SPECIAL SESSION – 6:00 P.M.

I. 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 6:10 p.m. on Monday, April 12, 2010. The Bellaire City Council met at that time and on that date in Special Session in the Council Chamber, First Floor of City Hall, 7008 South Rice Avenue, Bellaire, Texas 77401. 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 James P. Avioli, Sr., Position No. 2;
Councilman Corbett Daniel Parker, Position No. 3;
Councilman Andrew Friedberg, Position No. 5; and
Councilwoman Mandy Nathan, Position No. 6.

Mayor Pro Tem Phil Nauert, Position No. 4, was absent. Other officials present were City Manager Bernard M. Satterwhite, Jr., Assistant City Manager Diane K. White, and City Clerk Tracy L. Dutton.

II. DISCUSSION of and possible action on the adoption of Goals and Objectives for the City Council of the City of Bellaire, Texas, for the period 2010-2011 – Item submitted by Mayor Cindy Siegel.

Mayor Cindy Siegel noted that the Bellaire City Council held a Workshop Session on February 19, 2010, and a Joint Workshop Session with City boards, commissions, and committees on February 20, 2010, the discussion of which included goals and objectives for the City Council for the period 2010-2011.

Mayor Siegel noted that City Clerk Tracy L. Dutton had prepared a draft goals and objectives document utilizing notes that Assistant City Manager Diane K. White had taken during the February 19, 2010, and February 20, 2010, sessions. Mayor Siegel suggested taking the draft document and discussing it section by section. City Council could adopt goals by section and then adopt the entire document by a motion at the end of the meeting.

Councilman Corbett Daniel Parker inquired as to whether the goals and objectives would be prioritized as well this evening.
Mayor Siegel stated that she would suggest City Council consider what was wanted for each section, and then talk about priorities.

Councilman Will Hickman stated remembering doing the flip charts during the workshop sessions. He inquired as to where the objectives had come from.

City Clerk Tracy L. Dutton advised that she had prepared the draft document utilizing Assistant City Manager Diane K. White’s notes from both the February 19 and February 20, 2010, sessions. She used the City Manager’s service areas to come up with the focus areas for the five goals. Then she took the objectives and plugged them in where she thought the objectives best fit.

Councilman Hickman asked for confirmation that the objectives were a combination of what appeared on the flip charts and what the boards and commissions came up with on that Saturday session.

Mayor Siegel advised that Councilman Hickman was correct. The document was merely a draft and items could be deleted, added, changed, etc.

A. RESIDENTIAL/COMMERCIAL SAFETY FOCUS AREA:

Goal Statement:

The City Council of the City of Bellaire, Texas, is dedicated to providing a safe and secure community, as well as to enhance the quality of life, for its residents and corporate citizens.

Councilman Hickman suggested numbering each of the objectives for purposes of discussion, as follows:

1. Development of a street light policy for the residential and commercial sectors of Bellaire;

2. Greater police presence in all sectors of Bellaire;

3. Development of objective standards for traffic control devices, such as speed humps (Neighborhood Traffic Improvement Program);

4. Review of existing traffic control devices and removal of unwarranted devices;

5. Partner with the Texas Department of Transportation (TXDOT) regarding traffic congestion issues and the resulting demand on Bellaire’s emergency services
personnel at the intersection of Interstate Highway 610 (northbound) and Highway 59;

6. Partner with the Metropolitan Transit Authority of Harris County, Texas (METRO), to review and determine the continued and future need for existing bus stations serving Bellaire;

7. Develop and implement an accelerated sidewalk program for Bellaire, as well as bicycle trails, to improve mobility for pedestrians and bicyclers;

8. Partner with the cities of Houston and West University Place and the Union Pacific Railroad for the addition of sidewalks across the railroad tracks on the east side of Bellaire into West University Place;

9. Partner with the cities of Houston and West University Place to eliminate billboards near the railroad tracks by the east side of Bellaire;

10. Review and consider changes to speed limits on highly traveled thoroughfares throughout Bellaire; and

11. Continue review and implementation of the Comprehensive Plan of the City of Bellaire, Texas, as approved and adopted on November 16, 2009.

Councilwoman Mandy Nathan suggested that items 3, 4, and 10, which were related topics, be combined into one objective. She noted that her concerns were speed, traffic, and parking considerations.

Mayor Siegel stated that it was very important that City Council developed objectives that were measurable. She expressed concern with combining too many items into one objective.

Councilwoman Nathan indicated that the objective could be stated as follows: Facilitate resolution of problems caused by speeding, excessive traffic, and excessive parking on residential streets.

Councilman Andrew Friedberg stated that objectives 3 and 4 went together better than 3, 4, and 10.

Councilman James P. Avioli, Sr., stated that he believed objectives 3 and 10 went together and 4 and 5 went together.
AMENDMENT TO OBJECTIVE 3 AND ELIMINATION OF OBJECTIVE 4:

An amendment was made by Councilman Will Hickman to eliminate objective 4 and restate objective 3 as follows:

3. Review of standards for parking regulations and traffic control devices, such as speed humps.

Councilman Corbett Daniel Parker seconded the amendment to objective 3.

DISCUSSION OF AMENDMENT TO OBJECTIVE 3 AND ELIMINATION OF OBJECTIVE 4:

Discussion ensued among members of City Council and the City Manager regarding the City's Neighborhood Traffic Improvement Program, including the objective of that program.

VOTE ON AMENDMENT TO OBJECTIVE 3 AND ELIMINATION OF OBJECTIVE 4:

The amendment to objective 3 and elimination of objective 4 carried unanimously on a 6-0 vote as follows:

FOR: Siegel, Cindy
     Hickman, Will
     Avioli, James P., Sr.
     Parker, Corbett Daniel
     Friedberg, Andrew
     Nathan, Mandy

OPPOSED: None

ABSENT: Nauert, Phil

Mayor Siegel noted that Councilman Avioli and Councilwoman Nathan had mentioned speed issues and traffic congestion. She inquired as to whether City Council wanted to combine objectives 5 and 10.

Councilman Hickman inquired as to whether speed limit and stop signs were considered traffic control devices.

City Manager Satterwhite indicated that a stop sign was a traffic control device, but a speed limit sign was not. Upon a request from the Mayor, City Manager Satterwhite next reviewed the state’s policy on speed limits.
Councilman James P. Avioli, Sr., suggested that objective 5, since it addressed emergency services, would be better served as a standalone objective.

City Manager Satterwhite asked if City Council would consider changing the word “partner” in objectives 5, 6, 8, and 9, to the word “open a dialog with.” He believed that the City could certainly work toward being a “partner,” but was not necessarily one unless the other entities also wanted to work with the City as a “partner.”

AMENDMENT TO OBJECTIVES 5, 6, 8, AND 9:

An amendment to objectives 5, 6, 8, and 9 was made by Councilman Andrew Friedberg to change the word “partner” in each of the objectives to the word “discuss.” Councilman Will Hickman seconded the amendment.

For purposes of the record, objectives 5, 6, 8, and 9 have been restated as follows:

5. Discuss with the Texas Department of Transportation (TXDOT) the traffic congestion issues and the resulting demand on Bellaire’s emergency services personnel at the intersection of Interstate Highway 610 (northbound) and Highway 59;

6. Discuss with the Metropolitan Transit Authority of Harris County, Texas (METRO), to review and determine the continued and future need for existing bus stations serving Bellaire.

8. Discuss with the cities of Houston and West University Place and the Union Pacific Railroad the addition of sidewalks across the railroad tracks on the east side of Bellaire into West University Place;

9. Discuss with the cities of Houston and West University Place the elimination of billboards near the railroad tracks by the east side of Bellaire;

VOTE ON AMENDMENT TO OBJECTIVES 5, 6, 8, AND 9:

The amendment to objectives 5, 6, 8, and 9 carried unanimously on a 6-0 vote as follows:

FOR: Siegel, Cindy
Hickman, Will
Avioli, James P., Sr.
FOR (CONT.): Parker, Corbett Daniel
Friedberg, Andrew
Nathan, Mandy

OPPOSED: None

ABSENT: Nauert, Phil

Councilwoman Nathan referred to the streetlight policy, which was the subject of objective 1. She inquired as to whether that policy would cover ensuring that once lights went out, those lights were replaced timely.

City Manager Satterwhite indicated that the City had very little control over the replacement of streetlights; therefore, he was not certain how that goal could be accomplished. He believed that the objectives discussed during the referenced workshop sessions dealt with the installation of streetlights at intervals and the maintenance of streetlights. He read a streetlight policy that the City currently had in place.

