

**APPROVED Council Minutes**

for the 04/23/2020 Regular Meeting

Videoconference

Zoom Meeting link: <https://zoom.us/j/973278834>

Call-in Information: 929-436-2866, Meeting Id: 973 278 834

*Chairman Rudolph Marconi - Vice Chairman Jayme Stevenson*

*Treasurer Julia Pemberton - Secretary Lynne Vanderslice*

**MEMBERS ATTENDING**

Bethel..... First Selectman Matt Knickerbocker  
Bridgewater..... Absent  
Brookfield..... First Selectman Steve Dunn  
Danbury..... Absent  
Darien..... First Selectman Jayme Stevenson  
Greenwich..... Absent

New Canaan..... First Selectman Kevin Moynihan  
New Fairfield..... First Selectman Pat Del Monaco  
New Milford..... Absent  
Newtown..... First Selectman Dan Rosenthal  
Norwalk..... Mayor Harry Rilling  
Redding..... First Selectman Julia Pemberton

Ridgefield..... Absent  
Sherman..... First Selectman Don Lowe  
Stamford..... Absent  
Weston..... First Selectman Chris Spaulding  
Westport..... First Selectman James Marpe  
Wilton..... First Selectman Lynne Vanderslice

**OTHERS ATTENDING**

WestCOG staff members in attendance were Mike Towle, Kristin Hadjstylianos, Todd Fontanella, Nicole Sullivan, Kristin Floberg, Patty Payne, Paula Burton, Kevin Mahoney, Charles Vidich, Nick Trabka, Victoria Ricks and Executive Director Francis Pickering. Rich Schreiner and Alex Dashev of HARTransit, Kimberlee Morton of Norwalk Transit, Kathryn Faraci from CTDOT, CT House of Representative David Michel, Ellen Graham from Senator Blumenthal's office, Tracey Alston from Eversource, WestCOG attorney Steve Mednick, as well as members of the public Joan Polzin, David Stevenson, David Budet, Dawn Jolley, Janice Gavit, Cheryl Hill, Victoria Lo, Isabella Lau, Nancy Plaston, and Craig Sistara were also in attendance.

## CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 12:49pm by Vice Chairman Jayme Stevenson.

## PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Kim Morton, Norwalk Transit CEO, wanted to thank the WestCOG staff for the work done on the Urbanized Area MOU Resolution, and wanted to confirm who would be organizing the annual meeting between the MPOs, CTDOT, and transit districts.

## ACTION ITEMS

**Approval of February 13, 2020 Minutes:** After review and on a motion made by Norwalk Mayor Harry Rilling and seconded by Bethel First Selectman Matt Knickerbocker, the minutes of the 2/13/2020 meeting were unanimously approved.

**Quarterly Financial Report:** After review by Redding First Selectman and Treasurer Julia Pemberton, and on a motion made by Bethel First Selectman Matt Knickerbocker and seconded by Sherman First Selectman Don Lowe, the quarterly financial report was unanimously approved.

**Data Collection Program:** After review by WestCOG Executive Director Francis Pickering and on a motion made by Redding First Selectman Julia Pemberton and seconded by Bethel First Selectman Matt Knickerbocker, the MS4 Stormwater Inventory Infrastructure portion of the Data Collection Program was unanimously approved. On a motion made by Norwalk Mayor Harry Rilling and seconded by Sherman First Selectman Don Lowe, it was unanimously approved to table the Trail Mapping portion of the Data Collection Program.

**BUILD Grant Letter of Support:** After review by WestCOG Senior Planner Kristin Hadjstylianos and on a motion made by Bethel First Selectman Matt Knickerbocker and seconded by Wilton First Selectman Lynne Vanderslice, the Letter of Support was unanimously approved.

**Urbanized Area MOU Resolution:** After review by WestCOG Senior Planner Kristin Hadjstylianos and on a motion made by Weston First Selectman Chris Spaulding and seconded by Redding First Selectman Julia Pemberton, the Urbanized Area MOU Resolution was unanimously approved.

## INFORMATION ITEMS

**Covid-19 Discussion:** WestCOG Executive Director Francis Pickering reviewed the updated Governor's Executive Orders related to Covid-19. Darien First Selectman Jayme Stevenson commented on Governor Lamont's Open CT plan and would like a coordinated regional approach to both opening businesses and canceling summer events. Wilton First Selectman Lynne Vanderslice asked about funding for contact tracing and testing, she is concerned with local health departments having to carry the burden and not having the needed resources. Norwalk Mayor Harry Rilling expressed concern over the protests occurring in both Connecticut and around the United States. WestCOG staff will work to provide some guidance on these question and issues.

**LOTICIP Proposal Deadline:** WestCOG Executive Director Francis Pickering provided a reminder that WestCOG is accepting LOTICIP proposals, with the deadline extended until May 14, 2020

**Public Safety Study Update:** WestCOG Deputy Director Mike Towle gave an update on the Public Safety Study between Ridgefield, Wilton, New Canaan, Redding and Weston. WestCOG is starting to schedule the last meetings to wrap up the project, but it has been delayed due to the pandemic.

**Hazard Mitigation Plan Update:** WestCOG Assistant Planner Nicole Sullivan gave an update on the Hazard Mitigation Plan. WestCOG consultants Milone and MacBroom have scheduled 11 of the 18 municipality meetings. WestCOG staff are hoping to schedule the remaining municipality meetings and will reach out to the Consultants to try and shorten the meeting length due to time constraints arising from the pandemic.

**WCEDD Update:** WestCOG Deputy Director Mike Towle gave an update on the Western Connecticut Economic Development District meeting that occurred on April 9th. Due to the nature of the economy coming out of the Pandemic, the committee would like to see some of the user fees associated with getting a business started be waved. The committee would also like to see the availability of more high-speed internet infrastructure in the region. The next steps are to develop a strategic approach to moving businesses forward after the crisis.

**5G Task Force Update:** WestCOG Planner Kristin Floberg gave an update on the 5G Task Force progress. The task force is currently working on deciphering the regulations regarding the roll out and will be looking at the various ordinances and licensing agreements currently used across the country where 5G has been successfully rolled out. Darien First Selectman Jayme Stevenson asked who we can bring in to talk about the health issue concerns related to 5G. Bethel First Selectman Matt Knickerbocker asked the task force to determine exactly what jurisdiction the towns have regarding these rollouts.

**OTHER BUSINESS:** There was no other business discussed.

## ADJOURNMENT

The next COG meeting will be held on Thursday, May 21<sup>st</sup>. On a motion made by Bethel First Selectman Matt Knickerbocker and seconded by Sherman First Selectman Don Lowe, the meeting was unanimously adjourned at 1:59pm.