CALL TO ORDER AND ANNOUNCEMENT OF A QUORUM – Mayor Cindy Siegel.

Mayor Cindy Siegel called the City Council of the City of Bellaire, Texas, to order at 7:05 p.m. on Monday, January 7, 2008. The Bellaire City Council met at that time and on that date in Regular Session in the Bellaire Civic Center, First Floor of City Hall, 7008 South Rice Avenue, Bellaire, Texas. Mayor Siegel announced that a quorum was present consisting of herself and the following members of City Council:

- Councilman Will Hickman, Position No. 1;
- Councilman John F. Monday, Position No. 2;
- Mayor Pro Tem Peggy Faulk, Position No. 3;
- Councilwoman Debra Marz Davison, Position No. 4;
- Councilman Pat McLaughlan, Position No. 5; and
- Councilman John Jeffery, Position No. 6.

Other officials present were Councilman-Elect James P. Avioli, Sr., Councilman – Position No. 2, Councilman-Elect Phil Nauert, Councilman – Position No. 4, City Manager Bernard M. Satterwhite, Jr., City Attorney Alan P. Petrov, City Clerk Tracy L. Dutton, and Municipal Court Judge Lisa A. Wesely.

INVOCATION – Reverend David L. Wakeland, Southwest Presbyterian Church.

Reverend David L. Wakeland, Southwest Presbyterian Church, gave the invocation.

PRESENTATION OF COLORS – Bellaire United Methodist Church Boy Scout Troop 222.

Members of Bellaire United Methodist Church Boy Scout Troop 222 served as members of the Color Guard.

PLEDGES TO THE FLAGS – Bellaire United Methodist Church Boy Scout Troop 222.

A. U.S. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE.

B. PLEDGE TO THE TEXAS FLAG.
Members of the Bellaire United Methodist Church Boy Scout Troop 222 led the audience and members of City Council in the U.S. Pledge of Allegiance and the Pledge to the Texas Flag.

V. MUSICAL WELCOME – Condit Elementary School Fourth and Fifth Grade Choir under the direction of Ms. Christina Daly.

The Condit Elementary School Fourth and Fifth Grade Choir, under the direction of Ms. Christina Daly, provided a musical welcome for the audience and members of City Council consisting of a medley of patriotic songs.

VI. RECOGNITION OF FORMER MAYORS, COUNCIL MEMBERS, AND THE ZINDLER FAMILY – Mayor Cindy Siegel.

Mayor Cindy Siegel noted that this evening was a night of celebration as Bellaire kicked off its Centennial and swore in its new members of City Council.

In 1908 land was acquired and the town of Bellaire founded. It was hard to imagine that at that time this was a ranch of flat grasslands and few trees where thousands of cattle roamed. One brochure marketed the town of Bellaire saying, “This town of Bell-aire, . . . is fanned day and night by the cooling breezes from the Gulf of Mexico.”

During this same year (1908), Teddy Roosevelt was President. Life expectancy in the United States was 47 years old. Only 14 percent of the homes in the United States had a bathtub, and only 8 percent had a telephone. The average wage in the United States was $0.22 per hour with the average United States worker making between $200 and $400 per year. A dentist made $2,500 per year and a competent accountant could make $2,000 per year. Two out of every ten adults could not read or write. Texas had only been a state for 63 years.

However, times were changing in Texas with a new economy due to the eruption of oil at Spindletop near Beaumont in 1901. People arriving in this area looked towards settling in Bellaire, the “first suburb” in the Houston area. Bellaire’s success was sealed with the completion of the first commuter rail in Houston in 1910, fondly called the “Toonerville Trolley,” that ran from Fannin down Bellaire Avenue and ended at Bellaire Avenue and South Rice. Bellaire was so attractive that potential homeowners were willing to pay the vast amount of $400.00 for a lot on Bellaire Boulevard and $200 for a lot one or two streets over.