Councilwoman Nathan stated that if City Council were going to prioritize the objectives, then she would suggest that objective number 11 be renumbered as objective number 1.

Councilman Friedberg referred to objective 6 and recalled that there was a suggestion about evaluating whether bus stations could be combined with the anticipated future Urban Village (TOD) District (UV-T) transit station. He suggested an amendment as set forth below.

AMENDMENT TO OBJECTIVE 6:

An amendment was made by Councilman Andrew Friedberg to restate objective 6 as follows:

6. Discuss with the Metropolitan Transit Authority of Harris County, Texas (METRO), to review and determine the continued and future need for existing bus stations serving Bellaire, including consideration of combining bus stations with future light rail service.

Councilman James P. Avioli, Sr., seconded the amendment.

DISCUSSION OF AMENDMENT TO OBJECTIVE 6:

Councilman Avioli indicated that he was struggling with the word “and future” need for existing bus stations. Councilman Friedberg...
agreed to remove those two words from objective 6. The amendment to objective 6 was restated as follows:

6. **Discuss with the Metropolitan Transit Authority of Harris County, Texas (METRO), to review and determine the continued need for existing bus stations serving Bellaire, including consideration of combining bus stations with future light rail service.**

**AMENDMENT TO THE AMENDMENT TO OBJECTIVE 6:**

An amendment to the amendment to objective 6 was made by Councilman Will Hickman to restate objective 6 as follows:

6. **Discuss with the Metropolitan Transit Authority of Harris County, Texas (METRO), to review and determine the continued and future need for a rail station, a bus-oriented transit center, and existing bus stations.**

Councilman Corbett Daniel Parker seconded the amendment to the amendment to objective 6.

**DISCUSSION OF AMENDMENT TO THE AMENDMENT TO OBJECTIVE 6:**

Councilman Hickman indicated that he was trying to tie together the idea of all of the City’s METRO issues, which were the transit center, the rail station, and the existing bus stations.

Discussion ensued among members of City Council regarding the City’s ultimate objective with respect to METRO. Councilman Hickman stated that it might be possible for the City to offer its support of the rail station in exchange for the closure of the transit center.

At the conclusion of the discussion, Councilman Will Hickman and Councilman Corbett Daniel Parker withdrew the motion and second to the amendment to the amendment to objective 6.

**VOTE ON THE AMENDMENT TO OBJECTIVE 6:**

The amendment to objective 6 passed unanimously on a 6-0 vote as follows:

**FOR:**

Siegel, Cindy
Hickman, Will
Avioli, James P., Sr.
Parker, Corbett Daniel
FOR (CONT.):  Friedberg, Andrew  
       Nathan, Mandy  

OPPOSED:  None  

ABSENT:  Nauert, Phil  

Councilman Andrew Friedberg advised that he wished to add an objective to the list of objectives under A. Residential/Commercial Safety Focus Area.

AMENDMENT TO ADD AN OBJECTIVE TO THOSE LISTED UNDER SECTION A. RESIDENTIAL/COMMERCIAL SAFETY FOCUS AREA:

An amendment to add an objective to those listed under Section A. Residential/Commercial Safety Focus Area was made by Councilman Andrew Friedberg, said objective to read as follows:

Review of existing ordinances and development of policies regulating institutional land uses abutting residential neighborhoods, and prioritize institutional residential compatibility in implementation of Comprehensive Plan.

Councilman Corbett Daniel Parker seconded the amendment.

Councilman Friedberg elaborated his thoughts regarding the additional objective. During the time he was on the Planning and Zoning Commission and even on City Council, there had been discussions at various levels between institution uses, whether it be a nursing home or a school or a church, and the neighborhoods, related primarily to parking and traffic. Since City Council’s goal statement was to enhance the quality of life for its residents and corporate citizens, he wanted to focus on coming up with some policies and making sure that the Comprehensive Plan put those policies into an ordinance that would benefit both residents and the institutions that co-existed with them in very close proximity.

Discussion ensued among members of City Council regarding the additional objective and whether that objective would be met with existing objective 11. Councilman Friedberg indicated that although it might be accomplished with objective 11, he felt strongly enough about the issue in that it should be its own objective.
VOTE ON AMENDMENT TO ADD AN OBJECTIVE TO THOSE LISTED UNDER SECTION A. RESIDENTIAL/COMMERCIAL SAFETY FOCUS AREA:

The amendment passed unanimously on a 6-0 vote as follows:

FOR:  Siegel, Cindy
       Hickman, Will
       Avioli, James P., Sr.
       Parker, Corbett Daniel
       Friedberg, Andrew
       Nathan, Mandy

OPPOSED:  None

ABSENT:  Nauert, Phil

DISCUSSION OF SECTION A:

Councilman Parker inquired as to the process to eliminate billboards, the objective of which was numbered 9.

City Manager Satterwhite indicated that the billboard referenced in the objective belonged to the City of Houston and not Bellaire.

Councilman Friedberg advised that even if the billboards were in Bellaire, they would be grandfathered in until 50% destroyed.

City Manager Satterwhite stated that the City could talk with the City of Houston about them.

Mayor Siegel agreed, noting that she was not sure how realistic the objective was.

AMENDMENT TO OBJECTIVE 9:

An amendment to objective 9 was made by Councilman Corbett Daniel Parker to delete objective 9 in its entirety, said objective of which read as follows:

9.  Discuss with the cities of Houston and West University Place to eliminate billboards near the railroad tracks by the east side of Bellaire;

Councilman Andrew Friedberg seconded the amendment.
VOTE ON AMENDMENT OBJECTIVE 9:

Amendment carried on a 5-0-1 vote as follows:

FOR: Siegel, Cindy
Avioli, James P., Sr.
Parker, Corbett Daniel
Friedberg, Andrew
Nathan, Mandy

OPPOSED: None

ABSENT: Nauert, Phil

ABSTAIN: Hickman, Will

DISCUSSION OF SECTION A:

Councilman Parker indicated that he would like to specifically reference the Comprehensive Plan within the goal statement for Section A. Residential/Commercial Safety Focus Area. He asked if the Comprehensive Plan were going to be used as an objective for all five goals, noting that the Comprehensive Plan was not discussed in some of the other focus areas.

Councilman Friedberg stated that he was not sure that the Comprehensive Plan was applicable to all of the focus areas, which was not to suggest that the objectives and goals were inconsistent with the Comprehensive Plan.

AMENDMENT TO OBJECTIVE 11:

An amendment to objective 11 was made by Councilman Corbett Daniel Parker to restate objective 11 as follows:

11. Continue review and implementation of the Comprehensive Plan of the City of Bellaire, Texas, as approved and adopted on November 16, 2009, to facilitate the goal statement under Section A. Residential/Commercial Safety Focus Area.

AMENDMENT TO THE AMENDMENT TO OBJECTIVE 11:

An amendment to the amendment to objective 11 was made by Councilman Will Hickman to strike objective 11 in its entirety. Councilman Corbett Daniel Parker agreed to withdraw his amendment and seconded the amendment by Councilman Hickman to strike objective 11 in its entirety.
DISCUSSION TO AMENDMENT TO STRIKE OBJECTIVE 11:

Councilwoman Nathan advised that she felt a point needed to be made in the goals and objectives document regarding the Comprehensive Plan.

Councilman Parker inquired as to whether the Comprehensive Plan should be its own focus area.

Mayor Siegel indicated that she felt it was important to include the Comprehensive Plan as an objective.

Councilman Friedberg agreed that it was important to include the Comprehensive Plan and liked Councilman Parker’s suggestion that the Comprehensive Plan be its own focus area, such as A.

AMENDMENT TO GOALS AND OBJECTIVES DOCUMENT:

An amendment was made by Councilman Will Hickman to add a new Section F, entitled Comprehensive Plan, with a Goal Statement to read as follows:

Enact ordinances to implement the Comprehensive Plan of the City of Bellaire, Texas, as approved and adopted on November 16, 2009.

Councilman Corbett Daniel Parker seconded the amendment.

Councilman Friedberg inquired as to whether Councilmen Hickman and Parker would accept a friendly amendment to change the Section from F to A.

Councilman Hickman advised that he would not accept the amendment to change the section number. Councilman Parker agreed.

AMENDMENT TO THE AMENDMENT TO GOALS AND OBJECTIVES DOCUMENT:

An amendment to the amendment to goals and objectives document was made by Councilman Andrew Friedberg to change the section number for Comprehensive Plan from F to A. Councilwoman Mandy Nathan seconded the amendment to the amendment to goals and objectives document.
DISCUSSION OF AMENDMENT TO THE AMENDMENT TO GOALS AND OBJECTIVES DOCUMENT:

Councilman Friedberg stated that he believed that the City’s prominent top priority should be the Comprehensive Plan.

