

Regular Council Meeting: Thursday, January 28, 2021, 10 am

****** ALL ATTENDEES ATTENDED REMOTELY ******

Meeting access was remote only, consistent with provisions specified in Executive Order No. 7B.

Web: <https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/946025621>

Phone: Dial-in: 1 (646) 749-3112 Access Code: 946-025-621

Name	Representing
Joseph Ganim, Mayor (Ken Flatto, Proxy)	Bridgeport
David Bindelglass, First Selectman	Easton
Brenda Kupchick, First Selectwoman (Jackie Bertolone, Proxy)	Fairfield
Ken Kellogg, First Selectman, Chairman	Monroe
Laura Hoydick, Mayor	Stratford
Vicki Tesoro, First Selectman	Trumbull
Matthew Fulda, Executive Director	MetroCOG
Patrick Carleton, Deputy Director	MetroCOG
Devin Clarke, Regional Planner	MetroCOG
Colleen Kelleher, Finance Director	MetroCOG
Meghan Sloan, Planning Director	MetroCOG
Kyle Talente	RKG
Meg Haffner	Kennedy Center
Ellen Graham	Senator Blumenthal's Office
Eileen Lopez-Cordone	UI

Minutes

I. Call to Order (MetroCOG Officer)

The meeting was called to order at 10:02 by the Chairman, First Selectman Kellogg.

First Selectman Kellogg performed a roll call, present members were:

Mr. Flatto

First Selectman Bindelglass

Ms. Bertolone

Mayor Hoydick

First Selectman Tesoro

First Selectman Kellogg

Staff included:

Mr. Fulda

Mr. Carleton

Ms. Sloan

Ms. Kelleher

Mr. Clarke

Ms. Haffner from the Kennedy Center and Ms. Graham from Senator Blumenthal's Office announced their presence.

II. Public Participation

There was no public participation.

III. Approval of Meeting Minutes

a. November 19, 2020

A motion to approve the November minutes was made by Mayor Hoydick and seconded by First Selectman Bindelglass.

A roll call vote was taken:

Mr. Flatto - yes

First Selectman Bindelglass - yes

Ms. Bertolone - yes

Mayor Hoydick - yes

First Selectman Tesoro - yes

First Selectman Kellogg – yes

The motion carried unanimously.

IV. Presentations

a. Mario Coppola (Berchem Moses PC)

Mr. Coppola was unable to attend this meeting so the presentation will be rescheduled.

b. RKG Associates (CEDs)

Mr. Talente was introduced by Mr. Fulda. Mr. Talente explained that RKG was currently working on the CEDs project, provided a brief background of RKG. He also updated the board on the status of the CEDS. The goal of RKG is to bring the six municipalities together and identify what is working and emerging opportunities.

RKG will work with each municipality individually and create a SWOT analysis, prioritize opportunities and implement a strategy. Mr. Talente explained that a document will be drafted that can be used for years to come and the buy in will be through education and participation.

Mr. Talente noted that the draft document should be available in four to five months.

First Selectman Kellogg requested a high-level project plan outlining the main activities to share with the team. The outline will also identify who is required to participate so staff can be prepared.

There was a brief discussion regarding who was participating in the working group and the industry segment breakup. Mayor Hoydick encouraged Mr. Carleton to reach out to utilities.

V. Action Items

a. Election of Officers

First Selectman Kellogg opened the floor for nominations for Chair.

Mayor Hoydick nominated First Selectman Kellogg, the nomination was seconded by First Selectman Tesoro. There were no other nominations.

A roll call vote was taken:

Mr. Flatto - yes

First Selectman Bindelglass - yes

Ms. Bertolone - yes

Mayor Hoydick - yes

First Selectman Tesoro - yes

First Selectman Kellogg – yes

First Selectman Kellogg was named Chair.

First Selectman Kellogg opened the floor for nominations for Vice-Chair.

First Selectman Tesoro nominated Mayor Hoydick, the nomination was seconded by First Selectman Tesoro. There were no other nominations.

A roll call vote was taken:

Mr. Flatto - yes

First Selectman Bindelglass - yes

Ms. Bertolone - yes

Mayor Hoydick - yes

First Selectman Tesoro - yes

First Selectman Kellogg – yes

Mayor Hoydick was named Vice-Chair.