Bellaire has seen much in the last 100 years. She has sent her sons and daughters to two World Wars and countless other wars and lost some of them in service to our country. She has survived floods, hurricanes, freezes, droughts, annexation attempts, chemical spills, and lost homes due to a division by a major freeway. Through the last 100 years her people have
given of their hearts, time, and money to make Bellaire the city that it was today. They built homes, schools, places of worship, businesses, roads, water and sewer lines, parks, and the government to support its residents. It was not without struggles and failures, but our forbearers did not give up on Bellaire.

Mayor Siegel advised that she wished to take a moment to recognize Bellaire’s former mayors and councilmen who were present this evening and had served the citizens of Bellaire well in giving of their time and efforts on behalf of the community. Those introduced were as follows: Sam McKinney, David Strauss, Barbara Young, Pauline McRae, Pat Hughes, John F. Monday, and Debra Marz Davison. Mayor Siegel also recognized Barbara Berryhill whose husband, Judge Bill Berryhill, had previously served as a mayor and a member of City Council.

Former Mayor of the City of West University Place and current Multi-Cities Director for the Metropolitan Transit Authority of Harris County, Texas, Burt Ballanfant, who was present in the audience, was also recognized.

Mayor Siegel next introduced members of the Zindler Family, noting that Mayor and Mrs. Abe Zindler and their children were a part of the history of Bellaire that we were so proud of.

VII. STATEMENT OF ELECTED OFFICER AND OATH OF OFFICE – Municipal Court Judge Lisa A. Wesely.

Municipal Court Judge Lisa A. Wesely presented the “Statement of Elected Officer” to newly elected members of City Council as follows: Cynthia Siegel, Mayor; James P. Avioli, Sr., Councilman – Position No. 2; Philip L. Nauert, Councilman – Position No. 4; and John Jeffery, Councilman – Position No. 6.

The verbiage for the “Statement of Elected Officer” has been reprinted herein for the record as follows:

I, __________, do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I have not directly nor indirectly paid, offered, promised to pay, contributed, or promised to contribute any money or thing of value, or promised any public office or employment for the giving or withholding of a vote as a reward to secure my election, whichever the case may be, so help me God.

Municipal Court Judge Lisa A. Wesely next presented the “Oath of Office” to newly elected members of City Council as follows: Cynthia Siegel, Mayor; James P. Avioli, Sr., Councilman – Position No. 2; Philip L. Nauert, Councilman – Position No. 4; and John Jeffery, Councilman – Position No. 6.
The verbiage for the “Oath of Office” has been reprinted herein for the record as follows:

I, __________, do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will faithfully execute the duties of the position of _______ of the City Council of the City of Bellaire, Texas, and will to the best of my ability preserve, protect, and defend the constitution and laws of the United States and of this State and the Charter and ordinances of this City; and I furthermore solemnly swear (or affirm) that I have not directly nor indirectly paid, offered to pay, contributed, nor promised to contribute any money, or valuable thing, or promised any public office or employment, as a reward for the giving or withholding a vote to secure my election, so help me God.

VIII. INTRODUCTION OF CITY COUNCIL AND FAMILIES – Mayor Cindy Siegel.

Mayor Cindy Siegel led the introductions of City Council and families by introducing her family. The introductions followed with James P. Avioli, Sr., Phil Nauert, and John Jeffery introducing their families.

IX. PROCLAMATION AND REDEDICATION OF BELLAIRE PARK AS BELLAIRE ZINDLER PARK – Mayor Cindy Siegel.

Mayor Cindy Siegel read a proclamation that she had issued rededicating Bellaire Park as Bellaire Zindler Park as follows:

Whereas, Abe Zindler served as Mayor of Bellaire from 1937 to 1943 and from 1945 to 1947 during a time of importance in Bellaire’s history and development, providing leadership in the passage of an ordinance for zoning to protect the quality of residential life in Bellaire; and

Whereas, during Mayor Zindler’s tenure, Bellaire’s first city hall and a new fire department building were built; a modern water and sewer system and disposal plant installed; and land purchased for a civic center, while still reducing taxes; and

