regarding her employment or contract, I believe those concerns should be clearly explained and addressed through a fair and transparent process. Our community deserves to understand the reasons behind such a significant decision.

I am deeply concerned about the possibility of losing our City Manager without the community fully understanding the reasons behind this decision. The City Council has a responsibility to listen to residents, consider Jackie's contributions, and make decisions that protect public trust.

Our community deserves answers, transparency, and accountability. Whittier's future should not be decided without thoughtful consideration of the people who call this city home.

I respectfully urge the City Council to reconsider terminating Jackie's employment and to give serious consideration to retaining her as our City Manager. We need leadership decisions that bring people together, respect the voices of residents, and put Whittier's best interests first.

As a homeowner, I care deeply about the future of Whittier. I want to see our community move forward with unity, fairness, and responsible leadership. We may not always agree on every issue, but we should all expect honesty, transparency, and thoughtful decision-making from those entrusted with serving our city.

Jackie deserves a fair process, and our community deserves to have its voice heard. There has been so many improvements in this city since Jackie took seat. Her dedication and hard work has opened

doors for projects that benefits our children and future generations. I hope the Council will carefully consider the impact this decision could have on Whittier and its residents before moving forward.

Item # 2.

Respectfully,

Darlene Pese

A Whittier Homeowner and Community Member.



Letter of Support for Jackie Wilde

From Pese Tauta <tautapese@gmail.com>

Date Tue 10/13/2026 1:15 PM

To Shelby Carlson <scarlson@whittieralaska.gov>

LETTER OF SUPPORT FOR JACKIE WILDE

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing this letter to express my sincere support for Jackie Wilde and to recognize her willingness, dedication, and commitment to serving the Whittier community.

Serving a small community like Whittier requires patience, understanding, compassion, and a genuine desire to see the community grow and succeed. It takes someone who is willing to listen to the people, understand their concerns, and work toward solutions that benefit everyone.

I appreciate Jackie's willingness to give her time, energy, and effort to our community. Her commitment to being involved and working toward the betterment of Whittier deserves recognition and encouragement. Our community needs people who are willing to step forward, work together, and help create positive opportunities for the future.

As a community, we may not always agree on every issue, but we should continue to encourage those who are willing to serve and contribute to the well-being of our residents. I believe that supporting one another, communicating openly, and working together are important steps toward building a stronger Whittier.

I stand in support of Jackie Wilde and her willingness to serve our community. I hope we can continue to move forward with unity, respect, transparency, and a shared vision for the future of Whittier.

Thank you, Jackie, for your willingness to serve and for the time and effort you are prepared to give to this community.

With sincere appreciation and support,

Tauta-Pese Family



Please Read Into Public Comment

From Sara Keller <skeller100456@gmail.com>
Date Mon 10/12/2026 9:52 PM
To Shelby Carlson <scarlson@whittieralaska.gov>

I would like to ask the following statement be read into record during public comment on the October 13th meeting

I am writing to the Council today to ask you to truly reflect on all the good Jackie has done for this community. I could list the many ways she has made a difference, but I am sure others have already done so and will continue to speak to those accomplishments tonight.

We will not always agree with one another 100% of the time, and that is okay. In fact, it is through our disagreements that we create opportunities for meaningful conversations—conversations about growth, progress, and the direction we want to see our town take.

Today, I ask each of you to take an honest look at your motives and the reasons behind your decisions. Are those decisions being made out of personal interest or for individual gain? Or are they being made with the best interests of Whittier as a whole in mind, including the more than 200 people who call this community home?

Whittier is not a town that belongs to one person or a select few. It is a community made up of many people, each with a voice, a stake in its future, and a desire to see it thrive. The decisions made today will affect not only those of us living here now, but also the future generations who will one day call Whittier home. Their futures matter, too.

Growth is coming to Whittier, and it is already happening. Jackie and this administration have worked hard to build positive relationships and connections while ensuring that growth benefits our town and the people who live here—not just a handful of large corporations.

We have an opportunity to shape the future of Whittier, and that responsibility should never be taken lightly. Our decisions should be guided by what is best for this entire community, not by personal agendas or individual interests.

So, I ask you once again: **What are your motives, and who are you truly serving through your actions and decisions?**

Please remember that the future of Whittier belongs to all of us. Let's make decisions that reflect that.

Thank you

Sara Derting

Item # 2.

Sent from my iPhone



Professional experience working with City Manager

From Dianne Blumer <dianneblumer@gmail.com>

Date Sat 10/10/2026 1:34 PM

To City Clerk <cityclerk@whittieralaska.gov>

Cc Jackie Wilde <jwilde@whittieralaska.gov>

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing to share my experience working with City Manager Jackie Wilde and to offer my professional perspective on her work on behalf of the City of Whittier.

In my work with Ms. Wilde, as your contract lobbyist, she has been consistently professional. She articulates the City's lobbying needs clearly and is direct about the outcomes the city is seeking. She has driven to accomplish the tasks set out by the City Council, and she approaches that work with the best interests of the city in mind.

The recent passage of House Bill 216, the transfer of Railroad land to Whittier, is a good example of what that kind of dedication can produce. In addition, Ms. Wilde has worked tirelessly to advance state-funded infrastructure, harbor upgrades, and critical safety improvements for the community.

I value the working relationship Ms. Wilde, and I have built in representing the City's best interests. Please feel free to contact me if I can provide any further information.

