Meeting was brought to order by Committee Chairperson Susie Weinacht at 4:05 p.m.

Present: Council members Susie Weinacht, and Scott Overland; Fire Chief Mark English, Police Chief Wayne Jerman, Area Ambulance Executive Director Keith Rippy, Building Services Director Kevin Ciabatti, and Annette Lorenz with SAFE-CR.

The January 23, 2016, Public Safety and Youth Services Committee minutes were approved.

**Building Services Report – Kevin Ciabatti**

**Permits:**
- Total permits issued are up 29% from this time last year.
- The total residential building permits are up 22% from this time last year.
- The total number of permits issued are up 31% from this time last month.

**Inspections:**
- Building inspections are down 1% from this time last year.
- Electrical inspections are down 17% from this time last year.
- Mechanical inspections are up 12% from this time last year.
- Plumbing inspections are up 13% from this time last year.
- Overall, the total number of inspections is the same as this time last year.
- The total number of inspections is down 13% from this time last month.

**Complaints:**
- The total number of open complaints is up 58% from this time last year.
- The total number of open cases is up 18% from this time last quarter.
- The total number of pending investigations has increased 174% from this time last year.
- The total number of open nuisance cases is up 45% from this time last year.
- The total number of open zoning cases is up 90% from this time last year.
The Building Services Department has collected $150,000 more revenue than the same time period last year.

Pending projects in plan review have an approximate value of construction of over $70 million dollars of construction that will be permitted either this quarter or next fiscal year.

**Brooke McNeal, IOWA BIG & Maria Johnson, City Manager’s Office**

Brooke reported that in order to better connect to the citizens of Cedar Rapids, they are working with the City of Cedar Rapids. They will be having a takeover day where IOWA BIG will take over the City's social media platforms and post items that they think teenagers would like to see. She mentioned articles about heroes, such as police officers and fire fighters, doing polls, and making a video, as well as showcasing the NewBo area. The takeover date has not been set yet, but possibly could be on May 19th or May 26th.

**Area Ambulance Report – Keith Rippy**

Area Ambulance Services’ Key Performance Indicators and Special Events Summary reports are attached.

They are getting about 900 calls for service more than they had last year, and 700 of those were 911 emergencies. Of those 900 calls for service, it translates into a little more than 750 actual transports. They are experiencing a significant increase year after year. In addition to the increase in population, the population is getting older, and heavier. Also, AAS has had a very significant success over the years with the media campaigns, particularly by police and fire, about calling 911. People are far more comfortable with calling 911 now than in they were years ago. As they work on their budget for 2017-2018, they will be adding some unit hours to accommodate this increase in call volume.

Also, there is a shortage of paramedics, not only here but across the country. Therefore, they started a program last year where they train some of the EMTs through the University of Iowa Paramedic School. AAS pays the tuition, which is roughly $7,500. Upon their graduation, the paramedics begin to pay back half of that through payroll deduction, and they sign an agreement with them for two years to stay with them. If they fail to stay those two years, then they have to repay the other half on a sliding scale. They have four graduating the paramedic school next month.

They will be purchasing three new ambulances within the next two to three weeks and then three more shortly after the first of July, so they will have six new ambulances out on the street, by approximately mid to late summer. Then they will buy three more in the latter part of the fall, so they will have 9 new units within the next 12 months. Also, the boxes are very crash resistant, and they can be remounted on new chassis, so the cost of a new ambulance will be far less.
**Fire Department Report – Chief Mark English**
Reports from the Fire Department are attached.

**Fire Marshal Vance McKinnon, with Fireworks Legislation Update**

It looks like the bill is probably going to pass pretty easily. The language in the bill gives the cities/counties the ability to restrict use, but it does not give us the ability to restrict the sale of fireworks. They have put together a letter and sent it to the State Legislature to give them some ideas for some language that they would like to see changed, and hopefully they will take some of that into consideration. Currently, our ordinance says people cannot use, sell, or possess fireworks within the city of Cedar Rapids. We are one of the few municipalities in the state that have that. The State currently says you can have fireworks, you just can’t shoot them.

The Fire Department is asking for direction to see if they can restrict the sale, even though it’s not specifically written in the bill. By law, we can be more restrictive than the State, we just can’t be less restrictive.

If the bill passes, fireworks could be set off for a period during the July 4th celebration, and again for a period during Christmas through New Years’. If it passes, they will have to write a new ordinance.

**Assistant Fire Chief Hopper – Fire Department -- Ambulance Ordinance**

Chapter 67 of the Municipal Code, Ambulance Services, was last revised in 2005. In order to increase efficiency for the consumer and City departments and keep up-to-date with State regulations staff believes that revisions are necessary.