Whereas, Abe Zindler and his wife, Udith Zindler, gave unselfishly of their time and energy to Bellaire and its community; and

Whereas, Warren Zindler, Mayor and Mrs. Abe Zindler’s fourth son, gave his life for his country while serving in the military during World War II. Warren Zindler fought to protect and safeguard the freedoms that the citizens of Bellaire and the United States cherish today, as we did then; and

Whereas, Marvin Zindler, Mayor and Mrs. Abe Zindler’s third son, gave of his time and energy for over 30 years in helping citizens with the greatest need, whether poor, sick, or elderly, throughout the entire Houston area, including the City of Bellaire. Marvin Zindler demonstrated the sense of community
and values that Bellaire is known for through his kindness and generosity to others; and

Whereas, during this time of celebrating Bellaire’s Centennial and history, the City Council of Bellaire deemed it appropriate to honor the Zindler family for their civic and community efforts throughout many years of that history;

Now, Therefore, I, Cynthia Siegel, Mayor of the City of Bellaire, Texas, and pursuant to the Bellaire City Council’s overwhelming vote of approval of Ordinance No. 07-065 on November 19, 2007, hereby proclaim and rededicate Bellaire Park as

Bellaire Zindler Park

and invite all residents joining our Centennial celebration today to express their appreciation of the Zindler family’s contribution and legacy to the City of Bellaire.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the seal of the City of Bellaire, Texas, to be affixed this 7th day of January, 2008.

Cynthia Siegel, Mayor
City of Bellaire, Texas

Mayor Siegel gave original proclamations to members of the Zindler family.

X. PROCLAMATION RECOGNIZING THE CALENDAR YEAR OF 2008 AS BELLAIRE’S CENTENNIAL YEAR – Mayor Cindy Siegel.

Mayor Cindy Siegel read a proclamation that she had issued recognizing the calendar year of 2008 as Bellaire’s Centennial year as follows:

Whereas, in December 1908, William Baldwin and the South End Land Company, in their infinite wisdom, purchased 9,700 acres of the William Marsh Rice Ranch and renamed it Westmoreland Farms and founded the town of Bellaire; and

Whereas, on June 24, 1918, Bellaire officially received its charter under the general laws of the State of Texas; and

Whereas, on April 2, 1949, Bellaire become a home rule city under the laws of the State of Texas; and

Whereas, the residents of Bellaire showed their commitment to this great city by fighting off annexation by West University Place in 1945 and then again in 1949, a movement to disincorporate and join the City of Houston; and
Whereas, by their acts and deeds, the pioneering men and women of the early years in Bellaire forged not only a body politic and a place of common dwelling, but also a steadfast sense of community and civic pride; and

Whereas, Bellaire is a vibrant and dynamic city that reflects these same values and sense of community today, as it has for the past 100 years; and

Whereas, the dreams and legacy of Bellaire’s founders echo today as we, the citizens of Bellaire, embrace the here and now with the same sense of community and civic pride, hope for the future and anticipation of another 100 years of prosperous and joyous times yet to come; and

Whereas, as we pay tribute to the memory of Bellaire’s founders and reflect on our common heritage at this historic moment, we realize the importance of history, of family, and of a commitment to our city. Not only is it our privilege, but also our duty, to honor the memory of Bellaire’s forbearers and their legacy by celebrating Bellaire’s history and renewing our commitment to the City of Bellaire and its community;

Now, Therefore, I, Cynthia Siegel, by virtue of the authority vested in me as Mayor of the City of Bellaire, Texas, on behalf of the Bellaire City Council and all of the citizens of Bellaire, with great pleasure this 7th day of January, 2008, do proclaim Bellaire’s Centennial Year to be officially opened, with special and memorable events to follow during the remainder of this year. All citizens, organizations, schools, religious institutions, and businesses in Bellaire are encouraged to participate in the Centennial activities of this momentous year in our shared salute to Bellaire’s 100 years of illustrious history and a promising and successful future to come.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the seal of the City of Bellaire, Texas, to be affixed this 7th day of January, 2008.