Sincerely,

Dianne Blumer
NavigateAK
dba Blumer & Associates
Governmental Affairs & Lobbying
907-575-2279

<https://www.navigate-ak.com>





Public comment for Oct 13 meeting – City Manager Jackie Wilde

From Benjamin Derting <benjaminderting@gmail.com>

Date Mon 10/12/2026 9:22 PM

To City Clerk <cityclerk@whittieralaska.gov>

Hi Shelby,

I would like to ask that the following statement be read into record during public comment on the Oct 13th meeting. Could you please confirm that you received this?

Thank you,
Ben Derting

To the Mayor and Council,

My name is Ben Derting, and I am a Whittier resident and homeowner. I want to take a moment to recognize the work City Manager Jackie Wilde has been doing for our community.

Jackie is meticulous. She follows the city code to the best of her ability when making decisions, and I trust that her decisions are grounded in the rules we've all agreed to.

The results speak for themselves. Just recently, Whittier secured a \$4.1 million federal grant to begin replacing the DeLong Dock, which supports roughly 17 percent of the City budget. Our well field is being upgraded with \$3.5 million in State Revolving Fund money plus Congressionally Directed Spending. Phase III of the small boat harbor rebuild finished ahead of schedule. And Jackie testified in Juneau for HB 216, which passed the House unanimously and now lets Whittier purchase about 85 acres of Alaska Railroad land for future growth. These are only the latest accomplishments in a much longer record of work that she and her administration have done for this town.

What stands out to me most is that Jackie is community-driven. Her decisions are made with Whittier's long-term future in mind, and they build local growth that stays in the hands of the people who live and work here, rather than handing our future over to large outside corporations. Programs like the beautification matching grants, which help residents and local businesses invest in their own properties, are a good example of that approach.

I don't know of another community our size that has the ear of state and federal agencies the way Whittier does right now. That access is the product of careful, persistent work, and our town is better for it.

Thank you, Jackie, for everything you're doing for Whittier. I look forward to seeing what comes next.

Ben Derting
Whittier, Alaska

Item # 2.



Letter of support for Ms. Wilde. Confirm receipt

From Mary Cavalier <doctormaryak@gmail.com>

Date Mon 10/12/2026 2:15 PM

To Shelby Carlson <scarlson@whittieralaska.gov>

Dear Ms. Carlson:

I am requesting that the following statement be read into the record during the public comment section of the Council meeting on October 13th, 2026.

As a homeowner of many years, I am writing in support of Jackie Wilde, City Manager. Ms. Wilde has shown fiscal responsibility, as evidenced by the completion of more than \$22 million in projects over the last year. Ms. Wilde is not only effective at completing projects but also actively pursues grants that benefit the whole community, not just individuals. Just this year, she has brought in over 7 million dollars. That is roughly \$28,000 for every man, woman, and child in Whittier in just 10 months. To the best of my knowledge, this is unprecedented for the city of Whittier.

Ms. Wilde has demonstrated in her tenure a commitment to the whole community of Whittier, not just catering to a few individuals. It would cause Whittier financial hardship if Ms. Wilde were let go. Can the counsel guarantee the continuation of both community growth and financial progress that Ms. Wilde has brought to our community?

Respectfully submitted by Mary Cavalier.



My public comment for Jackie

From Trinity Noel <goldylox.trinity303@gmail.com>

Date Mon 10/12/2026 9:17 AM

To Shelby Carlson <scarlson@whittieralaska.gov>

Public Comment – October 13th Meeting

I would like to ask that the following statement be read into the record during public comment at the October 13th meeting.

As someone who worked at Crazy Ray's Cafe and Phillips Cruises and Tours this summer, I had the opportunity to see firsthand how important tourism is to Whittier and the people who call this city home.

I believe Jackie has a strong understanding of what Whittier needs to thrive. She recognizes that if tourism is going to continue bringing visitors and revenue into our community, the people who live here should have an opportunity to share in that prosperity. Tourism should benefit not only the businesses that bring visitors to Whittier, but also the local community that makes this place special.

Jackie has always been kind, generous, and approachable. She has a vision for what this city can become, and I believe she understands both the challenges Whittier faces and the opportunities ahead.

Change can be uncomfortable, especially in a small community where people care deeply about the place they call home. However, growth requires us to be willing to look beyond the way things have always been done. Progress is not always easy, but it is necessary if we want to build a stronger future.

Whittier is a unique and special place. I believe Jackie genuinely cares about this city and its people, and that she has the vision to help create a future where the community can grow and its residents can prosper.

For these reasons, I respectfully ask that the city reconsider any decision to terminate Jackie's employment. Whittier deserves leadership that recognizes its potential, advocates for its residents, and is willing to work toward a future that benefits the entire community. I believe Jackie has that vision, and I support her continued employment with the city.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Trinity Noel



Public Comments

From Joy Stancel <stancel.joy@gmail.com>

Date Mon 9/28/2026 3:12 PM

To Shelby Carlson <scarlson@whittieralaska.gov>

Hi Ms. Carlson,

I am currently out of town, but would like this statement read into record during the public comment period of the special council meeting on Wednesday:

I'm writing because at the last council meeting, a comment was made that the community and the council have lost faith in our city manager, Jackie Wilde. For those of us who are paying attention, who live, work, and walk around our community every day, I'd say the opposite is true, and I do not want one council member speaking for all of us.

I see grant money awarded, projects moving forward that were previously thought of as unattainable, and more opportunities for residents. Whittier residents deserve the legitimacy, upgrades, and everything else that Jackie has helped bring to our community in the last 5 years. Letting her to continue to work as she has is a benefit to our community and I can only imagine what more amazing things could happen for us. She has advocated for this community and given us a voice.

