Committee Chairperson Susie Weinacht brought the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.

Present: Council members Susie Weinacht, Dale Todd, Ashley Vanorny, Acting Fire Chief Andy Olesen, Police Chief Wayne Jerman, Building Services Director Kevin Ciabatti, Area Ambulance Services Executive Director Keith Rippy, Amanda Grieder with SAFE-CR, Glenn Kieler for Youth Services

The January 14, 2019 Public Safety and Youth Services Committee minutes were approved.

Fire Department Report-Acting Chief Andy Olesen

Acting Chief Olesen provided the Fire Department’s Report, and it is attached.

Last year, the Fire Investigative Division investigated 100 separate fires that were either a building or a car, and they determined that 35 were intentionally set. Also, the Fire Investigative Division has been undergoing some changes. About five years ago, the Captain who investigated arsons retired from the Fire Department. He had been the only arson investigator, and he was on call 24/7, 365 days a year for almost 30 years. Right now, they have two full-time employees, one sworn, and one trained with the Cedar Rapids Police Department. They have another Fire Captain who is currently at the State Fire School, attending a two-week fire investigative training program; however, he has not been through the Iowa Law Enforcement Academy yet. They will have a total of four people who will be capable of performing fire investigations.

Regarding the flood, the Fire Department closed the boat ramps at 13 feet, and the Fire Department and Police Department responded to a vehicle that drove into some water.

Acting Chief Olesen highlighted the fire on February 28th at the Hawthorne Hills Apartments. When they arrived on the scene, fire was coming out of windows in three different places, and they learned there were two people inside, and one person was trapped in the fire. This was a very challenging incident and it was a remarkable act of bravery. Area Ambulance Service responded very quickly with six units, and four people were taken to the hospital. The Police Department had the suspect in custody in approximately 30 minutes, which demonstrates the partnership of the Fire Department, Police Department, and Area Ambulance Services.
Building Service Report - Kevin Ciabatti, Director

Kevin Ciabatti from Building Services provided the summary from his Department for activities for the months of January and February, and his report is attached.

The harsh winter weather slowed construction, and the total inspections completed in January and February, compared to this time last year, were about 15% lower. Regarding permit valuations, there were five projects alone that had a construction valuation of $30 million dollars. Total valuations for the first two months of this year were $48 million dollars, which was about a 55% increase compared to last year at this time. This was primarily due to one sizable project at Edgewood Road and Blairs Ferry Road. Total permits are about 10% lower than the same time period last year, and Director Ciabatti feels this is also weather related. During that same time period, five single-family homes were built and/or started. Regarding Code Cases, they are slightly lower on the total number of open cases at this time. The most frequent violation is vehicles, which are either inoperable or not parked on a paved surface. Building Services sends a courtesy notice to the property owner, and many people will take care of the matter immediately. This remains the most opened and most closed case type each month.

Discussion was heard regarding out of state contractors. Director Ciabatti reported that the State issues the licenses, and there is no local licensing. Building Services will not issue a permit to any contractor who does not hold a valid license in the State of Iowa. Beyond that, it is up to the licensed contractor to follow State law once a permit is issued.

Area Ambulance Report - Keith Rippy

Keith Rippy provided Key Performance Indicators and Special Events Summary Reports, which are attached.

Area Ambulance is continuing to trend toward 22,000 calls for service this year. They think they will have about 400 calls for service above last year’s number of calls for service. That translates into about 365 additional transports over last year.

During the last 18 months, Area Ambulance has purchased nine new ambulances to upgrade their fleet. They have two 2014 units, and all of the others are between 2016 – 2018. A new unit costs about $200,000, and they are equipping them with all of the latest state of the art equipment. This adds another $100,000 to the cost of the unit. Area Ambulance has spent about a $1.5 million upgrading its fleet in the last 18 to 24 months.

They are gearing up for all the special events and stand-bys. Next month, the Kernels begin, and the month after that events begin at Hawkeye Downs, etc. They will be busy with these events usually from May through September.

