

Committee named to review housing code, eviction policy

The College Station City Council has appointed a Housing Code Enforcement Committee to review the city's housing code (Ordinance 628) and advise the council on needed changes concerning building maintenance. The committee will also look into the city's policy of enforcing the code.

The city ordinance requires the occupants of any housing judged unsafe to move out within 30 days if repairs are not made. Gary Halter, council liaison to the committee, said that this could lead to eviction for occupants of rented or leased dwellings if the owner chooses not to make needed repairs. He added that, with the tight housing market of Bryan-College Station, tenants

are hesitant to press the owner for repairs.

Halter said that present city policy is to enforce the code only if there is a hazard to health or safety. Following an examination of the housing code and the city enforcement policy, he said the committee will also determine whether or not city

policies are contributing to substantial rent increases.

The Housing Code Enforcement Committee is an advisory committee to the city council. Members of the committee include Karen Phifer, Roy Hann, Lynn Glaser, Jane Hughey, Noel Sandefur and Ken Robison.

A&M laundry worker has 'pressing business'

A small, wiry woman rises early every morning and makes her way from her Bryan home to the Texas A&M University laundry. The hour is 7 a.m., an hour before most of the campus begins its daily routine.

Florine S. Walton has been making that early morning trip for 22 years. An experienced laundry worker, Mrs. Walton operates four manual steam presses. Two of the presses are the length of an ironing board, while the other two are slightly larger than a typewriter.

Mrs. Walton works surrounded by the presses, going from one to the next in a circular fashion. It takes her about a minute and half to complete the circle, adjusting clothes and turning pants as she goes.

She is a specialist because the machines have only an off or on button; they do not signal when the clothes are dry or pressed. A watchful eye and her skilled, swift hands are always cautious to prevent a scorch or burn. Mrs. Walton mostly handles heavily starched items such as blue jeans and khaki Corps uniforms.

"I can press 70 pairs of pants an hour, if we've got that many to do," she said.

Time and exposure have made her hands insensitive to the heat as she turns a pant leg over and smooths it out, even though most people couldn't touch the hot fabric. After the pants are pressed, she folds them and places them in a wooden bin for pick-up.

"I have a lot of friends here," she says of the 85 employees of the laundry.

Mrs. Walton works four days a week, as there is no work on Fridays. Her hours vary depending on the amount of clothes the laundry receives. On many days she is finished by 1:30 p.m. and rarely works past 3:30 p.m.

Wiping sweat from her face, Mrs. Walton says she's used to the heat and enjoys the work.

Before the clothes reach Mrs. Walton, they are first marked and washed. After she has pressed them they proceed to others who fold, check and bundle the clothes for delivery to the customer's substation.

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Council gets advice on bond financing

The College Station City Council Friday continued discussion concerning the financing of capital improvements bonds which will be up for voter consideration this summer.

In session with financial advisers, the council discussed various plans under which to submit the bonds to the community, but no final decision was made. The financial report, according to the advisers, could not propose specific suggestions to the council as to bond financing until decisions were made by the city.

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