Our community is so fortunate to have a manager of her caliber working diligently for us. Removing her will not only jeopardize current projects but will stop the forward progress completely. Things are FINALLY happening for the betterment of our community, not just for a few long-time residents. The thing is, the ones seeking her removal are benefiting from her hard work as well. Things are being done differently than in the past, out in the open, with lots of information provided. That makes a level playing field for all, something all should appreciate.

I am expressing my strong support for Ms. Wilde, and comments that she has lost that confidence are, quite simply, in error and misinformed.

Respectfully,

R. Joy Stancel
(A legal Whittier resident!)



Tuesday Meeting Letter

From Bri Olzenak <brianna0000@yahoo.com>
Date Mon 10/12/2026 3:11 PM
To Shelby Carlson <scarlson@whittieralaska.gov>

Hello Shelby,
I would please like my attached letter to be added to the packet for Tuesdays meeting. I will be reading the letter aloud during the public comments.

Thank you!
Brianna Olzenak
Prince William Sound Salt Co

Hello, Council Members and Mr. Mayor.

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to speak tonight.

I don't normally get involved in politics. Honestly, I don't like the way politics can divide people. But, in the words of one of my favorite '90s country artists, Aaron Tippin, "you've got to stand for something, or you'll fall for anything."

Tonight, I'm standing here in support of Jackie Wilde as our City Manager.

I could talk about all of the things Jackie has accomplished publicly—the DeLong Dock, the Shotgun Cove Road project, the park being built, and so on. But instead, I'd like to talk about some of the things she does that people don't always see.

When the Hoonah Dock was on fire, Jackie was calling the Inn, coordinating with them, and making sure there was enough food ordered and delivered to the firefighters and volunteers. That wasn't in her job description. It wasn't something she was required to do. But that's who Jackie is. She's always thinking about how she can help—not just in her everyday job, but when this community needs someone to step up in the bigger moments, too.

And that same commitment is something I've seen in the way she talks about Whittier. Everywhere she goes—from Anchorage to Washington, D.C.—she speaks from the heart about how much she believes in this city and in the

people who call it home. She genuinely cares about this community and wants to see it succeed.

Item # 2.

Another reason I stand in support of Jackie is because she is fair.

I'm fortunate to not only have Jackie as our City Manager, but to also call her a friend. When the information about the competitive bid process was first starting to come out, I had some questions. So, naturally, I asked her.

Her response to me was, "Bri, I urge you to watch the City Council meeting. That will answer all of your questions."

And I remember thinking about that.

She could have easily given me her personal explanation or her perspective because I'm her friend. But instead, she directed me to the same information that was available to everyone else. Not because she wasn't willing to help, and not because she didn't want to have a conversation with me, but because she wanted her answer to be fair and equal—just as it would be for anyone else.

I don't know about you, but that gave me an immense amount of respect for who she is and how she conducts business.

And being fair doesn't mean she's always going to make decisions that everyone agrees with. The reality is, when you're responsible for running something—a business, a household, or an entire city—you can't always make everyone happy.

Anyone here with kids knows exactly what I mean. Your kids aren't always going to like your decisions, but that doesn't necessarily mean the decision is wrong. Sometimes, you have to make the decision you believe is best, even when it's difficult or unpopular.

I think the same thing applies here.

Instead of talking badly about someone, making accusations, or immediately assuming the worst when we disagree with an action or decision, maybe we should have a conversation first. It's amazing what you can learn when you go directly to the source and actually talk to someone.

At the end of the day, Jackie is fair. She works hard. She cares deeply about this city, and she works to get things done for this community.

So I hope that everyone here—especially the Council—can put emotion aside when making decisions and think about what will best serve the City of Whittier and its future.

From what I have seen, that is exactly what Jackie Wilde has been trying to do.

Thank you for your time.

Item # 2.

Support for City Manager Jackie Wilde

Sep 24, 2026 · @Nick

Accomplishments under Jackie Wilde's administration

Council packets and press coverage from 2025–2026 show the City has landed millions in outside funding, bought back its own land, and put Whittier on the national stage.

The Council's own review: in Resolution 2025-048, the Council approved a bonus for the City Manager based on her annual performance review. No specific performance problems, and no chance to correct them, have been put on the record since.

Waterfront and infrastructure

Project	What was achieved	Status
DeLong Dock replacement	\$4.1M federal PIDP grant (Apr 2026) for design and permitting to replace the 1953 Army-built dock. The dock supports about 17% of the City budget.	Design underway
Small boat harbor rebuild	\$9M to recapitalize the Whittier small boat harbor. Phase III finished ahead of schedule, with new floats, power and lighting	Phase III complete
Harbor LED lighting	Whittier was the first municipality to finish its Alaska Energy Authority RE-VEEP project, ahead of schedule and under budget.	Complete
Harbor safety upgrades	Extra \$277,000 state grant for safety ladders and life-ring brackets harbor-wide.	Funded
Year-round harbor restroom	Resolution 2026-021 put cruise passenger tax money toward flush toilets and public showers, replacing end-of-life vault toilets.	Funded
Well field improvements	\$3.5M State Revolving Fund award plus Congressionally Directed Spending for new wells	Nearly complete, on schedule