One of the things that Area Ambulance is doing to address the continuing increase in emergency call volume, is the projected purchase of a basic life support ambulance. The purpose of this ambulance would be to transport patients who are not an emergency, but need to go to another hospital for a higher level of care. The basic life support ambulance can be staffed by EMTs instead of paramedics, and this will enable ambulances to stay in town and be ready to respond to 911 emergency calls. This will also give the hospitals better service.
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They have acquired two more Lucas CPR devices, and they will add two more in July, so they will have a Lucas device in each of their units. A Lucas CPR device delivers automatic CPR, and frees up the paramedic to do other things to treat the patient.

They have a leadership team member who is involved in the Opioid Committee. Also, two of their leadership team members are involved with the mental health access center project. They are also involved in a Community Paramedicine Initiative with the hospitals, where they take preventative steps, rather than waiting for the individual to call the ambulance again, over and over. They visit the patient after they have been discharged, and make sure they take their prescribed medicine. A lot of times, the patient has no way to get to the pharmacy to get their medication, so they see that they get their medicine, which improves the patient’s health after they leave the hospital, and reduce the recidivism rate for them returning to the hospital with the same problems. They should have a statistical report regarding this at the next meeting.

Also, Area Ambulance has initiated their accreditation process.

Discussion was heard regarding placing Naloxone wherever there is a defibrillator. It was felt that more information about where all the defibrillators are located, and more discussion in general on this issue is needed.

SAFE-CR Update - Amanda Grieder

Amanda presented the SAFE-CR report, which is attached.

SAFE-CR has had 5,449 founded calls for service, which affected 3,494 properties. They have billed $84,015.04 for police calls, and they have collected $44,040.56. SAFE-CR is committed to holding property owners accountable for what’s happening at their property. One of their goals is to make sure that they are collecting on the bills that they’ve issued property owners for calls for service. Last month, they sent approximately $8,000 in bills, and have been taking some property owners to small claims court.

Also, Amanda reported that there have been 94 massage therapy business licenses that have been issued, and 43 letters were sent to business owners for not complying with the ordinance. Potentially, there could be about 30 more that may not be in compliance with the ordinance. They are allowing them to submit an action plan, so they are working with the business owners who did not know about the ordinance, and that they need to apply for a license.

They have sent out approximately five letters to businesses that advertised for illicit services, and one of them has agreed to shut down the business. They do not want to arrest the women who are working at the business because they are victims of sex trafficking or human trafficking. In addition, they have made contact with someone in the community who has a lot of knowledge of the illicit businesses.

A request was made for an update on the John School as an action item to be placed on the next Committee agenda.

Chapter 51, Alcohol Licensing – Amanda Grieder

The changes to the proposed ordinance is attached. Many of the changes are revisions to update the language of the ordinance. Also, the ordinance has not been updated since the 1970’s, and many revisions are necessary so that it is in accordance with the State Code.

Motion was made to place the proposed ordinance on the City Council agenda. Motion was approved.
Chapter 9, Streets, Alleys and Sidewalks – Sylvia Bochner, Community Development, Sgt. Campshure, Police Department

The proposed ordinance is attached. The ordinance amends Chapter 9 to clarify and update requirements for bicycles, e-bicycles, and electric stand up scooters.

In May 2019, the City’s bike share system will begin operation. The first season of operations will run between May and October 2019. During this first year, the fleet will launch initially with 150 electric-assist bicycles, followed by 20 fat tire bikes based at Mt. Trashmore arriving later in the summer. Finally, a pilot program including 30 electric stand-up scooters will launch in late August of 2019. The goal of the pilot program will be to determine if e-scooters are a good fit for Cedar Rapids. The launch of this program is an opportunity to update the code to promote the safety of users of existing and emerging transportation modes.