**Proposed changes to Chapter 67 of the Municipal Code:**

The Cedar Rapids Fire Department recommends the following updates to Chapter 67:

- Revised language to meet the most current Iowa Code 641-Chapter 132 Emergency Medical Services-Service Program Authorization.
- Removed language from Chapter 67 where it was duplicated in the existing Iowa Code 641-132.
- Added language for dispatch and communications to ensure interoperability with other responding agencies in Cedar Rapids.
- Added language for a specific mass casualty plan to ensure service delivery when the need arises.

The Fire Department works closely with the City Clerk’s Office and the Cedar Rapids Police Department to license ambulance services annually. As a result of staff input
from the Police Department and City Clerk’s Office the following licensing revisions are sought in the proposed ordinance updating Chapter 67:

- Revised licensing process in which the City would issue an Ambulance Service Business License only and will no longer issue Attendant-Driver Permits or Ambulance Vehicle Licenses.
  
  o Authorized Service Programs (Ambulance Service) would be required to apply for an Ambulance Service Business License to operate in the City of Cedar Rapids, ensuring that the business meets the requirements outlined in Ch. 67.
  
  o Driver background checks are currently performed by the City before issuing the Attendant-Driver Permits. With this proposal the City will no longer issue the Attendant-Driver Permits and therefore will not perform driver background checks. However, training institutions currently require background checks before students can attend EMS training and the ambulance company could also require a background check as a condition of employment if they choose.
  
  o Vehicle inspections and submittal of vehicle insurance are currently required as part of the Ambulance Vehicle Licensing process. With this proposal the City will no longer issue the Ambulance Vehicle License but will instead require that each ambulance business submit documentation providing proof that each ambulance vehicle was inspected by an ASE certified mechanic and proof of vehicle insurance as part of the annual Ambulance Service Business License process.
  
  o In researching licensing practices in surrounding cities such as Des Moines, Dubuque, Council Bluffs, Iowa City, Davenport and Waterloo none were issuing City ambulance licenses.

The Ordinance is in the City Attorney’s Office being reviewed.

**Youth Services Update – Angie Cole with Recreation Department**

They are being kept very busy with registrations right now, which is very good for their programs. On May 21st, Old MacDonald’s Farm will be open, and it is being transitioned to sort of a petting zoo with various small animals, and it’s free. There are all kinds of youth, parents and teenagers out there all day long. There can be a couple hundred people, and up to 1,000 people each day.

Also, they are working with Kirkwood Community College and Kiwanis on urban gardens at Bever Park, which should be completed this fall. Kirkwood is designing it for them, and the Kiwanis is sponsoring it and paying for the construction materials.
The City pools will begin opening on Memorial Day weekend, and they are also very busy hiring for the summer. At the new Rec Center they are seeing at least 1,000 people per month, just for the walk in open gym, and that doesn’t include programs. Also, the Recreation Department is partnering with Kids on Course, working with kids in a financial assistance program.

Hiring-wise, they don’t have a lot of people returning, so they are doing a lot of new hires, and they are about 60% done. The 15 year olds are harder to place; however, their biggest issue is that they need 40 more life guards. They have tried recruiting through presentations at high schools and colleges, several job fairs, and there is one coming soon at the Library put on by the Better Business Bureau.

**Youth Services Update – Cristy Hamblin, CRPD**

Sgt. Hamblin reviewed juvenile arrest data (reports are attached).

For the first quarter of 2017, there have been 238 arrests, which are down from 269 arrests. Every report this year is different than last year, in that the numbers are significantly lower. The SROs in the schools are working very hard and being more creative. They will have students write papers for disorderly conduct, in lieu of being arrested. However, there was one arrest in an elementary school. If you break it down by race, they are reducing the number of arrests, but not reducing disparity arrests. In fact, arrests of blacks went up 1%. Also, they are arresting less males, but the same number of females.

Sgt. Hamblin mentioned that they have been working with the SAFE Kids Coalition, in conjunction with the Cedar Rapids Fire Department. They have had two bike helmet giveaways so far. Also, they have had an influx of kids who signed up for their summer Youth Police Academy, and they had to add two more camps for 4th and 5th graders. They will be hosting another Coffee with a Cop tomorrow at the HyVee on Johnson Avenue. A new activity that they added is Crafts with a Cop, and they have held four so far. It has been very popular, with 40 kids during Christmas break at Johnson Elementary and Hoover Elementary. During spring break, they had over 100 kids and about 125 kids at Jane Boyd and at Olivet through the Boys and Girls Club. She anticipates planning something at the NW Rec Center, as well as having officers playing catch with youth.

**SAFE-CR Update – Annette Lorenz**

Annette presented the SAFE-CR Public Safety Update (attached). Since the implementation of Chapter 22A there have been 3,695 Founded Calls for Service, which have affected 2,497 properties. Of those, 531 have met the threshold of 22A and have been deemed Nuisance Properties. They have brought 347 properties back into compliance. 126 have resulted in a Nuisance Property Designation. Of the 184 active nuisance properties, 2 are commercial, 98 are owner occupied, and 84 are rental properties.
In March, 109 background checks were conducted. Overall, there have been 5,095 background checks, ordered by 442 landlords. They have billed out $49,484.14 for Police Calls for Service, and Finance has collected $20,973.94.