Councilman Parker indicated that he disagreed and thought that the Comprehensive Plan, while it had some specific objectives, was the umbrella in which decision-making would go through. He would rather have specific goal statements first.

Councilman Hickman advised that the top priority for him was safety. He was much more concerned about crime, safety, fire response, and emergency medical service response than he was about the zoning regulations and ordinances that the City would implement coming from the Comprehensive Plan.

Councilman Avioli agreed with Councilman Hickman’s statements in that Section A needed to focus on safety. He also agreed that the Comprehensive Plan needed to be part of the goals and objectives document, but not as Section A.

VOTE ON AMENDMENT TO THE AMENDMENT TO GOALS AND OBJECTIVES DOCUMENT:

The amendment to the amendment to goals and objectives document failed on a 2-3-1 vote as follows:

FOR: Friedberg, Andrew
     Nathan, Mandy

OPPOSED: Hickman, Will
         Avioli, James P., Sr.
         Parker, Corbett Daniel

ABSENT: Nauert, Phil

ABSTAIN: Siegel, Cindy

VOTE ON AMENDMENT TO GOALS AND OBJECTIVES DOCUMENT:

The amendment to goals and objectives document carried unanimously on a 6-0 vote as follows:

FOR: Siegel, Cindy
     Hickman, Will
     Avioli, James P., Sr.
     Parker, Corbett Daniel
FOR (CONT.): Friedberg, Andrew
Nathan, Mandy

OPPOSED: None

ABSENT: Nauert, Phil

AMENDMENT TO OBJECTIVE 2:

An amendment to objective 2 was made by Councilman Corbett Daniel Parker to restate objective 2 as follows:

2. Provision of greater police presence and emergency services in all sectors of Bellaire.

Councilman James P. Avioli, Sr., seconded the amendment to objective 2.

DISCUSSION OF AMENDMENT TO OBJECTIVE 2:

Discussion ensued among members of City Council regarding the purpose of the objective, such as whether it was an operational item (i.e., direction to City Manager) or a budgetary item (i.e., addition of more police officers).

AMENDMENT TO THE AMENDMENT TO OBJECTIVE 2:

Councilman James P. Avioli, Sr., made an amendment to the amendment to objective 2, to restate objective 2 as follows:

2. Focus on police presence and emergency services in all sectors of Bellaire.

Councilman Will Hickman seconded the amendment to the amendment to objective 2.

VOTE ON AMENDMENT TO THE AMENDMENT TO OBJECTIVE 2:

The amendment to the amendment to objective 2 carried unanimously on a 6-0 vote as follows:

FOR: Siegel, Cindy
Hickman, Will
Avioli, James P., Sr.
Parker, Corbett Daniel
Friedberg, Andrew
Nathan, Mandy
OPPOSED: None

ABSENT: Nauert, Phil

VOTE ON AMENDMENT TO OBJECTIVE 2, AS AMENDED:

The amendment to objective 2, as amended, carried unanimously on a 6-0 vote as follows:

FOR:
Siegel, Cindy
Hickman, Will
Avioli, James P., Sr.
Parker, Corbett Daniel
Friedberg, Andrew
Nathan, Mandy

OPPOSED: None

ABSENT: Nauert, Phil

AMENDMENT TO OBJECTIVE 7:

An amendment to objective 7 was made by Councilman Will Hickman to restate objective 7 as follows:

7. Continue the sidewalk program for Bellaire and construct bicycle routes, where possible, to improve mobility for pedestrians and cyclists.

City Manager Satterwhite suggested the use of the term “routes” rather than “trails,” as trails suggested a use other than for bicycles.

Councilman Hickman liked the City Manager’s suggestion.

Mayor Siegel asked if the phrase “where possible” could also be added. She stated that she wished to add the phrase because the City might not have the funds to construct bicycle trails in the very near future.

Councilman Hickman agreed.

AMENDMENT TO OBJECTIVE 7, RESTATED FOR FRIENDLY SUGGESTIONS:

7. Continue the sidewalk program for Bellaire and construct bicycle routes, where possible, to improve mobility for pedestrians and cyclists.
Councilman Corbett Daniel Parker seconded Councilman Hickman’s amendment to objective 7.

**VOTE ON AMENDMENT TO OBJECTIVE 7:**

The amendment to objective 7 carried unanimously on a 6-0 vote as follows:

**FOR:** Siegel, Cindy  
Hickman, Will  
Avioli, James P., Sr.  
Parker, Corbett Daniel  
Friedberg, Andrew  
Nathan, Mandy

**OPPOSED:** None

**ABSENT:** Nauert, Phil

**DISCUSSION OF SECTION A:**

Councilman Hickman advised that he had received some requests from residents to change speed limits on other than highly traveled thoroughfares. With that in mind, he made an amendment to objective 10 as set forth below.

**AMENDMENT TO OBJECTIVE 10:**

An amendment to objective 10 was made by Councilman Will Hickman and seconded by Councilman James P. Avioli, Sr., to restate objective 10 as follows:

10. Review and consider changes to speed limits on streets throughout Bellaire.

**VOTE ON AMENDMENT TO OBJECTIVE 10:**

The amendment to objective 10 carried unanimously on a 6-0 vote as follows:

**FOR:** Siegel, Cindy  
Hickman, Will  
Avioli, James P., Sr.  
Parker, Corbett Daniel  
Friedberg, Andrew  
Nathan, Mandy
OPPOSED: None

ABSENT: Nauert, Phil

AMENDMENT TO OBJECTIVE 8:

An amendment to objective 8 was made by Councilman Will Hickman and seconded by Councilman James P. Avioli, Sr. to restate objective 8 as follows:

8. Discuss with the cities of Houston, Southside Place, West University Place and the Union Pacific Railroad for the addition of sidewalks across the railroad tracks on the east side of Bellaire.

VOTE ON AMENDMENT TO OBJECTIVE 8:

The amendment to objective 8 carried unanimously on a 6-0 vote as follows:

FOR: Siegel, Cindy
     Hickman, Will
     Avioli, James P., Sr.
     Parker, Corbett Daniel
     Friedberg, Andrew
     Nathan, Mandy

OPPOSED: None

ABSENT: Nauert, Phil

B. PUBLIC INFRASTRUCTURE AND FACILITIES FOCUS AREA:

Goal Statement:

The City Council of the City of Bellaire, Texas, is dedicated to ensuring that the existing public infrastructure and facilities are reviewed, evaluated, and maintained to the highest possible standard for its residents and corporate citizens and that the acquisition of new public infrastructure and facilities, if appropriate, will be considered with the best interests of Bellaire’s residents and corporate citizens in mind.
For purposes of discussion, each of the objectives were numbered as follows:

**Objectives:**

1. Continue to review and prioritize street and drainage projects and facilities projects included in the Rebuild Bellaire Bond Program, as well as the development of a plan for future bond issuances associated with said projects;

2. Develop a plan for the future use of the Evergreen Park Water Plant (after demolition of the water well on that site);

3. Develop a plan for the closure of the Debbie Marshall Recycling Center located on Edith Street, said closure of which will occur prior to December 31, 2010;

4. Partner with the City of Houston regarding possible uses and/or development of the Ruffino Hills property.

**AMENDMENT TO OBJECTIVE 3:**

An amendment to objective 3 was made by Councilman Will Hickman to restate objective 3 as follows:

3. Review and develop a plan to purchase property on the east side of Edith Street and on the south side of Lafayette Street, said property of which would be available for future City use.

Councilman Corbett Daniel Parker seconded the amendment to objective 3.

**DISCUSSION OF AMENDMENT TO OBJECTIVE 3:**

Councilman Hickman indicated that there was some property on the north side of Edith Street east of the Recycling Center that could be purchased to make the footprint of the City’s existing property larger. The whole area could be reviewed; Councilman Hickman merely did not want to limit the City to the purchase of flood-damaged homes on one side of one street.
VOTE ON AMENDMENT TO OBJECTIVE 3:

The **amendment to objective 3 carried unanimously on a 6-0 vote** as follows:

**FOR:** Siegel, Cindy  
Hickman, Will  

**FOR (CONT.):** Avioli, James P., Sr.  
Parker, Corbett Daniel  
Friedberg, Andrew  
Nathan, Mandy  

**OPPOSED:** None  

**ABSENT:** Nauert, Phil

AMENDMENT TO OBJECTIVE 4:

An **amendment to objective 4 was made by Councilman Will Hickman to restate objective 4 as follows:**

4. **Develop a plan for the closure of Edith Street, City of Bellaire pipe yard, and the Debbie Marshall Recycling Center located on Edith Street.**

Councilman Corbett Daniel **Parker seconded the amendment to objective 4.**

**Councilman Hickman** advised that he had met with City Manager Satterwhite the previous week regarding the closure of the Recycling Center and pipe yard. He advised that the City owned approximately three lots. There were private property owners on the north and east sides of the property and a street on the south side. If the Recycling Center were the only facility closed, there would not be much real estate left. The idea with the amendment he recommended was that by the closure of Edith Street, the Recycling Center, and pipe yard, the City would end up with a sizable chunk of land. The uses for that chunk of land could be any number of things, such as a park, a field, or a facility.