The update to Chapter 9 of the Municipal Code adds electric stand up scooters to the list of vehicles that are not permitted to ride where prohibited by signs or markings, or within the core neighborhoods. This update defines core neighborhoods as bounded by 1st Avenue and 16th Avenue, and 2nd St SW and 5th St SE. This boundary covers many high-traffic areas, such as Downtown, Kingston Village, NewBo, and Czech Village. The intent is to help prevent conflicts between cyclists and pedestrians. Markings will also be installed throughout this area as part of the “Walk your Wheels” campaign.

Chapter 53 – Bicycle Regulations – Sylvia Bochner, Community Development, Sgt. Campshure, Police Department

The proposed Ordinance is attached. The Ordinance will clarify and update requirements for bicycles, e-bicycles, and electric stand up scooters.

In May 2019, the City’s bike share system will begin operation. The first season of operations will run between May and October 2019. During this first year, the fleet will launch initially with 150 electric-assist bicycles, followed by 20 fat tire bikes based at Mt. Trashmore arriving later in the summer. Finally, a pilot program including 30 electric stand-up scooters will launch in late August of 2019. The goal of the pilot program will be to determine if e-scooters are a good fit for Cedar Rapids. The launch of this program is an opportunity to update the code to promote the safety of users of existing and emerging transportation modes.

The update to Chapter 53 of the Municipal Code updates definitions to include the vehicle types that will be included in bike share. The definition of “bicycle” is updated to include e-bikes and match with Iowa Code. A definition of “electric stand up scooter” is also added, which matches proposed Iowa legislation.

The updates to this chapter also include amendments to add electric stand up scooters in the regulations that currently apply to bicycles. For example, any person travelling in the street or a bike lane, whether on a bicycle or an electric stand up scooter, shall have all of the rights and duties applicable to the driver of a motor vehicle, except those which by their nature have no application.

The only instance where regulations for electric stand up scooters and bicycles differ is that electric stand up scooters are required to ride in bike lanes or paths when they are provided. Cyclists may continue to choose between the bike lane or path or the roadway.
Chapter 61 – Traffic Regulations - Sylvia Bochner, Community Development, Sgt. Campshire, Police Department

The proposed ordinance is attached. The ordinance will clarify and update requirements for bicycles, e-bicycles and electric stand up scooters.

In May 2019, the City’s bike share system will begin operation. The first season of operations will run between May and October 2019. During this first year, the fleet will launch initially with 150 electric-assist bicycles, followed by 20 fat tire bikes based at Mt. Trashmore arriving later in the summer. Finally, a pilot program including 30 electric stand-up scooters will launch in late August of 2019. The goal of the pilot program will be to determine if e-scooters are a good fit for Cedar Rapids. The launch of this program is an opportunity to update the code to promote the safety of users of existing and emerging transportation modes.

The update to Chapter 61 (Traffic Regulations) adds a section on “Opening doors into moving traffic”, which prohibits opening a vehicle door without taking precautions to ensure that this action does not interfere with the movement of any other person or vehicle. “Dooring” accidents, in which a cyclist is struck by a quickly opened car door, are a danger to cyclists. Currently, Iowa Code does not include any language on “dooring” accidents. Adding this language to the municipal code is a recognized best practice for bicycle safety and is recommended by the Iowa Bicycle Coalition.

Motion was made to place revisions for Chapter 9, Chapter 53, and Chapter 61 on the City Council agenda. Motion was approved.

PCAT (Police Community Action Team – Captain Estling, Sgt. Doyle, Police Department

Sgt. Doyle shared a presentation of the PCAT team, and the PowerPoint is attached.

PCAT was formed in January 2016, and the unit is comprised of Sgt. Doug Doyle and four officers. They work as a pro-active team, and they do not take calls for service, but work in the areas of the city to take action based on what is happening. Since they do not take calls for service, this allows them a lot more time to spend out in the community. They are an intelligence-based enforcement team, and they identify who are the people causing the problems in the community. They are highly visibility with marked vehicles, and they are in uniform. Their focus is on gun crime and violent crime. They use a three-prong approach of targeted enforcement, resource coordination and community outreach. PCAT was formed after going to Kansas City and learning about their KC NOVA (Kansas City No Violence Alliance) program, and PCAT has used many of that program’s elements. They determine what they can use in Cedar Rapids that has been successful in Kansas City. They offer assistance, guidance, and resources to individuals first, letting them know the consequences of their actions. Then, if they have to, they take action, which is the enforcement side.

