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CITY MANAGER
Stan Brown

CITY CLERK
Tangee Puckett

NEWS ARTICLE: Gainesville Times on September 3, 2012

Oakwood looking at improving neighborhoods

City to address community issues at retreat

Oakwood retreat

What: Oakwood City Council annual retreat
When: 11:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Friday
Where: Lanier Charter Career Academy,
2723 Tumbling Creek Road, Gainesville
Contact: City Hall, 770-534-2365

Oakwood wants to clean up some of its neighborhoods.

“We’re trying to look at ways that we can address disposal of household goods, when you’ve got appliances and furniture and stuff like that, so it doesn’t get thrown out back in the woods,” City Manager Stan Brown said “We’ve got some ideas on how to address some of those areas.”

Brown plans to share thoughts on that and other topics at the Oakwood City Council’s annual retreat Friday at Lanier Charter Career Academy, 2723 Tumbling Creek Road.

The schedule calls for a council luncheon at 11:30 a.m. and then discussion of issues starting at 12:15 p.m. The retreat is set to end at 5 p.m.

Typically, the annual meetings are held away from City Hall, with city officials discussing a range of long-range and short-term issues affecting the city.

Occasionally, a new initiative sneaks onto the agenda, such as with the neighborhood program.

“We do our stream cleanup every year and here recently, we have tried to focus on certain areas,” Brown said.

For example, “we had one town home complex where we hauled off two roll-off containers full of trash,” he added.

“... We have other areas where we think we can partner with the neighborhood and do some major cleanup efforts.”

The city is looking at possible policy governing removal of household items.

“In some communities, you can pay for a special pickup to take care of stuff like that,” Brown said. “We may be looking at a drop-off point. We’re going to throw out a few options for the (council) to consider.”

The city does have a code enforcement officer/building inspector, Joe Hayes.

“We’ve talked about code compliance. I just think it’s time to revisit it and maybe formalize it a little bit into a standard operating procedure,” Brown said.

Hayes has said the city tries “to stick by the book” when it comes to code compliance.

“We’ve had some upset people — you go onto somebody’s property and tell them to clean up, they don’t like it,” he said.

Also, city officials plans to talk about steps toward passing the 2013 budget, which takes effect Jan. 1. The current budget year ends Dec. 21.

“I’ll give whatever outlook I have on the budget, but that’s stuff we’re still working