Project	What was achieved	Status
	and automation.	
Water and sewer	Lift Station #5 completed; grants for a \$75,000 backup generator, \$196,000 for the 301(h) permit renewal, and a \$10,000 lead-line inventory.	Complete / funded
Shotgun Cove Road extension	1.5 miles cleared, 24 of 35 culverts in, 10,000 cubic yards of rock moved by Nov 2025; \$406,299 more in federal highway funds won in 2026; new community trail.	Wrapping up fall 2026

Land and future growth

Project	What was achieved	Status
Alaska Railroad land purchase	HB 216 passed the House unanimously and the Senate on May 15, 2026, letting Whittier buy about 85 acres in five parcels. Jackie testified in Juneau: "While Whittier is very small, it is very mighty."	Law took effect July 3, 2026
Mountain Goat Court ("Goat Hill")	CRW feasibility study (\$23,902, plus \$10,020 in Res. 2026-019) on creating lots near Reservoir Road. Work with Chenega on adjacent housing land.	Study in progress
Lease management	Lease compliance audit started; land allocation plan paused until the City knows its full land holdings.	Ongoing

Environmental cleanup

Project	What was achieved	Status
Buckner Building	EPA Brownfields grant accepted and NORTECH hired as project manager (Res. 2026-022);	Assessment phase

Project	What was achieved	Status
	2026–2028 community cleanup plan published.	
Other contaminated sites	Phase II assessment applications filed for Whittier Falls Park and Whittier Community School. Three sites beyond Buckner in total.	Applied

Parks and beautification

Project	What was achieved	Status
Whittier Falls Park	Site clearing with QAP planned for spring 2026; \$35,000 set aside for playground equipment.	In progress
Harbor triangle micro park	Memorial Park improvements started with the school and volunteers, the first of three planned micro parks. Painted jersey barriers.	Underway
Beautification matching grants	\$25,000 program (Res. 2026-014) reimbursing half of resident and business projects, up to \$5,000 each; now in round two.	Active
Community Memorial Fund	New fund for parks and playgrounds (Res. 2026-020).	Established

Military heritage and national profile

Project	What was achieved	Status
USS Ted Stevens (DDG-128) commissioning	Navy chose Whittier after a May 2024 site visit. When the new cruise dock burned on Sept 14, the City called the committee and a new plan was in place within 12 days.	Oct 3, 2026
WWII Heritage City designation	Council resolution of support (Res. 2026-017) for federal	Pursuing

Project	What was achieved	Status
	designation.	
Military History Museum and Community/Visitor Center	Named a 2026 federal priority. Shared building for USFS, Troopers, USCG and community beside Public Works.	Planning

Transportation, safety and revenue

Project	What was achieved	Status
Whittier Moves	20-year transportation plan with Alaska DOT&PF, draft released June 2026, as cruise calls more than doubled since 2024.	Finalizing
Safe Streets for All	\$81,600 federal grant; community Safety Summit held Jan 21, 2026; Safety Action Plan underway.	In progress
Waterfront and Economic Development Plan	Most of the plan completed in 2025.	Near complete
Police	First police recruit in eight years; \$28,035 traffic-records grant; body and in-car cameras.	Done
Ambulance and EMS	Second ambulance named a state and federal priority; \$250,000 EMS equipment grant applied for. New ambulance.	Pending
Sept 14 dock fire response	Whittier responders on scene in under 3 minutes. With no working hydrants at the cruise dock and limited local equipment, the City coordinated logistics and brought in Anchorage and Girdwood crews and tankers. Three tenders hauled 112,000 gallons of water in 10-minute loops. No injuries.	Fire out Sept 14

Facebook post series

Eight posts, one topic each, to run through Sept 29; double up on a couple of days. Each ends the same way so the series reads as one campaign. Swap in your own photos where noted.

Post 1 — Kickoff (post today)

At last Tuesday's council meeting we were told the community has lost confidence in our City Manager, Jackie Wilde. I don't believe that, and I don't think the record supports it.

Over the next few days I'm going to share, one at a time, what the City has actually delivered under Jackie's administration. Facts, dates and dollar amounts, all from council packets and public reporting. Judge for yourself.

Special meeting: Tuesday, Sept 29. Come be heard.

#LogicOverEmotions #WhittierStrong

Post 2 — Getting our land back

For decades the Alaska Railroad has owned much of the land Whittier sits on. This year that changed.

The City worked HB 216 through the Legislature, where it passed the House unanimously and cleared the Senate in May. Jackie testified in Juneau: "While Whittier is very small, it is very mighty." The law took effect July 3, and Whittier can now buy about 85 acres for its own future: housing, harbor growth, parking.

That's generational.

#LogicOverEmotions #WhittierStrong

Post 3 — The DeLong Dock

The DeLong Dock was built by the Army in 1953. It supports roughly 17% of the City's budget and a real piece of Alaska's seafood supply chain.

In April the City won a \$4.1 million federal grant to design its replacement: a new bulkhead, dock face, floating dock and upgraded utilities. As Jackie put it, this is "about safety, reliability, and ensuring Whittier can continue to meet the needs of Alaska for generations to come."

#LogicOverEmotions #WhittierStrong

Post 4 — Water, roads and the harbor [photo: new trail or harbor floats]

The unglamorous work matters most.