PCAT members have had significant gang training to enhance their knowledge, i.e., Midwest Gang Investigator’s Association, National Gang Crime Research Center and the Midwest Counterdrug Training Center. They partner with other law enforcement agencies (ATF, FBI and DEA), probation system, and the U.S. Attorney’s Office and the County Attorney’s Office.

They have many community outreach activities, including being involved with Big Brothers and Big Sisters in Polk and Johnson School. Also, they play basketball and hang out with the kids in order to get to know
each other. They attend other community events, and if they see large gatherings of people, they will stop and hang out with the people.

One of the important components of PCAT are foot patrols in the high-risk neighborhoods. For example, if there are shots fired reported, a day or two later they will go to the neighborhood and make contact with people, to see if they will help them with information that can help the investigation. They give people their names and work cell phone numbers, so they can make an anonymous tip to allow them to assist in making their neighborhood safer.

In 2016, 12 guns were seized, in 2017, 18 guns were seized, and in 2018, 33 guns were seized.

**Youth Services Update- Officer Glen Kieler, Police Department**

Officer Kieler presented the reports for Youth Services, which are attached.

Officer Kieler shared the spring curriculum for the elementary schools. For Kindergarten, the Police Pals talk to the students regarding Stranger Danger. In First grade, they talk about respect and respecting authority figures, and respecting different people in the schools, such as schoolmates, and respecting property in the school. In Second grade, they talk about gun safety; i.e., stop, don't touch, and tell a grown up. They also show them a short video with some different scenarios with the kids, and a little role-playing. In Third Grade, in the springtime, they talk about bicycle safety. In Fifth Grade, they present information on internet safety and sexting.

In a few elementary schools, there has been a lot of theft going on, from minor items up to I-Phones. When they do catch the kids committing theft, the school usually has them talk to the students with the parent's permission. They talk to them about consequences about stealing.

A lot of students are not showing up for school. This winter has not been conducive to creating a nice schedule for the students. The school tries to contact the student's parents either by phone or a home visit. If they do not get ahold of them, one of the Police Pals/SROs will pay them a visit, and talk to them about the compulsory education laws.

McKinley School has an organization that provides food for their students in need. They also have a Clothes Club, that provides clothing, shoes, and hats for the students, and they have washers and dryers for the students. Also, they started a five-year plan for every student to get breakfast and lunch for free.

Officer Einck is the CRO officer at Kirkwood Community College, and he has been giving presentations on safety and personal safety with the students. He has gotten great reviews from both the students and the staff.

At Polk School, there has been some problems with fights, especially between middle schoolers and high schoolers. They have split them up so that the middle school is on the upper level of Polk, and the high schoolers are on the lower level. This seems to be working, and they transitioned some kids back into their regular classrooms.

Jefferson High School now has the MVP Program. They had a lot of problems with social media, Officer Tran gave some presentations with the students, and they have seen a decline in the sexting issues that they have had at the school.

Washington is also working on the MVP Program, but they are only in the beginning stages with it.
Prairie has a Beyond the Bell program, which is a leadership program to help minority students. They identify students who have great leadership skills, and then they will have them mentor other students. This is for Grades 7 – 12th.

Kennedy has seen a great positive reaction to the MVP Program. The MVP program is about bullying, violence and harassment. Officer Hansel has been getting a lot of good feedback from other incidents, just because of that program.

Metro students are having problems with absenteeism. Again, this year has not been conducive to keeping kids on schedule, in school.

