

APPROVED Council Minutes

for the 10/15/2020 Regular Meeting
Videoconference

*Chairman Rudolph Marconi - Vice Chairman Jayme Stevenson
Treasurer Julia Pemberton - Secretary Lynne Vanderslice*

MEMBERS ATTENDING

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

New Canaan..... First Selectman Kevin Moynihan
New Fairfield..... First Selectman Pat Del Monaco
New Milford..... Absent
Newtown..... First Selectman Dan Rosenthal
Norwalk..... Chief of Staff Laoise King
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..... Absent

OTHERS ATTENDING

WestCOG staff members in attendance were Mike Towle, Kristin Hadjstylianos, Todd Fontanella, Nicole Sullivan, Kristin Floberg, Kevin Mahoney, Nick Trabka, Tucker Beckett, Victoria Ricks, Patty Payne, Charles Vidich, Paula Burton and Executive Director Francis Pickering. Rick Schreiner and Alex Dashev from HARTransit, Lori Hammill from Norwalk Transit, Kathryn Faraci from CTDOT, CT DOT Deputy Commissioner Garrett Eucalitto, Tracey Alston and Samantha LaBonne from Eversource, Greenwich Planning and Zoning Chairman Margarita Alban, John Field, Robert Kenny, Jennine Lupo, Ellen Graham, and Kim Lesay were also in attendance.

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 12:37pm by Chairman Rudy Marconi.

FEATURED SPEAKER

CTDOT Deputy Commissioner Garrett Eucalitto gave a presentation on Department operations during Covid-19, public transportation, and the Special Transportation Fund (STF). Operations during the pandemic continued, with traffic decreasing but speeds and fatalities increasing. Traffic is now back to pre-pandemic levels. During the pandemic, the CTDOT was able to execute projects faster due to the reduction in traffic. During the pandemic, the CTDOT continued full operation of public transportation for buses, supported by federal CARES funds. Rail services were pared down due to drops in ridership. CTDOT continues to stress mask wearing and provides them to all riders who do not have one. Revenues into the STF have decreased and is projected to be insolvent by the end of FY2022. CTDOT continues to move forward with projects and asks municipalities to please reach out to his office if any questions or concerns arise.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

John Field from CT DEHMS Region 5 and Robert Kenny from DEHMS Region 1 gave updates on the work their offices have done during the pandemic. DEHMS continues to work with municipalities to increase Covid-19 testing. They have also been working on providing food to those in need, ensuring adequate supplies of personal protective equipment, long-term recovery plans, and storm recovery. They continue to work with FEMA to get needed funding.

ACTION ITEMS

Approval of September 17, 2020 Minutes: After review and on a motion made by New Canaan First Selectman Kevin Moynihan and seconded by Darien First Selectman Jayme Stevenson, the minutes of the 9/17/2020 meeting were unanimously approved.

Quarter 1 Financial Report: After review by WestCOG Treasurer Julia Pemberton, and on a motion made by Redding First Selectman Julia Pemberton and seconded by Sherman First Selectman Don Lowe, the quarterly financial report was unanimously approved.

Community Connectivity Grant Program – Letters of Support: After a discussion and review by WestCOG Executive Director Francis Pickering and on a motion made by Bethel First Selectman Matt Knickerbocker and seconded by Redding First Selectman Julia Pemberton, the 6 letters of supports submitted by member municipalities were unanimously approved.

INFORMATION ITEMS

WestCOG Annual Report: WestCOG Executive Director Francis Pickering gave an overview of WestCOG's annual report. The report included all activities the COG has been working on and was sent to OPM and the General Assembly on October 1st.

Regional Service Update: WestCOG Executive Director Francis Pickering gave an update on regional services projects that WestCOG staff are currently working on. The Municipal Modernization Project will be wrapping up soon. The Public Safety Project continues to move forward and is progressing along.

Both the Animal Control Project and the Waste Management Project now have contracts signed and work will begin soon. The Strategic Vision Plan has begun, and data collection is underway.

2019 & 2020 DEMHS Region 5, Homeland Security Grant Program: WestCOG Associate Planner Nicole Sullivan gave an update on the Homeland Security Grant Program, reminding COG members that signatures are due to DEHMS Region 5 by October 20th.

Planning and Zoning Regional Discussion: WestCOG Executive Director Francis Pickering gave an update on developments in local planning and zoning. WestCOG is hosting a conversation of municipal Planning and Zoning Committee Chairs on October 21st.

Analysis of Demographic Patterns in Residential Locations: WestCOG Senior GIS Analyst Nick Trabka and GIS Analyst Tucker Beckett gave an update on the demographic patterns between 1970-2010 in residential locations within our region, compared to the state level and at a broader perspective compared to the Northeastern United States.

Legislative Committee: WestCOG Executive Director Francis Pickering reminded COG members that the Legislative session will be reconvening in early 2021 and asked if any COG member would like to join the committee to set the region's legislative priorities. If interested, please reach out to Francis. The first meeting will be set up within the next 2 weeks.

OTHER BUSINESS:

There was no other business discussed.

ADJOURNMENT

The next COG meeting will be held on Thursday, November 19th. On a motion made Bethel First Selectman Matt Knickerbocker and seconded by Sherman First Selectman Don Lowe, the meeting was unanimously adjourned at 2:05pm.