

APPROVED Council Minutes

for the 08/20/2020 Regular Meeting
Videoconference

*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..... Absent
- Newtown First Selectman Dan Rosenthal
- Norwalk..... Mayor Harry Rilling
- Redding..... Absent

- 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 Kristin Hadjstylianos, Todd Fontanella, Nicole Sullivan, Kristin Floberg, Patty Payne, Kevin Mahoney, Nick Trabka, Tucker Beckett, Victoria Ricks, and Executive Director Francis Pickering. David Lehman DECD Commissioner, Rick Schreiner and Alex Dashev from HARTransit, Kathryn Faraci from CTDOT, Tracey Alston and Samantha LaBonne from Eversource, Greenwich Planning and Zoning Chairman Margarita Alban, Westport Operations Director Sara Harris, WestCOG attorney Steve Mednick, CT State Representative Mitch Bolinsky, CT State Representative Anne Hughes, CT State Senator Julie Kushner, and CT State Senator Will Haskell were also in attendance.

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 12:20pm by Chairman Rudy Marconi.

FEATURED SPEAKER

David Lehman, Connecticut Department of Economic and Community Development Commissioner, spoke about the uncertainty surrounding the Covid-19 virus and how long it will take the Connecticut economy to recover. He talked about how easy it is to shut-down an economy and how difficult it is to re-open. The state leadership did a great job with developing re-opening plans early and are now focused on reopening schools and universities in the safest way possible. He commented on how small business owners in Connecticut did a great job accessing federal funds that were available for support during the economic shutdown caused by the pandemic. His office is concerned about the inconsistencies across the state in internet service and band-width availability for all municipalities.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There were no public comments.

ACTION ITEMS

Approval of June 18, 2020 Minutes: After review and on a motion made by Brookfield First Selectman Steve Dunn and seconded by Bethel First Selectman Matt Knickerbocker, the minutes of the 6/18/2020 meeting were unanimously approved.

Quarterly Financial Report: After review by WestCOG Financial Director Patty Payne, 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.

LOTICIP Adjustment: WestCOG Senior Project Manager Kevin Mahoney presented recommendations for new LOTICIP project endorsements. The 10 projects recommended for endorsement were submitted in response to the most recent solicitation. The Technical Advisory Group (TAG) concurs with the staff recommendations. On a motion made by Bethel First Selectman Matt Knickerbocker and seconded by Wilton First Selectman Lynne Vanderslice, the COG voted unanimously to endorse the projects, as recommended.

Resolution to Accept Regional Service Grant Funding: After review by WestCOG Executive Director Francis Pickering and on a motion made by Darien First Selectman Jayme Stevenson and seconded by Bethel First Selectman Matt Knickerbocker, the Resolution to accept regional service grant funding was unanimously approved.

Resolution to Accept Funds for Covid-19 Response: After review by WestCOG Executive Director Francis Pickering and on a motion made by Darien First Selectman Jayme Stevenson and seconded by Weston First Selectman Chris Spaulding, the Resolution to accept funds and approve expenses for Covid-19 response was unanimously approved.

WestCOG Proposed Personal Leave Policy Change: After review by WestCOG Executive Director Francis Pickering and on a motion made by Bethel First Selectman Matt Knickerbocker and seconded by Norwalk Mayor Harry Rilling, the WestCOG personal leave change was unanimously approved.

INFORMATION ITEMS

Regional Service Update: WestCOG Executive Director Francis Pickering gave an update on the Regional Service projects WestCOG is working on. For the Public Safety Study, five municipalities are actively involved in the study and more municipalities have expressed an interest. The Land Use Planning for Wireless Telecommunications Task Force is about to release a set of memos and model ordinances for municipal use. WestCOG is awaiting standard contract language for the Strategic Visioning Project, the Waste Management Project, and the Regional Animal Control Project.

Covid-19 Discussion: WestCOG Executive Director Francis Pickering reviewed the updated Governor's Executive Orders related to Covid-19. WestCOG staff will draft a letter on behalf of the COG in support of an extension of the Declaration of Emergency past September 9th. Steve Mednick spoke about extending the executive orders and about the fines that may be imposed for violation of executive orders. Municipalities expressed concern about the amount of time it takes to get Covid test results and would like to see that improved before the kids go back to school.

Storm Response Discussion: Eversource Representative Tracey Alston gave an update on the storm response. Eversource will hold meetings with each municipality in the near future to determine what could have been done better. Chairman Rudy Marconi asked if Eversource's response will be any different for the next storm. Tracey explained that Eversource Operations Department makes the decisions regarding storm protocol and that each storm is evaluated individually.

Legislative Discussion and Committee: WestCOG Executive Director Francis Pickering gave an update on reconvening the Legislative committee and asked if any COG member would like to join the committee to please reach out to Francis. A motion was made by Wilton First Selectman Lynne Vanderslice and seconded by Weston First Selectman Chris Spaulding for WestCOG staff to draft a letter asking to maintain the original census deadline. After discussion the motion was unanimously approved.

OTHER BUSINESS:

There was no other business discussed.

ADJOURNMENT

The next COG meeting will be held on Thursday, September 17th. On a motion made by Bridgewater First Selectman Curtis Read and seconded by New Canaan First Selectman Kevin Moynihan, the meeting was unanimously adjourned at 2:02pm.