Cynthia Siegel, Mayor
City of Bellaire, Texas

Mayor Siegel next showed a video of residents and business owners proclaiming what Bellaire meant to them and wishing Bellaire a Happy 100th Birthday.

XI. CLOSING REMARKS – Mayor Cindy Siegel.

Mayor Cindy Siegel advised that there were many that she would like to thank for this evening’s event, beginning with Reverend David L. Wakeland, Director Christina Daly and the Condit Elementary School Fourth and Fifth Grade Choir, and the Bellaire United Methodist Church Boy Scout Troop 222.

Thanks were also given to the members of the Bellaire Centennial Planning Committee as follows: Jamie Allen, Bill Borden, Eric Coan, Cindy Cozewith,
Lynda Dyson, Toni J. Franklin, Jay Ginsburg, Sarah Ginsburg, Will Hickman, Jenni Malone, Lynn McBee, Diane McLaughlan, Pauline McRae, Jeffery Mills, Phil Murray, David Schlosberg, and Sharon Veldman (i.e., Mayor Siegel also served as a member of the Bellaire Centennial Planning Committee). The Bellaire Arts Commission was thanked for their role in developing Bellaire’s Centennial logo. City employees were thanked for their assistance with the evening’s event, Centennial t-shirts, calendar, proclamations, and videos as follows: Patte McGuire, Diane White, Tracy Dutton, Jane Dembski and Staff, and Larry Parks. A big thanks was given to Karl Miller for getting the City’s auditorium remodeling completed in time for the event.

Mayor Siegel advised that there would be one or more Centennial events each month during 2008 and encouraged all residents to enjoy those events. She urged residents to check the City calendar, webpage, Channel 16, and local newspapers for information regarding the monthly Centennial activities. She noted further that throughout 2008 the City would be recognizing the contributions that civic organizations, schools, religious institutions, employees, and residents had made to Bellaire’s history and community. The year 2008 would be a year of remembrance, fun, and celebration as we cherished Bellaire’s past and anticipated the bright future that Bellaire would have.

Mayor Siegel closed by asking all present to join her and the City Council, City employees, and City volunteers in celebrating Bellaire’s shared history and in looking for ways to leave their own legacy to Bellaire. She noted that this could consist of volunteering at their church, school, or on one of the City committees. It could mean giving to or helping one of many worthy charitable organizations in Bellaire. Or it could mean reaching out to a neighbor in time of need. The sense of community and civic pride and responsibility was the legacy that we had been given and was the greatest treasure that we had to give those who followed in our footsteps.

Councilman Will Hickman addressed the audience regarding one of the Bellaire Centennial Planning Committee’s projects for the year, an historical video, and asked for help from Bellaire residents in putting that effort together in the form of picture and/or stories.

XII. ADJOURN TO RECEPTION AREA FOR CENTENNIAL PRESENTATION SHOW AND REFRESHMENTS.

MOTION TO ADJOURN:

A motion was made by Councilman John Jeffery and seconded by Councilman Phil Nauert to adjourn the Regular Session of the City Council of the City of Bellaire, Texas, at 7:55 p.m. on Monday, January 7, 2008.
**VOTE ON MOTION TO ADJOURN:**

Motion **carried** unanimously on a **7-0** vote as follows:

**FOR:**
- Siegel, Cindy
- Hickman, Will
- Avioli, James P., Sr.
- Faulk, Peggy
- Nauert, Phil
- McLaughlan, Pat
- Jeffery, John

**OPPOSED:** None

**ABSENT:** None

The audience and City Council adjourned to the reception area at this point for a Centennial Presentation Show and refreshments.

Respectfully submitted,

____________________________
Tracy L. Dutton, TRMC
City Clerk
City of Bellaire, Texas

Approved:

____________________________
Cynthia Siegel, Mayor
City of Bellaire, Texas