- Shotgun Cove Road: miles cleared, culverts in, wrapping up this fall, with a new trail many of us thought we'd lose
- Well field: \$3.5 million in state funding plus federal dollars for clean, reliable water for the next generation

- Harbor: \$9 million to recapitalize the small boat harbor, with the Phase III rebuild finished ahead of schedule, and Whittier was the first town in Alaska to finish its state harbor-lighting project, under budget
- A year-round harbor restroom with showers, paid for by cruise passenger taxes, not residents

#LogicOverEmotions #WhittierStrong

Post 5 — The USS Ted Stevens

On October 3, the Navy's newest destroyer, the USS Ted Stevens, will be commissioned right here in Whittier. The Navy could have picked a bigger city. It picked us.

When the new cruise dock burned on Sept 14, the City got on the phone with the commissioning committee that day. Competitors pitched in, and within 12 days a new plan was set. The ceremony stayed in Whittier.

That's what steady leadership in a crisis looks like.

#LogicOverEmotions #WhittierStrong

Post 6 — When the dock caught fire [photo: fire response or tankers on scene]

On September 14, the new cruise ship dock caught fire. Whittier is a small town with limited firefighting resources, and there were no working hydrants at the dock. Whittier's own responders were on scene in under 3 minutes.

Jackie didn't wait. She worked the logistics and got outside help moving: Anchorage and Girdwood crews and tanker trucks came through the tunnel. Three tenders hauled 112,000 gallons of water in 10-minute loops between the scene and a hydrant in town.

No one was hurt. And days later, the USS Ted Stevens commissioning was still on in Whittier.

That's what you want from a City Manager when things go wrong. Thank you to every firefighter and volunteer who showed up.

#LogicOverEmotions #WhittierStrong

Post 7 — Cleaning up and building for families [photo: harbor triangle micro park]

- The Buckner Building: EPA cleanup funding accepted and a project manager hired to take down the eyesore and open up usable land
- Environmental assessments filed for Whittier Falls Park and our school
- Whittier Falls Park moving forward, with money set aside for a playground
- The harbor triangle micro park and a \$25,000 matching grant program so residents and businesses can beautify their own corners of town

#LogicOverEmotions #WhittierStrong

Post 8 — Why this matters (post Sept 28)

None of this was done by one person. It was done by a City team, and a City Manager who built the culture that got it done.

Land back from the Railroad. A \$4.1 million dock grant. A Navy commissioning. Clean water, new roads, parks, a plan for our growth. Those are results. And less than a year ago, the Council reviewed Jackie's performance and approved a bonus for it (Resolution 2025-048). What has changed? No one has said.

If the council wants to remove a City Manager, they owe the public specific, documented reasons. Please come to the special meeting Tuesday, Sept 30, and ask for them.

Logic over emotions. Leadership over tantrums. A future for our community.

#LogicOverEmotions #WhittierStrong

September 30, 2026

Honorable Mayor and Members of the Whittier City Council:

My name is Nick Olzenak, and I am [your connection to Whittier: resident / business owner / years in the community]. I am here to speak in support of City Manager Jackie Wilde.

At the September 22 meeting, the Council heard that the community has lost confidence in Ms. Wilde. I respectfully disagree, and two members of this Council said the same that night. A statement like that should rest on specific, documented facts. I'd like to offer some.

Under Ms. Wilde's administration, the City of Whittier has:

- Secured passage of House Bill 216, which lets Whittier buy back about 85 acres from the Alaska Railroad for its own growth
- Won a \$4.1 million federal grant to design the replacement of the 1953 DeLong Dock, which supports roughly 17% of the City's budget
- Funded well field improvements with \$3.5 million in state money plus federal support, protecting our water for decades
- Advanced Shotgun Cove Road toward completion this fall, adding more than \$400,000 in new federal funds
- Put \$9 million toward recapitalizing the small boat harbor, finished the Phase III rebuild ahead of schedule, and became the first municipality in Alaska to complete its state harbor-lighting project, under budget
- Accepted EPA Brownfields funding to begin cleanup of the Buckner Building and filed for assessments at Whittier Falls Park and our school
- Launched the Whittier Moves transportation plan, the Safe Streets safety plan, parks, micro parks and a beautification grant program
- Led the City through the September 14 dock fire, with local responders on scene in under three minutes, bringing in outside crews and tanker trucks to haul water to a dock with no working hydrants, with no one hurt
- Brought the commissioning of the USS Ted Stevens to Whittier, and kept it here after that fire

Ms. Wilde did not do this alone. She would be the first to credit City staff and this Council. But results like these come from steady leadership and a culture that gets things done. They are also the kind of results that take years to build and very little time to undo.

It is also worth remembering that less than a year ago, in Resolution 2025-048, the Council approved a bonus for Ms. Wilde based on her annual performance review. That was the Council's own formal judgment of her work. If something has changed since then, the public deserves to know what, with specific examples. And Ms. Wilde deserves a documented chance to correct any concerns before action is taken.

The City Manager answers to this Council, and the Council has every right to evaluate her. I only ask that it use the same fair, documented process it used for her performance review, with the reasons stated plainly to the public. Without that, removing a City Manager four days before a Navy commissioning, and in the middle of a land purchase, a dock replacement and several grant-funded projects, would put all of that at risk.

I urge the Council to keep Jackie Wilde as City Manager, and to keep Whittier moving forward.

Thank you for your time and your service.

