

**APPROVED Council Minutes**

for the 05/21/2020 Regular Meeting

Videoconference

Zoom Meeting link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/6323361237>

Call-in Information: 929-436-2866, Meeting Id: 632-336-1237

*Chairman Rudolph Marconi - Vice Chairman Jayme Stevenson*

*Treasurer Julia Pemberton - Secretary Lynne Vanderslice*

**MEMBERS ATTENDING**

Bethel..... First Selectman Matt Knickerbocker  
Bridgewater..... First selectman Curtis Read  
Brookfield..... First Selectman Steve Dunn  
Danbury ..... Absent  
Darien ..... First Selectman Jayme Stevenson  
Greenwich..... First Selectman Fred Camillo

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

Ridgefield..... First Selectman Rudy Marconi  
Sherman..... First Selectman Don Lowe  
Stamford ..... Mayor David Martin  
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. Rick Schreiner of HARTransit, Kimberlee Morton of Norwalk Transit, Kathryn Faraci from CTDOT, **Ellen Graham from Senator Blumenthal's office**, Tracey Alston from Eversource, WestCOG attorney Steve Mednick, as well as members of the public Joan Polzin, Nancy Plaston, Jenine Lupo, Anne Suter, Paul Hern, Thomas Galliford, Chris Granatini, and Cathy Betz were also in attendance.

## CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 12:23pm by Chairman Rudy Marconi.

## PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Tracey Alston, from Eversource, reminded everyone that all Eversource Covid-19 practices are still in place. All customer shut off notices, disconnects and late fees are still suspended. If anyone in your municipality receives any of these notices, please forward a copy to Tracey as it is either a scam or a system glitch. Nancy Plaston inquired where she could locate any meeting notices concerning 5G rollout. Joan Polzin spoke about concerns of cell phone emissions.

## ACTION ITEMS

**Approval of April 23, 2020 Minutes:** After review and on a motion made by Bethel First Selectman Matt Knickerbocker and seconded by Brookfield First Selectman Steve Dunn the minutes of the 4/23/2020 meeting were unanimously approved with an abstention made by Ridgefield First Selectman Rudy Marconi.

**Approval of Auditor Letter of Engagement:** After review by WestCOG financial manager Patty Payne, and on a motion made by Darien First Selectman Jayme Stevenson and seconded by Redding First Selectman Julia Pemberton, the letter of engagement was unanimously approved.

**Resolution to Approve Resilient CT Program:** After review by WestCOG Deputy Director Mike Towle and on a motion made by Weston First Selectman Chris Spaulding and seconded by Wilton First Selectman Lynne Vanderslice, the Resilient CT Program 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. DEHMS Region 1 and Region 5 have set up Long-Term Recovery Steering Committees, if you know of anyone in your municipalities who would like to participate, please email Francis. DEEP has also been issuing policies regarding state beaches and state parks, but no guidance has been given for local parks. The governor has also issued guidance on how to proceed to elect people to serve on boards and commission without going through an election process. The CEO's lead a discussion on graduation policies in the municipalities, contract tracing, use of school buildings for summer camps and more broadly available Covid-19 testing for those that work in the public sector. WestCOG staff will work to provide some guidance on these question and issues.

**Fiscal Year 2020-2021 Draft Budget Discussion:** WestCOG Executive Director Francis Pickering provided an overview of the WestCOG Fiscal Year 2020-2021 Draft Budget. The budget will be approved at the June COG meeting.

**Hazard Mitigation Plan Update:** WestCOG Deputy Director Mike Towle gave an update on the Hazard Mitigation Plan. WestCOG is still in the beginning stages of this multi-jurisdictional plan and requirements for mitigation projects are being discussed. There are three grants through FEMA that

require an approved HMP; the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP), Flood Mitigation Assistance (FMA), and Building Resilient Infrastructure in Communities (BRIC).

**LOTICIP Solicitation Update:** WestCOG Senior Project Manager Kevin Mahoney gave an update on the most recent LOTICIP solicitations. Eight municipalities submitted thirteen project proposals, with an aggregate cost of \$30.5 million. These projects are all currently being reviewed before being submitted to CTDOT.

**OTHER BUSINESS:** Francis Pickering provided an update on the Regional Services Grant strategic vision and planning. WestCOG will be revisiting the opportunity for enhanced intermunicipal sharing in the area of solid waste.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

The next COG meeting will be held on Thursday, June 18<sup>th</sup>. On a motion made by Bethel First Selectman Matt Knickerbocker and seconded by Bridgewater First Selectman Curtis Read, the meeting was unanimously adjourned at 1:33pm.