**Councilwoman Nathan** indicated that the City might not want to ultimately use the property for parkland, but rather to sell the property and use the proceeds on Bellaire Town Square or the Teas property. As the property currently existed, she was not sure what kind of fields the City would be able to have there.

**Mayor Siegel** stated that she had similar concerns as Councilwoman Nathan. First, the City Council already voted to close the Recycling
Center. She felt that the City Council needed to analyze the possible uses of the property. She indicated that she wanted to hear back from City Staff on the use of the pipe yard.

During Hurricanes Ike and Rita, the property was used to handle trash that people left on the street (i.e., the landfills had closed early). Before committing to selling or using the property in another manner, she wanted to know what City Staff could do in an emergency.

Additionally, there was one home that fronted on Edith Street. Closing the street might cause a problem for that homeowner.

Councilman Hickman advised that his restatement of objective 4 was “to develop a plan for . . . .” It was not to commit to any particular action. The point about the pipe yard was well taken. He indicated that he would like to change his amendment to state “relocation of the City of Bellaire pipe yard.” He was not suggesting eliminating the pipe yard, rather finding another location in the City for that purpose (noting that he would have to defer to the Director of Public Works for that). He agreed with Councilwoman Nathan in that if the City desired to only close the Recycling Center, then it did make sense to sell the property for another type of development.

**AMENDMENT TO OBJECTIVE 4, RESTATED:**

4. Develop a plan for the closure of Edith Street, the closure of the Debbie Marshall Recycling Center located on Edith Street, and the relocation of the City of Bellaire pipe yard.

**VOTE ON AMENDMENT TO OBJECTIVE 4, AS RESTATED ABOVE:**

The amendment to objective 4, as restated, failed on a 2-4 vote as follows:

**FOR:** Hickman, Will
Parker, Corbett Daniel

**OPPOSED:** Siegel, Cindy
Avioli, James P., Sr.
Friedberg, Andrew
Nathan, Mandy

**ABSENT:** Nauert, Phil
ADDICTION OF A NEW OBJECTIVE AFTER OBJECTIVE 4:

An **amendment was made by** Councilwoman Mandy Nathan to **add a new objective after objective 4**, stated as follows:

*Develop a plan for the land formerly comprised of the Debbie Marshall Recycling Center, City of Bellaire pipe yard, and adjacent street.*

Councilman Andrew Friedberg seconded the amendment to add a new objective after objective 4.

**VOTE ON ADDITION OF A NEW OBJECTIVE AFTER OBJECTIVE 4:**

The **amendment to add a new objective after objective 4** **carried unanimously on a 6-0 vote** as follows:

**FOR:** Siegel, Cindy  
Hickman, Will  
Avioli, James P., Sr.  
Parker, Corbett Daniel  
Friedberg, Andrew  
Nathan, Mandy

**OPPOSED:** None

**ABSENT:** Nauert, Phil

**AMENDMENT TO OBJECTIVE 1:**

An **amendment was made by** Councilman James P. Avioli, Sr., **and seconded by** Councilman Will Hickman to **restate objective 1** as follows:

1. **Prioritize street and drainage projects and facilities projects included in the Rebuild Bellaire Bond Program, as well as the development of a plan for future bond issuances associated with said projects.**

**DISCUSSION OF SECTION B:**

**Discussion** ensued among members of City Council and the City Manager regarding the amendment. **Councilman Avioli** indicated that rather than starting the objective with “continue to review,” he would suggest starting with the word “prioritize,” noting that City Council had been reviewing the street and drainage and facilities projects for some time now.
Councilman Parker agreed that City Council needed to continue looking forward. He desired to keep objective 1 as written and add an objective related to maintaining or protecting the City’s asset values.

Councilman Avioli noted that things had changed and he was unsure as to whether the City wanted to continue with the prioritization of projects, as that prioritization currently existed.

Mayor Siegel advised that she did not believe that City Council could change what was presented to the voters without going back to the voters.

Councilman Avioli asked for confirmation that the voters voted on which streets would be reconstructed first.

It was noted by City Manager Satterwhite that the voters did not vote on the order in which the streets would be reconstructed.

Councilman Hickman advised that HDR Engineering, Inc., applied a prioritization every time the City worked on a new phase within the Rebuild Bellaire Program, noting things had changed since 2005.

Councilman Friedberg advised that he liked where Councilman Avioli was going with the language of the objective, but felt that the original language did a better job of stating what he believed Councilman Avioli wanted for the objective. The process was still fluid and changed depending on existing needs each time the City’s engineers developed a new phase for the Rebuild Bellaire Bond Program.

Councilman Avioli withdrew his amendment. Councilman Hickman agreed to withdraw his second of the amendment.

DISCUSSION OF SECTION B:

Councilman Parker felt it was important to specifically point out that there were some current deficiencies that created a risk of harm and a reduction in the quality of life and that the City would take the steps necessary to improve its asset values. To the extent that some language could be developed to make the City Council a little more proactive in maintaining both asset values and quality of life now and going forward would please him.

Mayor Siegel asked if Councilman Parker could provide an example of the language he might like to see as an objective.

Councilman Parker noted that City Council had decided not to be specific. The outcome for him was to explicitly state that City Council would continue to be responsive in addressing current deficiencies. An
example he cited was the water plant. From a fiduciary perspective he wanted to make sure that the City was not saving money now to spend six times that amount three years from now.

In other words, when the City looked at capital improvements, Councilman Parker desired that the City 1) be responsive to current deficiencies, 2) look forward to what was going to need to be replaced at the optimum financial time, and 3) maintain the health, safety, and quality of life going forward.

Councilman Hickman stated that according to the City’s engineers, the City was ahead of depreciation with respect to its street repair and rehabilitation projects. In other words, the City was fixing the streets faster than the streets were falling apart. He did not believe that the City wanted individuals coming to City Council and advising that their street deserved to be rehabilitated first, as this would pit neighbor against neighbor. He liked the process the City had going with streets.

He believed that maintaining the City’s asset values was a worthwhile goal, but he also believed that the City Manager was already working on that.

City Manager Satterwhite referred to Section E, which was the Budget and Finance Focus Area, the second objective, develop a long-term plan for capital improvement projects for the City of Bellaire, and suggested expanding the language in that objective.

He noted that when looking at the capital improvement program in the previous year, the top goal was to continue the bond-funded programs, as those costs could be spread out over time. A second goal was to maintain asset value.

City Manager Satterwhite noted further that the primary purpose of the Rebuild Bellaire Program was to alleviate drainage deficiencies. The City also had a four-five year water/wastewater replacement program.

Mayor Siegel stated that the City also needed to roll in its facilities projects.

City Manager Satterwhite agreed with Mayor Siegel, noting that the City had performed a formal facilities assessment and a formal water/wastewater assessment.

Councilman Parker inquired as to whether the facilities assessment was performed from the perspective of the structural integrity of the facility or from the perspective of the quality of life that the facility brought to the residents. One of his objectives was to allow the
residents a little more input as to what City facilities they would like to see updated. If, in fact, the Library needed to be addressed next because of structural integrity issues, then there was not much to discuss.

Residents had expressed concern that the Library was functioning well, but they wished that City Hall were nicer.

Mayor Siegel referred to a recent bond referendum the City had. The citizens voted on the facilities that would be remodeled, moved, and/or reconstructed as follows: City Hall (remodeled), Library (remodeled), Police (expansion into current Court areas), Municipal Court (moved or reconstructed), Fire Station (reconstructed), and Family Aquatic Center (new construction). Information regarding the facilities was publicized and citizens voted based on that information.

Councilman Parker indicated that he was not advocating changing things. As he spoke with people, there seemed to be a little bit of wiggle room as to when the facilities upgrades would occur. There was a great deal of discussion on the Fire Station. He felt that the City specifically needed to look at the facilities in ways that protected the City’s asset values, guaranteed health and safety, and met the future needs of residents and corporate citizens.