Respectfully,

Nick Olzenak

[Address or business, phone]

Sources

- [City Manager report, Dec 2025 packet](#)
- [Council packet, Jan 20, 2026](#)
- [Council packet, Feb 17, 2026](#)
- [Council packet, Apr 21, 2026](#)
- [City: \\$4.1M DeLong Dock grant](#)
- [City: USS Ted Stevens commissioning approved](#)
- [City: Buckner Building community involvement plan](#)
- [City: Shotgun Cove Road project page](#)
- [City: Alaska Railroad land acquisition](#)
- [Alaska Beacon: Legislature approves railroad land sale](#)
- [Alaska's News Source: commissioning saved after dock fire](#)
- [Alaska Public Media: Whittier Moves transportation plan](#)
- [Your Alaska Link: DeLong Dock rebuild](#)

October 11, 2026

Dear Council,

My name is Eric Fleming. As you know I was defending myself from a lawsuit that began with the new administration since September 03, 2024. I have attempted to bring the issues up to most of you personally, or through council meetings to explain the situation, but I've been cut short of explaining the details because of on-going legal reasonings. This, in-turn, has not allowed me the opportunity to resolve my situation successfully.

Over the course of this prolonged lawsuit, I have discovered a City Manager resistant to communicating, resistant to resolving issues, and a manager willing to use its given authorities to pursue unreasonable legal actions. Like I said in past Council Meetings, all my attempts to communicate with the City Manager have failed because of her unwillingness to communicate, and instead use the Alaska court system to handle this rather simple city administrative issue.¹ I highlighted the fact that I was never given the '*opportunity to be heard*' with no administrative or city process, because of the disguise of an "emergency injunctive lawsuit".²

I again, expressed my concerns of failed communications with the administration at a following Regular Council Meeting on July 21, 2026.³ I reminded the Council that I had asked for an executive session, and an opportunity to speak in the prior July 01 meeting.⁴ I was hoping to resolve my issue before the Council, and in public, through the regular city process.

Ultimately, I was not allowed into the executive session, and I was told to exit the room because of The Open Meetings Act and legal concerns. This again prevented me from communicating with the Administration, and you, the Council. It appears, that just maybe, the administration's legal team may be misguiding you into thinking we are still under legal proceedings. Please keep in mind, that I had explained in the Special Council Meeting, that I was never given the "original opportunity" to present the issue before the city, and I also was not

¹ July 01, 2026 Special Council Meeting at 2:22:30

² July 01, 2026 Special Council Meeting at 5:18

³ July 21, 2026 Regular Council Meeting at 9:20

⁴ July 01, 2026 Special Council Meeting at 2:04:02

October 11, 2026

given an opportunity to appeal the city's unofficial Stop Work Order claim, because of the immediate commencement of an 'under-the-radar' injunction lawsuit.

It's quite clear that this administration acted prior to knowing the facts, prior to communicating with her office, and without even communicating with me. It has also become quite apparent that you may be led into thinking the city is still under litigation, which we are clearly not at this point. The commencement of this legal situation has isolated me from communicating through the regular city channels since its inception, and has prevented me from being able to use the typical city process. This situation has developed into a vast waste of resources, which could have simply been solved and handled over the phone.

The City Manager began this lawsuit filing for an emergency injunctive relief order using an old prior build permit application as reason to present the lawsuit into the Courts. The old build permit application had been dis-approved earlier in the year with a list of reasons to not grant the authority to build a structure on the property. Late in 2024, when this lawsuit was brought to me, I was very surprised because I had no intention of building anything at that time. I had already finished installing my culvert, and as a longtime fisherman I was already in the process of preparing to put things away for the winter. I had no idea the City Manager was upset, bothered, or even looking to fix this issue under such an "extreme-emergency" manner. She had never bothered to call, email, or communicate with me regarding this complaint.

In this official filing, the City Manager, without warning, "acted" to use the courts to force me to landscape with grading work, plant bushes or vegetation, pay civil penalties, pay filing fees, attorney fees, and remove a professionally installed culvert. Please look at a demand order submitted to the court on December 11, 2024(Attachment #6).

On August 22, 2024 I had finally reached contact with Scott Korbe after numerous failed attempts with the city manager's Office. Please see the record of the number of phone call attempts placed to the City Managers Office (See attachment #7). My attempts were well intention because I wanted to collaborate and ensure possible future city utility plans wouldn't be hindered, but ultimately ended up with an 'already placed culvert'. Scott informed me that there needed to be a Land-use permit and so, in-turn, I walked into the city manager's Office to find no city official present. I again walked to the office the following week and decided to leave a note with what appeared to be a Substitute-Receptionist.

October 11, 2026

On September 13, 2024 I finally reached a receptionist in the Administrators Office over the phone, and explained my conversation with Scott from the weeks prior. This phone call shows a complete failure of communication within the administrative office, a lack of direction, confusion, and ultimately no response which resulted with no effort by the city manager's office to resolve the permit issue. Again, I received no return communications from the city office following my visits, physical messages, and our phone conversation regarding this matter. This call clearly shows the city office was un-informed of the lawsuit, or of the paperwork required from me, and was not openly willing to communicate any further. These primary attempts to communicate with the city office about the culvert land-use permit situation confirms an unwillingness by the city manager's Office to resolve the situation and instead use the Courts to get her unreasonable requests forced on me. Please observe confusion and the unwillingness of the office to resolve the permit related inquires I was attempting to resolve (Attachment #2).

I ask that you dictate for yourself if the City Manager used legitimate administrative processes, reasonable communications, and "good faith" ethical administrative remedies to resolve its land-use permit complaint. I would like for you to seriously consider why the city has expended so much time, money, and effort to *sue* me for such a simple misunderstanding. I have come to discover the City Manager was clearly not interested in resolving my situation, and had used it power to pursue unreasonable legal action, using high volumes of resources against me

I have mentioned numerous times, I have not spoken to the city manager or her office, not once, and it definitely doesn't appear she is interested in working with me in any way possible, and for any apparent reason. I'm absolutely astonished to the behavior of this city manager, and how she has used her position to bully the process in an attempt to get me to restore my property, and how she has taken a mistake and amplified it into such unmeasurable extremes.

