

**WESTBROOK CITY COUNCIL
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE AGENDA
MONDAY OCTOBER 21, 2019 AT 6:30PM
WESTBROOK HIGH SCHOOL ROOM 114**

Westbrook City Council's Committee of the Whole, chaired by Councilor Larry McWilliams, will meet on Monday October 21, 2019 immediately prior to a Special City Council Meeting. The agenda item(s) are as follows:

1. **Affordable Housing Resolution**



CITY OF WESTBROOK, MAINE

2 York Street, Westbrook, ME 04092

COMMITTEE REFERRAL FORM

REFERRAL TITLE: Affordable Housing Resolution

REQUESTED BY: Administration

DATE CREATED: September 11, 2019

COMMITTEE: Committee of the Whole

Description of referral:

The Greater Portland Council of Governments (GPCOG) has developed an initiative to advance the development of affordable housing throughout the region.

Name, address and telephone number of citizen(s) to contact for additional information:

Jerre Bryant
City Administrator



CITY OF WESTBROOK, MAINE

IN CITY COUNCIL

Date: October 21, 2019

Resolve: 2019-18

ADOPTING THE METRO REGIONAL COALITION COUNCIL RESOLUTION REGARDING THE HOUSING AFFORDABILITY CRISIS IN THE GREATER PORTLAND REGION

WHEREAS our region is in need of young workers and families to support our existing and future economy, and to offset our region's demographic challenges; and

WHEREAS the region is losing more and more middle-income households because of the cost burden of housing; and

WHEREAS the affordability of housing throughout the Greater Portland region continues to decline according to the Maine State Housing Authority; and

WHEREAS the number and location of households in our region struggling with the costs of housing is rising as documented by the Greater Portland Council of Governments; and

WHEREAS travel between home and work in our region is becoming longer, generating more expense to commuting households and more traffic congestion and stress to our transportation systems; and

WHEREAS the cost burden of housing falls heavily on our senior population, making aging in place more difficult; and

WHEREAS these findings show a lack of adequate housing choices for current residents and future workers, and the region faces a crisis of housing affordability; and

WHEREAS our region's economic and community wellbeing depends on expanding housing choices which in turn will support all our residents as well as our current and future economy by easing the challenges detailed above; and

WHEREAS the municipalities that make up the Metro Regional Coalition share a commitment to making housing more affordable for every person no matter their income level; and

WHEREAS all the municipalities of the Metro Regional Coalition have met and jointly agreed to pursue solutions to this crisis by acting singly and together to take steps at the municipal level to encourage the

expansion of the number of housing units that lower and middle income households can afford without incurring unacceptable housing costs burden; and

WHEREAS the Westbrook City Council is committed to engage the region's need for expanded housing choices by continuing its work with Westbrook Housing Authority, Westbrook Development Corporation, AVESTA Housing and similar organizations and businesses, to expand affordable choices for both rental and home ownership for low and moderate income individuals, couples and families in Westbrook; and

WHEREAS the Westbrook City Council will document our progress toward that goal by producing an annual report for the Metro Regional Coalition detailing success stories and progress made in the prior 12 months toward expanding regional housing choices in our community:

NOW THEREFORE the Westbrook City Council is hereby RESOLVED to work with the Greater Portland Council of Governments and the Metro Regional Coalition:

TO EXPAND the number of housing units that can be afforded by lower and middle income households in our community by adopting and improving policies and incentives which allow our community to contribute to achieving the overall regional goal of expanding the number of housing units in our region that are affordable to lower and middle income households by 10% no later than 2025.

First and Final Reading: October 21, 2019

Attest:

City Clerk

Mayor