Councilman Friedberg suggested that objective 2 under Section E, Budget and Finance Focus Area, could be moved to Section B. He crafted some draft language as follows: review and develop long-term plans for public infrastructure and facilities and capital improvement projects for the City of Bellaire, consistent with or as approved in the existing bond program. He said he did not quite have the draft language down yet.

Mayor Siegel stated that what she believed was needed was “where the City would go from this point forward.” The City had its plans and the voters approved the bond dollars for those plans. The City might have to delay the bond program because of the tax base. She felt that the City was staying on track with its commitment to the voters.

Discussion ensued among members of City Council regarding facilities upgrades.
ADDITION OF OBJECTIVE TO SECTION B:

An amendment was made by Councilman Andrew Friedberg and seconded by Councilwoman Mandy Nathan to add an objective to Section B as follows:

*Improve public communication, education efforts, and transparency regarding infrastructure and facilities projects and planning.*

AMENDMENT TO THE ADDITION OF OBJECTIVE TO SECTION B:

An amendment to the addition of objective to Section B was made by Councilman Will Hickman and seconded by Councilman Corbett Daniel Parker to move the objective “improve public communication, education efforts, and transparency regarding infrastructure and facilities projects and planning” from Section B to Section D.

DISCUSSION ON AMENDMENT TO THE ADDITION OF OBJECTIVE TO SECTION B:

Councilman Parker stated that the City was doing the right thing when it came to the actual underlying plan to address infrastructure, but the communication of the City’s plan needed improvement. There was certainly a gap between how well the City’s plan was put together and what the residents knew about the plan.

Councilman Friedberg advised that the City would need to remove the language “regarding infrastructure and facilities projects and planning” if the objective were moved to Section D. The intention behind his amendment was to place the objective under Section B because it dealt specifically with facilities and infrastructure.

Councilman Avioli stated that he believed the objective belonged in Section B as well, noting that the objective specifically addressed infrastructure and facilities.

VOTE ON AMENDMENT TO THE ADDITION OF OBJECTIVE TO SECTION B (BY MOVING THE OBJECTIVE TO SECTION D):

The amendment to the addition of objective to Section B (by moving the objective to Section D) failed on a 2-4 vote as follows:

FOR: Hickman, Will
     Parker, Corbett Daniel
VOTE ON THE ADDITION OF OBJECTIVE TO SECTION B:

The addition of objective to Section B carried unanimously on a 6-0 vote as follows:

FOR:  
Siegel, Cindy  
Hickman, Will  
Avioli, James P., Sr.  
Parker, Corbett Daniel  
Friedberg, Andrew  
Nathan, Mandy

OPPOSED:  None

ABSENT:  Nauert, Phil

AMENDMENT TO OBJECTIVE 4:

An amendment to objective 4 was made by Councilwoman Mandy Nathan and seconded by Councilman James P. Avioli, Sr., to restate objective 4 as follows:

4. Investigate the possible disposition of or uses of the Ruffino Hills Property.

VOTE ON AMENDMENT TO OBJECTIVE 4:

The amendment to objective 4 carried unanimously on a 6-0 vote as follows:

FOR:  
Siegel, Cindy  
Hickman, Will  
Avioli, James P., Sr.  
Parker, Corbett Daniel  
Friedberg, Andrew  
Nathan, Mandy

OPPOSED:  None

ABSENT:  Nauert, Phil
**ADDITION OF OBJECTIVE TO SECTION B:**

An amendment was made by Councilwoman Mandy Nathan to add an objective to Section B as follows:

*Analyze possible means of reducing the negative impacts of the Wastewater Treatment Plant on the surrounding neighborhood.*

Councilman Will Hickman seconded the amendment to add an objective to Section B.

**DISCUSSION OF ADDITION OF OBJECTIVE TO SECTION B:**

Councilman Avioli agreed that Councilman Nathan’s suggestion was a good one, but inquired of City Manager Satterwhite as to whether the City was already addressing that impact to the surrounding neighborhood.

City Manager Satterwhite stated that it was arguable as to whether the neighborhood felt that the negative impacts had been addressed.

Councilwoman Nathan advised that she did not know exactly what could be done or what the cost would be, but given the fact that the City might want people to come to that area for a park or a field, she felt the City should investigate other possible means of reducing those negative impacts.

City Manager Satterwhite indicated that the City had taken steps in the past to reduce the odor and the City would continue to take steps to do so.

Mayor Siegel stated that she agreed with the objective, noting that she believed it was a quality of life issue as well.

**VOTE ON ADDITION OF OBJECTIVE TO SECTION B:**

The amendment to add an objective to Section B carried unanimously on a 6-0 vote as follows:

**FOR:** Siegel, Cindy
              Hickman, Will
              Avioli, James P., Sr.
              Parker, Corbett Daniel
              Friedberg, Andrew
              Nathan, Mandy

**OPPOSED:** None
ABSENT: Nauert, Phil

DISCUSSION OF SECTION B:

Councilman Hickman stated that he would like to see an objective related to options for sourcing water to the City of Bellaire, as well as the costs associated with those options. He referred to the steady rate increases that the City had seen from the City of Houston for surface water. He noted that there might be other options for the City to get a supply of water, whether those options included additional pumpage or an alternate source for surface water.

Mayor Siegel indicated that she believed the City could get water from the bayou.

City Manager Satterwhite indicated that Bellaire had a permit. He was not sure whether or not the City could put the source into practice.

AMENDMENT TO ADD OBJECTIVE TO SECTION B:

An amendment was made by Councilman Will Hickman to add an objective to Section B as follows:

Investigate options for water sources and costs for the City of Bellaire.

Councilman Corbett Daniel Parker seconded the amendment to add an objective to Section B.

VOTE ON AMENDMENT TO ADD OBJECTIVE TO SECTION B:

The amendment to add objective to Section B carried unanimously on a 6-0 vote as follows:

FOR: Siegel, Cindy
Hickman, Will
Avioli, James P., Sr.
Parker, Corbett Daniel
Friedberg, Andrew
Nathan, Mandy

OPPOSED: None

ABSENT: Nauert, Phil
C. CULTURAL AND RECREATIONAL FOCUS AREA:

Goal Statement:

The City Council of the City of Bellaire, Texas, will take a proactive role in the long-term development of cultural and recreational areas to ensure that Bellaire is the most desirable city in Harris County.

For purposes of discussion, each of the objectives were numbered as follows:

Objectives:

1. Develop a long-term plan for the use of the Teas property located on Bellaire Boulevard and ensure the preservation of the historical home located on that property;

2. Implement a plan to redevelop the portion of Paseo Park located at the intersection of South Rice Avenue and Bellaire Boulevard;

3. Develop and implement a plan and style concept for way-finding signage leading to and surrounding Bellaire Town Square, as well as entrance markers into Bellaire;

4. Develop a project to repair the fences located in the rear of Loftin Park in Bellaire Town Square; and

5. Develop a long-term program geared toward improving the image and branding of Bellaire, as well as residential and commercial design standards.

AMENDMENT TO GOAL STATEMENT UNDER SECTION C:

An amendment was made by Councilman Corbett Daniel Parker to restate the goal statement under Section C as follows:

The City Council of the City of Bellaire, Texas, will take a proactive role in the long-term development of cultural and recreational areas to ensure that Bellaire is the most desirable city.

Mayor Cindy Siegel seconded the amendment to the goal statement under Section C.
VOTE ON AMENDMENT TO GOAL STATEMENT UNDER SECTION C:

The amendment to goal statement under Section C carried unanimously on a 6-0 vote as follows:

FOR: Siegel, Cindy
     Hickman, Will
     Avioli, James P., Sr.
     Parker, Corbett Daniel
     Friedberg, Andrew
     Nathan, Mandy

OPPOSED: None

ABSENT: Nauert, Phil

DISCUSSION OF SECTION C:

Councilman Parker indicated that he was interested in amending objective 1 under Section C to include language that the City would discuss with the Rubenstein family their plans for the use of the Teas property located on Bellaire Boulevard to ensure the preservation of the historical home located on that property.

AMENDMENT TO OBJECTIVE 1 UNDER SECTION C:

An amendment to objective 1 under Section C was made by Mayor Cindy Siegel and seconded by Councilman Will Hickman to restate objective 1 as follows:

1. Develop a long-term plan for the use of the Teas property and historical houses located on Bellaire Boulevard that meet the desires of the Grantor and the Bellaire community.

AMENDMENT TO THE AMENDMENT TO OBJECTIVE 1:

An amendment to the amendment to objective 1 under Section C was made by Councilman Will Hickman and seconded by Councilman James P. Avioli, Sr., to delete objective 1 in its entirety.

