CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
MONDAY, AUGUST 9, 2010

The City Council of the City of Bellaire, Texas, met in Special Session on Monday, August 9, 2010, in the Council Chamber, First Floor of City Hall, 7008 South Rice Avenue, Bellaire, Texas 77401, for the following purpose(s):

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

Mayor Siegel called the City Council of the City of Bellaire, Texas, to order at 7:01 p.m. on Monday, August 9, 2010.

Also present were Mayor Pro Tem Phil Nauert, Councilmen Will Hickman, James P. Avioli, Sr., Corbett Daniel Parker, and Andrew Friedberg, Councilwoman Mandy Nathan, City Manager Bernard M. Satterwhite, Jr., and City Clerk Tracy L. Dutton.

B. 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 City Clerk Tracy L. Dutton on behalf of Mayor Cindy Siegel.

Councilman Hickman moved to adopt the draft City Council Goals and Objectives for the Period 2010-2011 as such appeared in the City Council Agenda Packet dated August 9, 2010. Councilman Parker seconded the motion.

Mayor Siegel suggested that City Council consider additions, deletions, and/or modifications to the Goals and Objectives of the City Council of the City of Bellaire, Texas, for the period 2010-2011 on a page-by-page basis. After noting no objections, City Council considered each page of the document. The document consisted of six focus areas, each focus area of which contained a goal statement and objectives.

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.
Mayor Pro Tem Nauert suggested some grammatical/cosmetic changes as follows: strike the word “of” from the third objective and strike the phrase “the cities of” from the seventh objective. The results of the grammatical/cosmetic changes to the objectives have been restated below.

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

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.

There were no objections from City Council to the grammatical/cosmetic changes suggested by Mayor Pro Tem Nauert.

Councilman Avioli suggested a cosmetic change to reword the fourth objective as follows: Discuss traffic congestion issues and the resulting demand on Bellaire’s emergency services personnel at the intersection of Interstate Highway 610 (northbound) and Highway 59 with the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT).

There were no objections from City Council to the cosmetic change suggested by Councilman Avioli.

Councilman Avioli suggested another cosmetic change to reword the fifth objective as follows: Review and determine the continued need for existing bus stations serving Bellaire, including consideration of combining bus stations with future light rail service, and discuss with the Metropolitan Transit Authority of Harris County, Texas (METRO).

There were no objections from City Council to the cosmetic change suggested by Councilman Avioli.

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 utilities are reviewed, evaluated, and maintained to the highest possible standards 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.

Councilman Parker moved to amend the fourth objective by changing the word “develop” to “implement,” said objective of which would read as follows: Develop Implement 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. Mayor Pro Tem Nauert seconded the amendment.

Councilman Hickman made a friendly amendment to change the phrase “of which will” to the word “to,” said objective of which would read as follows: Develop Implement a plan for the closure of the Debbie Marshall Recycling Center located on Edith Street, said closure of which will to occur prior to December 31, 2010. Councilman Parker and Mayor Pro Tem Nauert accepted the friendly amendment.

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

FOR: Mayor Siegel, Mayor Pro Tem Nauert, Councilmen Hickman, Avioli, Parker, and Friedberg, and Councilwoman Nathan

OPPOSED: None

ABSENT: None

Councilman Hickman suggested a cosmetic changes to objective number three to strike the phrase “said property of which” and substitute the phrase “where said property” said objective to read as follows: Review and develop a plan to purchase property on the south side of Lafayette Street, said property of which where said property would be available for future City use.

There were no objections from City Council to the cosmetic change suggested by Councilman Hickman.

Councilman Hickman also suggested a cosmetic change to objective number five to strike the word “and” at the end of the objective, as follows: Develop a plan for the land formerly comprised of the Debbie Marshall Recycling Center, City of Bellaire pipe yard, and adjacent street; and.

There were no objections from City Council to the cosmetic change suggested by Councilman Hickman.