First Selectman Kellogg opened the floor for nominations for Secretary.

Mayor Hoydick nominated First Selectman Tesoro, the nomination was seconded by First Selectman Kellogg. There were no other nominations.

A roll call vote was taken:

Mr. Flatto - yes

First Selectman Bindelglass - yes

Ms. Bertolone - yes

Mayor Hoydick - yes

First Selectman Tesoro - yes

First Selectman Kellogg – yes

First Selectman Tesoro was named Secretary.

Mayor Hoydick commented that with all the strife and conflict it was a pleasure working with the elected officials and MetroCOG staff.

Mr. Fulda noted that the current bylaws allow 2 terms for the executive board, mirroring state statute. The State is in the process of removing the 2-term limit. Mr. Fulda commented that he was stating this for future discussion.

First Selectman Kellogg commented that regionalism often has a negative connotation and applauded the MetroCOG staff and board for its positive efforts.

VI. Other Business

a. Financials (Attachment B)

Ms. Kelleher commented that the financials are on track and she would begin to put together end of year projections for the next meeting. The one questionable revenue source was COVID relief, which Mr. Fulda explained MetroCOG would have more information about soon. He did not anticipate needing to use the fund balance to cover staff time.

First Selectman noted a typo in the spreadsheet.

Mr. Flatto commented that Bridgeport had received a dues notice and inquired if it needed to be paid.

Ms. Kelleher responded that notices were sent in January to assist in budget planning but that invoices were not mailed until July.

b. Regional On-call Services (Engineering design, Construction inspection, site plan review, drainage design, etc)

First Selectman Kellogg noted that Regional on-call services had been discussed with Mr. Fulda and Monroe would be interested in taking advantage if the bids are competitive. He noted that this would not be an additional burden to MetroCOG staff to have a list available.

Mr. Fulda commented that his hopes were to reduce administrative overhead on the municipal level and would be happy to set up a call with purchasing departments to ensure the process was acceptable for each municipality.

First Selectman Tesoro commented that the list would be helpful.

c. Regional Hazardous Waste Collection

Mr. Fulda explained that Mr. Giron has been meeting with town personnel and there is interest among the municipalities to move forward with regional hazardous waste collections. Municipal staff felt it would be best to continue current practice while looking into a regional framework through an RFI.

d. MetroCOG/Municipal ongoing issues with CTDOT

Mr. Fulda explained that CTDOT reached out to the COGs and MPOs regarding ongoing issues concerning communications with CTDOT. Mr. Fulda wanted to discuss prior to resending the email forwarded to staff.

e. Affordable Housing Plans

Mr. Fulda commented that Affordable Housing Plans were due to the state by July 22 and wanted to offer MetroCOG's assistance.

Mayor Hoydick expressed concern that it wasn't specifically an Affordable Housing Plan but that it was a Housing Plan that incorporated Affordable Housing. She requested that Ms. Bertolone reach out to First Selectman Kupchick to confirm.

First Selectman Kellogg confirmed that the statute was for Affordable Housing and a plan was due every 5 years, Monroe was including this plan as part of its 10-year POCD.

f. PSAP/Assessor Regionalization report to OPM March 1

Mr. Fulda explained that a contingency in the RSG grant requires a regionalization report with an update on what is being done regionally.

g. County Equivalent Designation for COGs

Mr. Fulda explained that the county equivalency is moving forward and he would be submitting a letter of support.

Mr. Fulda explained that a report was put together by WestCOG for CT Next regarding 5G. MetroCOG would be looking at what WestCOG has done and begin planning a report for the MetroCOG region.

Mr. Fulda acknowledged MetroCOG staff for its preparation of a Brownfields report which received praise from the EPA for its quality.

h. Next Meeting Dates:

- i. February 25th, 2021
- ii. March 25th, 2021

VII. Adjourn

A motion to adjourn was made by Mayor Hoydick and seconded by First Selectman Tesoro. The meeting was adjourned at 10:53am.

First Selectman Vicki Tesoro
MetroCOG Secretary