DISCUSSION ON AMENDMENT TO THE AMENDMENT TO OBJECTIVE 1:

Councilman Hickman advised that the City did not have the Teas property yet. There had been an intent, which the City was certainly
very excited about, however, he felt that the City should wait until it was given the property before developing an objective related to it.

**Councilman Friedberg** stated that he was inclined to leave the objective under Section C. If the City ended up not getting the property, then the objective would go away automatically. It was only a stated intent at this time, but to the extent that the property was given to the City in a way that the objective could be applied, he would like to keep it in as a statement of policy from City Council.

**Councilwoman Nathan** agreed with Councilman Friedberg and indicated that City Council could insert a statement at the beginning of the objective, such as “dialog with the Rubenstein Family regarding possible acquisition of the Teas property by the City and, if successful, . . . . Given the point where the City was with respect to the property, she was comfortable in leaving the objective under Section C.

**VOTE ON AMENDMENT TO THE AMENDMENT TO OBJECTIVE 1:**

The **amendment to amendment to objective 1 (eliminate objective 1 in its entirety)** failed on a 1-5 vote as follows:

**FOR:** Hickman, Will

**OPPOSED:** Siegel, Cindy
          Avioli, James P., Sr.
          Parker, Corbett Daniel
          Friedberg, Andrew
          Nathan, Mandy

**ABSENT:** Nauert, Phil

**AMENDMENT (NO. 2) TO AMENDMENT TO OBJECTIVE 1:**

An **amendment (no. 2) to the amendment to objective 1** was made by Councilman Will Hickman to strike the phrase “and historical homes,” thereby restating objective 1 as follows:

1. *Develop a long-term plan for the use of the Teas property located on Bellaire Boulevard that meet the desires of the Grantor and the Bellaire community.*

Amendment (No. 2) to amendment to objective 1 failed due to the lack of a second.
VOTE ON AMENDMENT TO OBJECTIVE 1:

The amendment to objective 1 carried on a 5-1 vote as follows:

FOR:  
Siegel, Cindy  
Avioli, James P., Sr.  
Parker, Corbett Daniel  
Friedberg, Andrew  
Nathan, Mandy

OPPOSED:  Hickman, Will

ABSENT:  Nauert, Phil

AMENDMENT TO OBJECTIVE 5:

An amendment to objective 5 was made by Councilman Corbett Daniel Parker to restate objective 5 as follows:

5. Develop a program geared toward improving the premium image and branding of Bellaire, as well as residential and commercial design standards.

Councilman James P. Avioli, Sr., seconded the amendment to objective 5.

A friendly amendment to the amendment to objective 5 was made by Councilman Andrew Friedberg to remove the words “residential and” and substitute the word “including” for the phrase “as well as,” thereby restating objective 5 as follows:

5. Develop a program geared toward improving the premium image and branding of Bellaire, including commercial design standards.

Councilmen Parker and Avioli accepted the friendly amendment made by Councilman Friedberg.

VOTE ON AMENDMENT TO OBJECTIVE 5:

The amendment to objective 5 carried unanimously on a 6-0 vote as follows:

FOR:  
Siegel, Cindy  
Hickman, Will  
Avioli, James P., Sr.  
Parker, Corbett Daniel  
Friedberg, Andrew
FOR (CONT.): Nathan, Mandy

OPPOSED: None

ABSENT: Nauert, Phil

AMENDMENT (NO. 2) TO GOAL STATEMENT:

An amendment (no. 2) to the goal statement C was made by Councilman Andrew Friedberg to restate the goal statement as follows:

The City Council of the City of Bellaire, Texas, will take a proactive role in the long-term development of cultural and recreational areas and implementation of community character enhancements to ensure that Bellaire is the most desirable city.

Councilman Will Hickman seconded the amendment (no. 2) to the goal statement under Section C.

VOTE ON AMENDMENT (NO. 2) TO GOAL STATEMENT UNDER SECTION C:

The amendment (no. 2) to the goal statement under Section C carried unanimously on a 6-0 vote as follows:

FOR: Siegel, Cindy
     Hickman, Will
     Avioli, James P., Sr.
     Parker, Corbett Daniel
     Friedberg, Andrew
     Nathan, Mandy

OPPOSED: None

ABSENT: Nauert, Phil

AMENDMENT TO OBJECTIVE 4:

An amendment was made by Councilwoman Mandy Nathan to substitute the following language in lieu of objective 4:

4. Continue development of Bellaire Town Square.

Councilman Corbett Daniel Parker seconded the amendment to objective 4.
DISCUSSION OF AMENDMENT TO OBJECTIVE 4:

Councilman Hickman advised that he liked the existing language for objective 4, but would like to add the language suggested by Councilwoman Nathan as a separate objective under Section C.

City Manager Satterwhite indicated that the fences did not belong to the City of Bellaire. The City could put up its own fence in front of the residences fences along Loftin Park. He felt that constructing a fence along the rear of the property should be a part of the Bellaire Town Square plan.

AMENDMENT TO THE AMENDMENT TO OBJECTIVE 4:

An amendment was made by Councilman Will Hickman to retain the existing language for objective 4 and add a new objective as follows:

Continue development of Bellaire Town Square.

The amendment to the amendment to objective 4 failed due to lack of a second.

VOTE ON AMENDMENT TO OBJECTIVE 4:

The amendment to objective 4 carried on a 5-1 vote as follows:

FOR: Siegel, Cindy
     Avioli, James P., Sr.
     Parker, Corbett Daniel
     Friedberg, Andrew
     Nathan, Mandy

OPPOSED: Hickman, Will

ABSENT: Nauert, Phil

DISCUSSION OF SECTION C:

Councilwoman Nathan advised that objective 3 seemed to relate more to Bellaire Town Square than to the entrances to the City.

Mayor Siegel advised that this was not one of her objectives, but believed that objective related to a project that was presented to the City by some art students depicting unique signage throughout all of Bellaire, as well as entrance markers. Since Bellaire Town Square consisted of the City facilities and the park, most of the project focused on Bellaire Town Square.
Councilwoman Nathan inquired as to whether those items were part of City Council’s plans for the next two years.

Mayor Siegel stated that she did not know if it would be accomplished in the next two years, but felt that it fit into branding and identifying Bellaire.

**AMENDMENT TO ADD A NEW OBJECTIVE UNDER SECTION C:**

An amendment to add a new objective under Section C was made by Councilman James P. Avioli, Sr., said objective to be stated as follows:

*Continue to implement artistic improvements throughout the City.*

The amendment to add a new objective under Section C was seconded by Councilman Corbett Daniel Parker.

**DISCUSSION REGARDING AMENDMENT TO ADD A NEW OBJECTIVE UNDER C:**

Councilman Avioli indicated that he believed that anything City Council could do to continue to improve the City, whether through art or modification of some of the City’s facilities, would be a step in the right direction and should be one of City Council’s goals.

Mayor Siegel asked if Councilman Avioli would accept a friendly amendment to include the phrase “and beautification improvements.”

Councilman Hickman suggested the word “aesthetic” in lieu of the word “artistic.”

Councilmen Avioli and Parker accepted the friendly amendment from Councilman Hickman to substitute the word “aesthetic” for the word “artistic.”

**VOTE ON AMENDMENT TO ADD A NEW OBJECTIVE UNDER SECTION C:**

[New objective to read: Continue to implement aesthetic improvements throughout the City.]

The amendment to add a new objective under Section C carried unanimously on a 6-0 vote as follows:

FOR: Siegel, Cindy
DISCUSSION OF SECTION C:

Councilman Parker advised that in addition to the aesthetics and commercial design standards, he had mentioned an affinity for being proactive in looking at the City as being open to everyone. He wished to have a specific objective wherein City Council would address the racial tensions. He indicated that he would like to offer the topic for discussion.

AMENDMENT TO ADD A NEW OBJECTIVE UNDER SECTION C:

An amendment to add a new objective under Section C was made by Councilman Corbett Daniel Parker, said objective to be stated as follows:

*Develop a program geared toward improving the premium image and branding of Bellaire as a great place to live for all individuals.*

Councilman Parker indicated that from a diversity perspective, everyone felt that Bellaire was a place they wanted to live and do business in. Clearly there had been some tensions lately that did not address that objective, and he would like to specifically address that.

Councilman James P. Avioli, Sr., seconded the amendment to add a new objective under Section C.

DISCUSSION ON AMENDMENT TO ADD A NEW OBJECTIVE UNDER SECTION C:

Councilman Avioli advised that he thought Councilman Parker’s idea was good, but he was struggling as to how it could be put into words.