Councilwoman Nathan moved to amend the third objective by striking the phrase “review and develop a plan to purchase” and substituting the phrase “consider options for purchasing property,” said objective to read as follows: Review and develop a plan to purchase property Consider option for purchasing property on the north side of Edith Street and on the south side of Lafayette Street, where said property would be available for future City use. Councilman Parker seconded the amendment. The amendment carried unanimously on a 7-0 vote as follows:
FOR: Mayor Siegel, Mayor Pro Tem Nauert, Councilmen Hickman, Avioli, Parker, and Friedberg, and Councilwoman Nathan

OPPOSED: None

ABSENT: None

Councilman Hickman made an amendment to add a tenth objective to the Public Infrastructure and Facilities Focus Area to read as follows:
Consider options for purchasing additional land for parks and green space. Councilman Parker seconded the amendment. The amendment carried unanimously on a 7-0 vote as follows:

FOR: Mayor Siegel, Mayor Pro Tem Nauert, Councilmen Hickman, Avioli, Parker, and Friedberg, and Councilwoman Nathan

OPPOSED: None

ABSENT: None

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 and implementation of community character enhancements to ensure that Bellaire is the most desirable city.

Mayor Pro Tem Phil Nauert moved to amend the goal statement to add the phrase “in the area” after the word “city,” said goal statement to read 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 in the area. Councilman Parker seconded the amendment. The amendment carried on a 5-0-2 vote as follows:

FOR: Mayor Siegel, Mayor Pro Tem Nauert, Councilmen Parker and Friedberg, and Councilwoman Nathan

OPPOSED: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: Councilmen Hickman and Avioli
Councilman Hickman moved to delete objective one under the Cultural and Recreational Focus Area, said objective to read as follows: 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. Councilmen Parker and Avioli seconded the amendment.

Mayor Siegel suggested a friendly amendment to retain objective one and add the phrase “upon receipt of the Rubenstein (formerly Teas) property” to the objective, said objective to read as follows: Upon receipt of the Rubenstein (formerly Teas) property, develop a long-term plan for the use of the land Teas property and historical houses located on Bellaire Boulevard that meet the desires of the Grantor and the Bellaire community. Councilmen Hickman and Parker accepted the friendly amendment. The amendment carried unanimously on a 7-0 vote as follows:

FOR: Mayor Siegel, Mayor Pro Tem Nauert, Councilmen Hickman, Avioli, Parker, and Friedberg, and Councilwoman Nathan

OPPOSED: None

ABSENT: None

Councilman Hickman suggested adding the phrase “develop and” to the beginning of the second objective, said objective to read as follows: Develop and implement a plan to redevelop the portion of Paseo Park located at the intersection of South Rice Avenue and Bellaire Boulevard.

There were no objections from City Council to the addition suggested by Councilman Hickman.

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 corporate citizens, as well as to embrace new technological tools for enhancing communication.

Councilman Parker moved to amend the Communications and Technology Focus Area by adding a fifth objective to be stated as follows: Develop a plan to place City Council and Board meetings on the Internet. Councilwoman Nathan seconded the amendment.
Mayor Siegel made a friendly amendment to add the phrase “already televised” to the objective, said objective to read as follows: Develop a plan to place City Council and Board meetings already televised on the Internet. Councilman Parker and Councilwoman Nathan accepted the friendly amendment.

Councilman Avioli suggested a friendly amendment to include a cost factor in the objective, said objective to read as follows: Develop a cost-effective plan to place City Council and Board meetings already televised on the Internet. Councilman Parker and Councilwoman Nathan accepted the friendly amendment.

The amendment failed on a 2-5 vote as follows:

FOR: Councilman Parker and Councilwoman Nathan

OPPOSED: Mayor Siegel, Mayor Pro Tem Nauert, Councilmen Hickman, Avioli, and Friedberg*

ABSENT: None

*Those opposed to this objective felt that it would be accomplished through the second objective under the Communications and Technology Focus Area, which read as follows: 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.

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.

Councilman Hickman moved to amend the second objective under the Budget and Finance Focus Area to read as follows: Develop a plan for maintenance of existing facilities, construction of new 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. Councilman Parker seconded the amendment.

Mayor Pro Tem Nauert made a friendly amendment to the amendment to add a phrase to the beginning of objective two, to read as follows: Regularly review and update a plan for maintenance of existing facilities, construction of new 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. Councilman Friedberg seconded the friendly amendment. Councilmen Hickman and Parker accepted the friendly amendment.