I ask that you put my issue before the public, and the entire Council, with a resolution to DISMISS this lawsuit. I advise that you terminate the current administrator's position, and use your given authority to higher an 'outside special conflict attorney' to review this manager's use of city resources pertaining to this lawsuit. I also, hereby, request and insist pursuant to AS 44.62.310(c)(2) that any discussion regarding my land-use permit culvert, and injunction lawsuit

October 11, 2026

situation, be held in an entirely open public session in an upcoming City Council Meeting. I object to these matters being moved into an executive session.

I truly hope to see your support in this matter.

Sincerely,



Eric Fleming

Dear council members and community, as a member of our community, I could not ask for a more qualified City Manager than Jackie Wilde. She has advocated Whittier, bringing the community significant resources for projects that have created more opportunities for our City and the Community. These are real projects, including Shotgun Cove, Water wells, Whittier Parks and the Alaska Railroad settlement being integrated into our city, which has the potential to benefit all of Whittier for years ahead. She has worked with project directors, demonstrating teamwork, coordination, and leadership in moving important projects forward. As an employee in the City of Whittier, I have seen our city manager as a firm follower of rules and regulations while prioritizing the interests of our city. At the same time, she maintains a friendly, approachable demeanor for employees and community members alike.

These qualities are important in a city manager; the position requires someone willing to follow rules and policies, make tough decisions, and give a voice to the community while still being considerate. I have personally seen all of these fantastic qualities in Jackie Wilde. I believe that it is important for our community to know the impact our city manager has had not only on our city but also on the people who call Whittier home. Jackie's work, her dedication, determination, and leadership have left a lasting impression on the community, and I believe that impact will continue for generations to come.

Sincerely,

Amy Pantaleon



Outlook

A Statement of Appreciation and Support for Mrs. Jackie Wilde!

From Anne Osooso <Aosooso@whittieralaska.gov>

Date Wed 9/30/2026 1:48 PM

To City Clerk <cityclerk@whittieralaska.gov>; Shelby Carlson <scarlson@whittieralaska.gov>

Hello all,

I would like to express my sincere appreciation and support for Mrs. Jackie Wilde.

In a small community like ours, it takes extraordinary people to make a lasting difference, and Jackie has been one of those people. Her dedication to the City of Whittier, its employees, and its residents has never gone unnoticed. Every day, she leads not only through her work ethic but also through her compassion, integrity, and commitment to serving others.

Jackie has always been there for City staff, not just as a supervisor and colleague, but as a friend, mentor, and strong leader. She creates an environment where people feel supported, valued, and encouraged to grow. Her kindness brings warmth to our workplace, and her belief in others inspires us to do our best work for our small but mighty community.

What many people may not see are the countless challenges that come with leadership. We often do not know what happens behind closed doors, but those of us who work alongside Jackie know that she consistently steps forward when difficult decisions need to be made and when challenges arise. Regardless of the obstacles, she finds a way to move things forward. She remains focused on solutions, committed to the community, and dedicated to the people she serves.

Jackie has always stood up for her staff. She listens, advocates, encourages, and leads with both strength and compassion. Her leadership has helped create a workplace where employees feel respected and empowered to succeed.

The measure of a leader is not only seen in accomplishments, but also in the lives they touch and the example they set for others. Jackie Wilde has made a positive impact on countless people through her service, dedication, and genuine care for our community.

I am proud to stand by Jackie and support her. I am grateful for everything she has done for our City, for our staff, and for the community we all call home. Her leadership, resilience, and heart have made a difference, and I believe her contributions deserve recognition and appreciation.

Sincerely,

Anne Oso'oso: Front Desk

Phone number; 472-2404

Email; aosooso@whittieralaska.gov

MEMORANDUM

TO: WHITTIER CITY COUNCIL

FROM: BRIAN V. GERD

RE: LITIGATION RE FLEMING INJUNCTION

CLIENT: CITY OF WHITTIER

FILE NO.: 507456.92

DATE: AUGUST 7, 2026

This memorandum summarizes the history and current status regarding *City of Whittier v. Eric Fleming*, 3AN-24-08691CI. It is our understanding that the purpose of this memorandum is to provide a written report that can be shared with the City Council. Accordingly, because this document is being prepared in anticipation of distribution, this report sets forth the facts regarding the procedural history and current status of this litigation. Discussion of specific legal analysis or litigation strategy is confidential work product subject to attorney-client privilege and thus is not detailed in this document.

On August 22, 2024, the City's Public Works Director received notice showing that work was being performed on property owned by Mr. Eric Fleming that included the installation of a culvert within the bounds of the City's drainage easement. Whittier Municipal Code 17.36.030 states that: "It is unlawful to perform significant grading work, tree removal or other landscape alteration or to erect, construct, reconstruct alter, move or change the use of any building, sign, or other structure or improvement within the city without obtaining a permit from the city zoning administrator." Mr. Fleming's property is located within the City and the work being performed on the property falls within the scope of this provision of the Code. No permit was issued authorizing this work.