Councilman Friedberg asked if Councilman Parker was trying to make the statement that Bellaire was a community that was welcome to all.

Councilman Parker indicated that Bellaire was not only a community that was welcome to all, but a community that was proactive in
integrating, assimilating, and bridging all communities. He felt, personally, that Bellaire was a great place to live.

Councilman Friedberg stated that he appreciated the intent, but was concerned that City Council was trying to put something together on the fly rather than thinking through the wording for the objective.

Councilman Parker indicated that City Council simply needed to address the perception of racial profiling and other ideas that Bellaire was closed off to certain groups. City Council needed to specifically take steps to make Bellaire even more open, such that a diversity of people and groups wanted to live and do business in Bellaire.

Councilman Friedberg reiterated that he did not disagree with Councilman Parker’s intent, but the complexity of the situation might call for drafting in a more deliberate process rather than coming up with something this evening. He felt that the current meeting was not the forum to come up with the language.

Councilman Parker indicated that he was not suggesting that City Council come up with a plan this evening, but consider adopting an objective that stated definitively as a Council that City Council realized the concerns were out there and that City Council would proactively do something about the concerns.

Councilman Hickman suggested tabling Councilman Parker’s proposed objective until the conclusion of the civil lawsuit.

**MOTION TO TABLE CONSIDERATION OF AMENDMENT TO ADD A NEW OBJECTIVE TO SECTION C:**

A motion was made by Councilman Will Hickman to table consideration of the amendment to add a new objective to Section C as follows: Develop a program geared toward improving the premium image and branding of Bellaire as a great place to live for all individuals, until the conclusion of a civil lawsuit involving the City of Bellaire.

Mayor Cindy Siegel seconded the motion to table consideration of an amendment to add a new objective to Section C.

**DISCUSSION ON MOTION TO TABLE CONSIDERATION OF AMENDMENT TO ADD A NEW OBJECTIVE TO SECTION C:**

Councilman Hickman advised that any kind of program that City Council came up with would be relevant for a pending civil lawsuit against the City. Each member of City Council could agree that they wanted to work with everyone in the community and to identify
problems and perceptions, but he did not believe this was the time to do so.

Mayor Siegel advised that she understood where Councilman Parker was coming from. She felt that Bellaire was a great place to live and the City was open to people moving in and enjoying the quality of life regardless of ethnic, political, or cultural diversity. She agreed with tabling any specific program until the City saw the outcome of the pending civil lawsuit.

Councilman Parker stated that he hoped the civil lawsuit would be over in the next two years. He was not advocating that the City immediately jump in front of anything that would place any liability on the City. He agreed that Bellaire was not a community that was closed off, but it was a community that was perceived as being closed off. He merely wished that City Council could make a statement that it would be proactive in dealing with the perception of Bellaire.

Councilman Friedberg indicated that he was going to support Councilman Hickman’s motion to table the consideration of an amendment to add a new objective to Section C. He made a good point that even if the City did not develop a program for awhile, merely setting forth an objective to adopt a program might or might not become relevant in civil litigation. He felt that it was better for the City not to go there at this time.

Councilman Avioli commented that all of the points made this evening were well taken. He asked if a very general statement, such as “develop a program where everyone feels welcome to the City of Bellaire,” would be acceptable.

Councilwoman Nathan stated that she agreed with the sentiments expressed by Councilmen Hickman and Friedberg. She advised that she would be more comfortable having the time to sit down and think about the language for the objective.

Councilman Friedberg indicated that he agreed with Councilman Parker in the long run, but felt that Councilman Hickman made a very prudent point as to where the City was with the litigation.

Councilman Parker noted that he completely agreed from a standpoint of putting together a concrete plan that would potentially open the City to liability. He was adamantly against the idea that City Council could not have something that would definitively address the black eye that those outside of the community had of Bellaire. The fact was that the perception was there and affected Bellaire economically and culturally.
VOTE ON MOTION TO TABLE CONSIDERATION OF AMENDMENT TO ADD A NEW OBJECTIVE TO SECTION C:

Motion to table consideration of amendment to add a new objective to Section C carried on a 4-2 vote as follows:

FOR:  
Siegel, Cindy  
Hickman, Will  
Friedberg, Andrew  
Nathan, Mandy

OPPOSED:  
Avioli, James P., Sr.  
Parker, Corbett Daniel

ABSENT:  
Nauert, Phil

From a procedural perspective, Councilman Parker asked if the objective could be reconsidered after the civil litigation ended.

Mayor Siegel advised that Councilman Parker was correct.

D. COMMUNICATIONS AND TECHNOLOGY FOCUS AREA:

Goal Statement:

The City Council of the City of Bellaire, Texas will actively seek to implement programs and policies to improve communications with its residents and commercial businesses, as well as to embrace new technological tools for enhancing communication.

For purposes of discussion, each of the objectives were numbered as follows:

Objectives:

1. Develop a program to utilize existing and future technologies, such as social media networks and video streaming of City Council and board meetings, to enhance communications with residents and commercial businesses;
2. Develop a plan to enhance the City’s presence on cable television, such as additional, multiple broadcasts of City Council and board meetings; and

3. Partner with corporate citizens and media outlets to develop proactive programs, as well as to promote the City.

DISCUSSION OF SECTION D:

Councilman Friedberg noted that the phrase “commercial businesses” was used in the goal statement and in objective one, which seemed redundant. Additionally, the remainder of the document referred to the City’s commercial citizens as its “corporate citizens.” He proposed replacing both phrases “commercial businesses” with the phrase “corporate citizens.”

AMENDMENT TO GOAL STATEMENT AND OBJECTIVE 1:

An amendment was made by Councilman Andrew Friedberg and seconded by Councilman Corbett Daniel Parker to replace the phrase “commercial businesses” in the goal statement and in objective 1 to “corporate citizens,” thereby restating both as follows:

**Goal Statement:**

*The City Council of the City of Bellaire, Texas will actively seek to implement programs and policies to improve communications with its residents and corporate citizens, as well as to embrace new technological tools for enhancing communication.*

**Objectives:**

1. *Develop a program to utilize existing and future technologies, such as social media networks and video streaming of City Council and board meetings, to enhance communications with residents and corporate citizens.*

VOTE ON AMENDMENT TO GOAL STATEMENT AND OBJECTIVE 1:

The amendment to goal statement and objective 1 carried unanimously on a 6-0 vote as follows:

FOR: Siegel, Cindy
FOR (CONT.): Hickman, Will  
Avioli, James P., Sr.  
Parker, Corbett Daniel  
Friedberg, Andrew  
Nathan, Mandy

OPPOSED: None

ABSENT: Nauert, Phil

AMENDMENT TO OBJECTIVE 2:

An amendment was made by Councilman Andrew Friedberg and seconded by Councilwoman Mandy Nathan to restate objective 2 as follows:

2. Develop a plan to enhance the City’s presence on television, such as additional, multiple broadcasts of City Council and board meetings, and expand that presence to additional television providers, including satellite and IP delivery systems.

DISCUSSION OF AMENDMENT TO OBJECTIVE 2:

Councilman Friedberg indicated that he made the amendment because an increasing number of residents were not receiving their television by cable delivery and a number had mentioned to him that they would like to see meetings on other providers or dish networks.

Councilman Hickman made a friendly amendment to restate objective 2 as follows:

2. Develop a plan to enhance the City’s presence on the Internet and television, such as additional, multiple broadcasts of City Council and board meetings, and expand that presence to additional television providers.

Councilman Friedberg and Councilwoman Nathan accepted the friendly amendment.

DISCUSSION ON AMENDMENT TO OBJECTIVE 2:

Councilman Avioli inquired as to whether the City Council should be concerned about the budgetary implications of going through the process at this point. He stated he liked the idea, but felt sure there would be a large expenditure involved with this plan.
Mayor Siegel noted that due to the late hour, City Council would probably not be able to work on a prioritization of the goals and objectives this evening. She suggested that City Council continue the process started this evening and let City Staff take a look at it. Another Special Session would need to be set so City Council could work on prioritization. Any plan would obviously have to take the budgetary impacts into account.

Councilwoman Nathan made a friendly amendment and suggested that rather than using the phrase “develop a plan,” City Council might want to consider the following language for objective 2:

2. Investigate strategies and costs associated with developing a plan to enhance the City’s presence on the Internet and television, such as additional, multiple broadcasts of City Council and board meetings, and expand that presence to additional television providers.

Councilman Friedberg accepted the friendly amendment.

Councilman Parker indicated that he wanted to state for the record that he wanted to ensure that the City looked into this objective on a timely basis and in the most cost-effective manner as possible.