Councilwoman Nathan made a substitute amendment to add the following language to the beginning of the second objective to the Budget and Finance Focus Area, to read as follows: Review, update, and develop, as appropriate, plans for maintenance of existing facilities, construction of new 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. Councilmen Hickman and Parker accepted and seconded the substitute amendment. Mayor Pro Tem Nauert withdrew his amendment to the amendment and Councilman Parker withdrew his second.

Councilman Friedberg called the question. Councilman Avioli seconded the call of the question. The motion to call the question carried unanimously on a 7-0 vote as follows:

FOR: Mayor Siegel, Mayor Pro Tem Nauert, Councilmen Hickman, Avioli, Parker, and Friedberg, and Councilwoman Nathan

OPPOSED: None

ABSENT: None

Vote on amendment to the second objective under the Budget and Finance Focus Area, said objective of which would read as follows: Review, update, and develop, as appropriate, plans for maintenance of existing facilities, construction of new 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. The amendment carried unanimously on a 7-0 vote as follows:

FOR: Mayor Siegel, Mayor Pro Tem Nauert, Councilmen Hickman, Avioli, Parker, and Friedberg, and Councilwoman Nathan

OPPOSED: None

ABSENT: None

Councilman Parker moved to amend the Budget and Finance Focus Area by adding a fourth objective to read as follows: Consider options to outsource City services. Councilman Hickman seconded the
amendment. The amendment carried unanimously on a 7-0 vote as follows:

FOR: Mayor Siegel, Mayor Pro Tem Nauert, Councilmen Hickman, Avioli, Parker, and Friedberg, and Councilwoman Nathan

OPPOSED: None

ABSENT: None

Comprehensive Plan Focus Area:

Goal Statement:

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

Councilman Friedberg moved to change the goal statement so that it was consistent with other goal statements and to add two objectives as follows:

Goal Statement: The City Council of the City of Bellaire, Texas, will proactively implement the Comprehensive Plan of the City of Bellaire, Texas, as approved and adopted on November 16, 2009.

Objectives:

- Enact ordinances to implement the Comprehensive Plan; and

- Investigate the possible retention of economic development personnel to assist and represent the City of Bellaire in redevelopment efforts in downtown and other commercial areas of the City.

Councilman Parker seconded the motion made by Councilman Friedberg to change the goal statement and add two objectives.

Councilman Hickman suggested a friendly amendment to the first objective to add the phrase “draft and” to the beginning of the objective, said objective to read as follows: Draft and enact ordinances to implement the Comprehensive Plan. Councilmen Friedberg and Parker accepted the friendly amendment.
The motion carried unanimously on a 7-0 vote as follows:

FOR: Mayor Siegel, Mayor Pro Tem Nauert, Councilmen Hickman, Avioli, Parker, and Friedberg, and Councilwoman Nathan

OPPOSED: None

ABSENT: None

Councilman Hickman made a motion to call the question and, thereby, accept all of the goals and objectives, as amended this evening, without prioritizing them. Mayor Pro Tem Nauert and Councilman Friedberg seconded the motion to call the question. The motion carried unanimously on a 7-0 vote as follows:

FOR: Mayor Siegel, Mayor Pro Tem Nauert, Councilmen Hickman, Avioli, Parker, and Friedberg, and Councilwoman Nathan

OPPOSED: None

ABSENT: None

Mayor Siegel called for a vote on the motion to accept all of the goals and objectives, as amended this evening, without prioritizing them. The motion carried unanimously on a 7-0 vote as follows:

FOR: Mayor Siegel, Mayor Pro Tem Nauert, Councilmen Hickman, Avioli, Parker, and Friedberg, and Councilwoman Nathan

OPPOSED: None

ABSENT: None

C. ADJOURNMENT.

Councilman Friedberg moved to adjourn the Special Session of the City Council of the City of Bellaire, Texas, at 8:53 p.m. on Monday, August 9, 2010. Mayor Pro Tem Nauert and Councilwoman Nathan seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously on a 7-0 vote as follows:

FOR: Mayor Siegel, Mayor Pro Tem Nauert, Councilmen Hickman, Avioli, Parker, and Friedberg, and Councilwoman Nathan
Respectfully submitted,

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

Approved:

____________________________
Cynthia Siegel, Mayor
City of Bellaire, Texas