The Public Works Director attempted to contact Mr. Fleming regarding this work via phone, but received no response. He requested that the Director of Public Safety speak with Mr. Fleming informing him of the need to cease work and obtain a permit before taking any such actions. The Director of Public Safety met with Mr. Fleming that day and, using the Director's phone, Mr. Fleming spoke directly with the Public Works Director regarding this matter. The Public Works Director verbally informed Mr. Fleming of the need for a permit for this work and that the culvert he was installing would not be approved because it does not meet the City's requirements, as its design is more prone to freezing, creating blockages and potential flooding. The Public Works director informed Mr. Fleming of how to obtain and submit a permit application, advised where approved culverts were available for purchase, and provided other guidance in how he could proceed with the desired development on his property before concluding the conversation

stating: "You shall not install or perform any work within the drainage ditch without a signed permit."

Following this conversation, Mr. Fleming spoke with the Director of Public Safety stating that he intended to install the culvert and continue with the work anyway. The Director of Public Safety responded that proceeding with that work without a permit could result in legal consequences. Nevertheless, the City received photographic evidence later that day showing that Mr. Fleming had continued his work installing the culvert despite the clear warning that such action violated the City's Municipal Code. In response to these actions, the City issued a Notice of Violation and Stop Work Order on August 23, 2024 ordering any further work on the property cease and desist.

Whittier Municipal Code Section 17.40.020 states that "the city attorney shall, immediately upon such violation being called to his attention, institute injunctive, abatement, or other appropriate action to prevent, enjoin, abate, or remove such violation." As required by that provision of the Code, following issuance of the Notice to Stop Work Order the City instructed counsel to file this lawsuit as necessary to prevent, enjoin, abate, or remove violations of the Code. Counsel filed suit on September 5, 2024, requesting that the court issue an order ruling that Mr. Fleming must obtain the appropriate building and land use permits required by law before further developing his property and requiring Mr. Fleming to restore the property to its prior condition before the unauthorized work.

On September 27, 2024 the City sent Mr. Fleming a letter noting that the lawsuit had been filed, while also stating that it was willing to work with Mr. Fleming to resolve the issue outside of litigation if he submitted applications for required permits and variances and if those applications addressed requirements to bring the unpermitted work that had been done on the land into conformance with various technical requirements for the culvert. Three months later, Mr. Fleming filed a land use permit on December 24, 2024. This application addressed some of the issues identified in the September 27, 2024 letter, but it did not respond to all of the identified issues that needed to be cured, including the technical requirements for the unauthorized culvert that he installed without a permit.

While this second application was pending before the City, Mr. Fleming took the initiative to file a Motion for Judgment on the Pleadings in the litigation alleging that: 1) the City denied him rights to "liberty and property" and deprived him of "due process"; 2) that the City was misinterpreting the municipal code; and 3) that the City provided no evidence of his violating the code. Because these identified issues had not yet been resolved via the second permit application, counsel responded on behalf of the City in the lawsuit opposing Mr. Fleming's motion and filing a cross-motion for Judgment on the Pleadings arguing that it was entitled to judgment as a matter of law because Mr. Fleming admitted in his answer to having performed work on his property without a permit and that work fell within the scope of WMC 17.36.030.

Those competing motions remained pending before the Court for a number of months. In the interim, on April 30, 2025 the City completed its evaluation and

conditionally approved Mr. Fleming's December 27, 2024 application contingent on an inspection of the property/culvert to ensure that it met the technical requirements previously identified both by the Public Work's Director in August 2024 and in the City's September 27, 2024 letter. The City instructed Mr. Fleming to "please contact the City to schedule the required post-installation inspection." To our knowledge, Mr. Fleming did not respond or schedule an inspection as directed by the conditional approval. Two months later, on July 8, 2025, counsel reached out to Mr. Fleming via email, noted that the conditional approval (pending inspection), could potentially resolve the need for litigation, and asked if Mr. Fleming would agree to pause the litigation while the conditional approval was determined. Mr. Fleming never responded to that email.

On August 7, 2025 the Court issued an order on these pending motions, ruling in favor of the City. The Court Order states:

Mr. Fleming hasn't proven that the claim the City of Whittier brings is baseless, but rather acknowledges that some of the work may have required a permit. The installation of the culvert and the drive were direct violations of WMC 17.36.030, which requires a permit for such significant projects. Mr. Fleming hasn't shown that there are any disputes of material fact, nor has presented any evidence of what work was actually done, or of any of the agreements he claims to have made. The injunction requested does not impede on his right to land or liberty, as it provides that Mr. Fleming can still make improvements on his property, given that he goes through the proper permitting process.

Significantly, the City did not request the imposition of any fines or penalties that would be authorized under WMC 17.40.050. Rather, the City only requested the Court issue an order requiring Mr. Fleming to comply with the requirements of the Whittier Municipal Code for his development. The City did request reimbursement of a portion of its incurred costs and attorney's fees as is permitted under the Alaska Rules of Civil Procedure.

In the year since that ruling, Mr. Fleming has filed at least seven motions asking the Court to reconsider or set aside its ruling in favor of the City. Each time, the Court has summarily ruled in favor of the City, finding Mr. Fleming's claims and arguments meritless and upholding its decision. In April 2026, Mr. Fleming filed a notice of appeal to the Alaska Supreme Court. The Court is gathering the record for that appeal, and briefing is expected to occur this fall.

Given the active litigation with Mr. Fleming, our advice is that the City should direct any communications from Mr. Fleming regarding the active Court case, lawsuit, or appeal to counsel. The City, in its function in reviewing and processing land application permits or other requests relating to the use of Mr. Fleming's property can engage in communications as it normally would on those matters.

BVG/ajl