



ESTABLISHED 1659

CITY OF NORWICH CONNECTICUT

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To: Mayor Nystrom and members of the City Council
From: John Salomone, City Manager
Subject: City Manager's Report
Date: March 1, 2021

Meetings attended via conference call or video were weekly Governor Lamont updates, State representatives and legislators, Southeastern Council of Governments (SECOG), Southeastern Area Transit (SEAT), NPU-City Coordination Meeting, Region 4 Emergency Support Plan, Department of Health COVID-19 updates, Harbor Management Commission, NCDC Board Meeting and Director Search Committee, Passport to Norwich update and Fire negotiations.

Bids were opened for the Franklin Square Roundabout project on Wednesday Feb. 24th. A total of 10 bids were received. The Low Bidder was Nunes Companies from Ludlow MA, with a bid of \$538,899.05. While slightly higher than the engineer's estimate, it was within the expected range of costs. The Engineering Office is currently evaluating the bids, with an award expected shortly. The funding for the project includes a \$400,000 CT DOT Community Connectivity Grant. The balance of the project costs will be coming from the Infrastructure Bond Funds. It is anticipated that construction will begin in mid-April. The Contractor will have 120 calendar days to complete the project.

The City of Norwich Office of Community Development has received 15 funding requests for Plan Year 47 totaling \$1,130,750.18. It is anticipated that the City's allocation from HUD will be \$860,989. Applications will be reviewed this month.

The Rose City Sr. Center supported activities of Uncas Health District by hosting vaccination sites, providing support and calling people to confirm their appointments. They also participated in a Food Drive in memory of Jason Vincent.

Norwich Human Services has registered over 300 people for vaccination at various sites, including the new site at Mohegan Sun since many people did not have computers or know how to use technology to schedule their appointments. They also continue to enroll people for help paying for internet access to break the digital divide.

The Recreation Department is tentatively booking fields and facilities for Spring, with the caveat that these will be available only if the Governors guidelines and the City Manager concur that the infection rates are low enough to proceed.

Since Covid began the City has held virtual meetings either through Zoom or Turbo-Bridge. These meetings have required us to store significantly more data and incur additional costs for that storage. We are now up against that limit again. Instead of purchasing more resources, all City Council videos from the website are linked to our youtube channel. Clicking on the media button on the Council's meeting agenda will now route you to youtube. The City's website will continue to host other boards and commissions. We may reevaluate this when/if storage becomes an issue again. The Livestream button will continue to function when the Council has a meeting – information, council session, department budget hearings, or budget hearings.