

APPROVED Council Minutes

for the 04/22/2021 Regular Meeting
Videoconference

*Chairman Rudolph Marconi - Co-Chair- Jeremy Ginsberg (Proxy)
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 Jeremy Ginsberg (Proxy)
Greenwich..... Absent

New Canaan..... First Selectman Kevin Moynihan
New Fairfield First Selectman Pat Del Monaco
New Milford..... Mayor Pete Bass
Newtown First Selectman Dan Rosenthal
Norwalk..... Absent
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, Kevin Mahoney, Victoria Ricks, Charles Vidich, Cricket Carpenter and Executive Director Francis Pickering. Stamford Mayors Chief of Staff Michael Pollard, Rick Schreiner, and Alex Dashev from HARTransit, Kathryn Faraci from CTDOT, Kim Morton from Norwalk Transit, Tracey Alston from Eversource, Meg Haffner from the Kennedy Center, Ellen Graham from Senator Blumenthal's office, were also in attendance.

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 12:45 pm by Chairman Rudy Marconi.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Tracy Alston from Eversource gave an update on the availability of energy assistance programs for customers. She wants the public to be aware that there are scammers posing as Eversource employees trying to get personal information. There are reports that they are using technology to have the caller ID come up as Eversource. She would like to public to be aware that Eversource will never ask for a debit card over the phone and shutoff notices are always issued in writing.

ACTION ITEMS

Approval of 02/18/2021 Minutes: After review and on a motion made by Sherman First Selectman Don Lowe and seconded by Bridgewater First Selectman Curtis Read the minutes of the 02/18/2021 meeting were unanimously approved.

LOTICIP Adjustment

After a presentation by WestCOG Senior Project Manager Kevin Mahoney, a motion to endorse an additional project sponsored by the City of Stamford, known as the Shippan-Harbor-Magee Roundabout was made by Westport First Selectman James Marpe seconded by Stamford Mayor David Martin and unanimously approved.

Quarterly Financial Report

After review by Redding First Selectman Julia Pemberton, and on a motion made by New Milford Mayor Pete Bass and seconded Bethel First Selectman Matt Knickerbocker, the quarterly financial report was unanimously approved.

INFORMATION ITEM

Extension of gubernatorial Executive Orders

WestCOG Executive Director Francis Pickering gave an update on the Extension of gubernatorial Executive Orders. The public health and civil preparedness emergencies that were enacted to enable the state to provide an adequate response to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. The declaration will remain in effect through May 20, 2021.

ARP funding use (regional broadband)

Francis gave an overview of the potential use of funds through the American Rescue Fund to improve broadband in the area.

Water testing (regional approach, PA 12-197) Francis gave an overview of the reports recently released by the U.S. Geological Survey regarding high levels of Uranium and Arsenic in private wells in the region. While known to be a serious health concern, there is currently no requirement through local health departments to test for these pollutants. Frances suggested consideration of COG in conjunction with the local Health districts roll out a regional testing program to interested communities.

State and Federal update

Francis gave an update. There is potential for new revenue for the state from Online Gambling and Marijuana. Federal updates on the infrastructure package transportation reauthorization have not been released. The 2020 Census is still ongoing.

Regional services update

Francis gave an update. The Budget for the fiscal year 2022 is currently being worked on. Ideas from the region are welcomed as topics to consider.

OTHER BUSINESS: Rudy discussed the fee for service model of funds to cover the cost of a Regional Engineer as discussed at the Executive Committee Meeting.

WestCOG Regional Deputy Director Mike Towle shared comments from Jennine Lupo from Congresswoman Jahana Hayes office, about the ARP tax credit available for Small Business's providing time off for their employees to get the Covid-19 vaccine.

ADJOURNMENT

The next COG meeting will be held on Thursday, May 20th. On a motion Duly made and seconded, It was voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 1:35 pm.