City Manager Satterwhite advised that he felt that there would be a significant expenditure to hire the expertise necessary to find out the cost of implementing this particular plan. He noted that there was a cost to doing business involved with almost all of the objectives.

Mayor Siegel noted that City Council would be determining priorities at a later date. Until City Council concluded with this process, the full impacts would not be known.

City Manager Satterwhite advised that he also thought it was important for City Council to determine who was responsible for fleshing some of the objectives out. For example, with some of the objectives, it was obvious that City Council would take the lead. Other objectives would require City Staff to take the lead.

Mayor Siegel agreed that City Council needed to have a discussion regarding responsibilities after prioritizing the objectives.

Councilman Hickman noted that during Hurricane Ike, his Internet and television were inaccessible, however, the radio was accessible. He suggested that City Council include radio on its list for expanding the City’s presence. Councilman Hickman’s suggestion was a friendly amendment, which restated objective 2 as follows:
2. **Investigate strategies and costs associated with developing a plan to enhance the City’s presence on the Internet, radio, and television, such as additional, multiple broadcasts of City Council and board meetings, and expand that presence to additional television providers.**

Councilman Friedberg and Councilwoman Nathan accepted the friendly amendment.

**VOTE ON AMENDMENT TO OBJECTIVE 2:**

The amendment to objective 2 to Section D carried unanimously on a 6-0 vote as follows:

**FOR:** Siegel, Cindy  
Hickman, Will  
Avioli, James P., Sr.  
Parker, Corbett Daniel  
Friedberg, Andrew  
Nathan, Mandy

**OPPOSED:** None

**ABSENT:** Nauert, Phil

**AMENDMENT TO OBJECTIVE 1:**

An amendment to objective 1 was made by Councilwoman Mandy Nathan and seconded by Councilman Andrew Friedberg to restate objective 1 as follows:

1. **Investigate strategies and costs associated with utilizing existing and future technologies to enhance communications with residents and corporate citizens.**

**VOTE ON AMENDMENT TO OBJECTIVE 1:**

The amendment to objective 1 carried unanimously on a 6-0 vote as follows:

**FOR:** Siegel, Cindy  
Hickman, Will  
Avioli, James P., Sr.  
Parker, Corbett Daniel  
Friedberg, Andrew  
Nathan, Mandy
AMENDMENT TO OBJECTIVE 3:

An amendment to objective 3 was made by Councilman Will Hickman and seconded by Councilwoman Mandy Nathan to restate objective 3 as follows:

3. Partner with corporate citizens and media outlets to develop proactive programs in order to promote the City.

VOTE ON AMENDMENT TO OBJECTIVE 3:

The amendment to objective 3 to Section D carried unanimously on a 6-0 vote as follows:

FOR: Siegel, Cindy
     Hickman, Will
     Avioli, James P., Sr.
     Parker, Corbett Daniel
     Friedberg, Andrew
     Nathan, Mandy

OPPOSED: None

ABSENT: Nauert, Phil

AMENDMENT TO ADD AN OBJECTIVE TO SECTION D:

An amendment was made by Councilman Corbett Daniel Parker and seconded by Councilman Will Hickman to add a new objective to Section D as follows:

Develop a social media policy for the City of Bellaire.

DISCUSSION ON AMENDMENT TO ADD AN OBJECTIVE TO SECTION D:

Councilman Friedberg asked for an explanation of the objective.

Councilman Parker indicated that he felt as if the City and City Council had been left open to liability from the Texas Public Information Act (open records requests). He had no idea what communications on social media he needed to turn in under the Act. Having looked into it with the City Attorney, it was clear social media
networks fell into a gray area. The Texas Attorney General had not specifically opined in this area. He suggested that the development of policies and procedures regarding social media networks would protect the City from liability.

Another area to consider was how proactive Bellaire was going to be as a City on Twitter or Facebook, for example. If the City had the money, Councilman Parker would strongly recommend a Communications Director. In many other cities, a Communications Director was a staff position.

Councilman Friedberg suggested a friendly amendment to indicate that the City wished to develop its policy in the context of legal advice on legal issues as follows:

*Work with the City Attorney to develop a social media policy for the City of Bellaire.*

Councilman Parker and Councilman Hickman accepted the friendly amendment.

**VOTE ON AMENDMENT TO ADD AN OBJECTIVE TO SECTION D:**

The amendment to add an objective to Section D carried unanimously **on a 6-0 vote** as follows:

**FOR:** Siegel, Cindy  
Hickman, Will  
Avioli, James P., Sr.  
Parker, Corbett Daniel  
Friedberg, Andrew  
Nathan, Mandy

**OPPOSED:** None

**ABSENT:** Nauert, Phil
E. BUDGET AND FINANCE FOCUS AREA:

Goal Statement:

The City Council of the City of Bellaire, Texas, is dedicated to ensuring the continued development of sound fiscal policies and effective budget oversight.

For purposes of discussion, the objectives were numbered as follows:

Objectives:

1. Develop a plan to preserve the financial condition of the City of Bellaire;

2. Develop a long-term plan for capital improvement projects for the City of Bellaire; and

3. Develop and implement a carefully thought out, conservative, optimized budget for the upcoming fiscal year (fiscal year 2011).

AMENDMENT TO OBJECTIVE 2:

An amendment to objective 2 was made by Councilman Corbett Daniel Parker and Councilman Will Hickman and seconded by Councilman Andrew Friedberg to restate objective 2 as follows:

2. Develop a plan for maintenance of existing facilities and for capital improvement projects for the City of Bellaire that maintains asset values, ensures health, safety, and welfare, and meets the future needs of the City.

VOTE ON AMENDMENT TO OBJECTIVE 2:

The amendment to objective 2 carried unanimously on a 6-0 vote as follows:

FOR: Siegel, Cindy
Hickman, Will
Avioli, James P., Sr.
Parker, Corbett Daniel
Friedberg, Andrew
Nathan, Mandy

OPPOSED: None

ABSENT: Nauert, Phil
AMENDMENT TO OBJECTIVE 3:

An amendment to objective 3 was made by Councilman Corbett Daniel Parker and Councilman Andrew Friedberg and seconded by Councilwoman Mandy Nathan to restate objective 3 as follows:

3. Develop and implement a conservative, optimized, and fiscally responsible budget for the upcoming fiscal year (fiscal year 2011).

VOTE ON AMENDMENT TO OBJECTIVE 3:

The amendment to objective 3 carried unanimously on a 6-0 vote as follows:

FOR: Siegel, Cindy 
Hickman, Will 
Avioli, James P., Sr. 
Parker, Corbett Daniel 
Friedberg, Andrew 
Nathan, Mandy

OPPOSED: None

ABSENT: Nauert, Phil

AMENDMENT TO OBJECTIVE 1:

An amendment to objective 1 was made by Councilwoman Mandy Nathan and seconded by Councilman Corbett Daniel Parker to restate objective 1 as follows:

1. Conduct the business of the City of Bellaire with the goal of preserving the sound financial condition of the City.

Councilman Hickman made a friendly amendment to restate objective 1 as follows:

1. Preserve the sound financial condition of the City of Bellaire.

Councilwoman Nathan and Councilman Parker accepted the friendly amendment.
VOTE ON AMENDMENT TO OBJECTIVE 1:

The amendment to objective 1 to Section E carried unanimously on a 6-0 vote as follows:

FOR: Siegel, Cindy
     Hickman, Will
     Avioli, James P., Sr.
     Parker, Corbett Daniel
     Friedberg, Andrew
     Nathan, Mandy

OPPOSED: None

ABSENT: Nauert, Phil

Mayor Siegel suggested that City Council hold another Special Session to discuss priorities and implementation.

Councilman Friedberg suggested adding a provision for the public to address the draft goals and objectives on City Council’s Special Session.

Mayor Siegel asked that the final version of the goals and objectives be placed on the website.

III. ADJOURNMENT.

MOTION TO ADJOURN:

A motion was made by Councilman Will Hickman and seconded by Councilman James P. Avioli, Sr., to adjourn the Special Session of the City Council of the City of Bellaire, Texas, at 9:41 p.m. on Monday, April 12, 2010.

VOTE ON MOTION TO ADJOURN:

Motion carried unanimously on a 6-0 vote as follows:

FOR: Siegel, Cindy
     Hickman, Will
     Avioli, James P., Sr.
     Parker, Corbett Daniel
     Friedberg, Andrew
     Nathan, Mandy

OPPOSED: None
ABSENT:  Nauert, Phil

Respectfully submitted,

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

Approved:

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Cynthia Siegel, Mayor
City of Bellaire, Texas