Washington is having problems with kids skipping classes, and tardiness, and they have implemented a program where some of the teachers will do hall sweeps after the bell rings. If there are students out in the hall or foyer, they will ID them and enter into a computer. That way they can track which students are abusing the system, and can focus on those kids. They call the parents first and try to handle it through the parents, but if the parents do not take care of it, then they try to handle it through a detention or a suspension (as a last resort). Also, Washington has a Stop the Violence Program where students sign a pledge with the school to stop the violence, and then the students mentor other students. They also hired an Engagement Specialist at Washington High School.

Regarding youth crime statistics, burglaries increased quite a bit. Washington, Kennedy, and Jefferson had approximately the same number of arrests. Washington had a fight with 7 students and 8 charges.

A comment was heard regarding the arrests, if there are some commonalities there, such as food insecurities. Also, that many students do not have rides to school so that can account for some of the absenteeism.

A question was asked if there are conversations in the schools about consent and mutual respect for physical space to prevent sexual harassment. Officer Kieler said that he would check into this, and see if it would be something that the schools would be in favor of, since they cannot present subject matter if they do not have approval from the school.

**Police Department – Chief Jerman**

The Police Department’s reports are attached.

With respect to the crime statistics during the first two months of 2019, violent crime has gone down. Of concern is the increase in burglary and auto theft; however, Theft from Auto went down over 33%. Regarding shots fired incidents, in both January and February; four incidents were assigned case numbers for follow-up investigation.

Regarding the assistance from citizens’, for the first two months, they assisted the Police Department in identifying a number of violators who were wanted on warrants for a number of offenses, along with a couple of persons who were arrested and charged with weapons violations, and also a number of OWI’s. They have seen a significant increase in not only the identification, but also the arrest of operating while intoxicated offenders. They had double-digit arrests the past weekend with St. Patrick’s Day. Chief Jerman really appreciates the actions of the citizens in calling to report criminal activity.
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The Chief reported on the first homicide of 2019. On February 19, officers responded to a report of a subject who had been shot. The victim was found in a vehicle at Franklin Middle School, and he was pronounced dead on the following Sunday. This investigation is active, and is progressing.

With respect to the Police Department’s current hiring process, they accepted applications from November 2018 to January 2019. 173 applications were returned. The written and physical testing was conducted on February 2nd, and 110 applicants showed up to be tested. This process is overseen by the Civil Service Commission, and they meet periodically with the Civil Service Commission to go over the various parts of the process. The applicants have participated in interviews with the Civil Service Commission, undergone a psychological examination (or an MMPI test), and they have also undergone a polygraph examination. As a result, there are 22 remaining candidates, and all 22 have proceeded to the background investigation portion. The Police Department will meet again with the Civil Service Commission to certify a list of the applicants. The Police Department would like to hire 16 officers, 6 to fill current and projected vacancies, and then 10 to fill the 10 additional positions that were approved in the budget, which is funded through ATE revenue.

Also, the Police Department, was just informed they will receive a grant from the Eastern Iowa Heroin Initiative. Officer Lindsay Schrader is assigned full-time to HIDTA, and she is funded through a grant, and works very closely with the U.S. Attorney’s Office of the Northern District. She has received a $7,000 grant from HIDTA, to conduct a training program to highlight attention to our opioid overdose abuse epidemic. She will be coordinating the training, which will be hosted in Cedar Rapids. Chief Jerman will have additional information at the next meeting.

Topics that were raised for consideration by Council members included the needle exchange program, and sanitary hygiene products at the Linn County Jail.

**MAY AGENDA ITEM FORECAST**

- Building Services Report *(Ciabatti)*
- Cedar Rapids Fire Department Report *(Hopper)*
- Area Ambulance Service Report *(Rippy)*
- Youth Services Report *(Faircloth)*
- Police SAFE-CR Report *(Grieder)*
- Cedar Rapids Police Department Report *(Jerman)*
- July Agenda Forecast Items

There were no comments from the public, and the meeting adjourned at 6:15 p.m.

Submitted by,

Jean Novak
Administration Assistant III
Cedar Rapids Police Department