Annette highlighted a success story (which is included in their Public Safety Update, attached). SAFE-CR was notified by officers of a business whose video surveillance camera was not in compliance with Chapter 60A – Surveillance Cameras for Businesses. SAFE-CR mailed the business a Notice of Violation, and when officers inspected the system 30 days later, the business was then in compliance.

**Police Department Report – Chief Wayne Jerman**

Chief Jerman reviewed the Activity Comparison Summary (attached).

With respect to the crime stats in the first quarter of 2017, they are continuing to show a very favorable trend. Last year in 2016, they ended the year down with violent crime a little over 3%, which was a positive trend. In the first quarter of 2017, they are showing violent crime down 6.25%. Also, there has not been a homicide to date, and rapes are down, which reflects in that 6.25%. Theft from Vehicles are up over 27%, and they continue to ask the public not to leave items in plain view in their vehicles because it can be stolen. Theft of Motor Vehicles are down over 8%, and overall property crimes are down over 7%.

With respect to officer activities, they have had an increase of over 19% with Selective Enforcement Projects that the officers are employing which has resulted in a 45% increase in traffic stops. This has resulted in an increase in traffic citations of over 41%. Traffic arrests are up over 26%, and OWI arrests are also up over 4%.

In 2015, there were 86 shots fired in the first quarter; in 2016, there were 33 shots fired in first quarter; and in 2017, there were 16 shots fired in the first quarter.

Based on historical data, they expect to see increases in the second quarter of burglary, criminal mischief, thefts, and public intoxication. Also, in the second quarter, they expect to see decreases in Theft from Motor Vehicles, narcotic offenses and shots fired offenses. They have made some significant arrests of repeat offenders, and by keeping those offenders out of circulation, there has been a downward trend. History shows that when those persons are released from being incarcerated, those numbers increase.

The Neighborhood Watch Program has been revitalized to address the increases in burglaries. Also, they have received 20 inquiries in how to initiate a Neighborhood Watch Program. Also, National Night Out has been set for August 1st.

The Police Department is in the middle of its process of recruiting for police officers. They received 184 applications. Of the 184, 24 were disqualified for various reasons, and 5 withdrew. 155 applicants showed up for testing, and there are 19 applicants left. The applicants have been interviewed by the Civil Service Commission, and they are now undergoing background investigations. Of those remaining, 14 are white males, 2
are white females, 2 are African American males, and 1 Hispanic male. They anticipate hiring at least four officers, depending on retirements.

The Police Department’s 2016 Annual Report is being prepared, and it should be released in the coming weeks.

The Police Department has implemented a new protocol that all patrol officers will be using whenever they respond to a domestic assault. This protocol is called Lethality Assessment Protocol, and all officers have been receiving training. It is a series of questions that a patrol officer will ask a victim of domestic violence, and if they give them an affirmative response to three or more of the questions, they will qualify for services to get into a program for their protection.

The Police Department has also implemented a Peer to Peer Support Team of Police Department employees, both sworn and non-sworn, who have received training in providing peer support or peer counseling to their fellow department members.

Also, Chief Jerman reported that they are sending officers who are part of their Crisis Intervention Team, to Johnson County to be trained in a Mental Health Intervention Training Program. If an officer encounters someone who is having some type of mental health episode, they can call on one of these trained officers to hopefully mediate the situation. The Chief feels that many members of our community suffer from mental illness, and when they encounter a first responder (usually the police) these individuals need to be handled differently and not be incarcerated if possible. They should be in a treatment facility, and these officers are trained to hopefully mitigate and remedy the situation outside of bringing someone into the criminal justice system.

Chief Jerman reported that they are moving forward with the body camera pilot program. The PCAT team will be the first officers to be outfitted with a body camera. The cameras are the latest model produced by Panasonic, and they will integrate with their in-car video program, which is also Panasonic.

Chief Jerman also reported that they are developing an Implicit Bias Training Program to train every member of the Police Department.

Also, Chief Jerman highlighted several arrests which occurred directly because of citizen assistance (report attached). There were 29 arrests, including an OWI arrest where the impaired driver had his 4 year old child in the car. One arrest was of an individual who was in violation of his probation for a 2nd degree murder and robbery 1st conviction. Also, as a result of these citizen assists, officers were able to locate and seize four firearms.
Councilman Scott Olson & John Witt, Traffic Engineering – Panhandling Update

What began as a Panhandling Ordinance has evolved dramatically, due to a series of court rulings. A team comprised of Councilman Olson, Captain Steve O’Konek, Captain Jeff Hembera, City Attorney Jim Flitz and John Witt with the Traffic Engineering Department has been meeting for several months to address the issue and review changes in the laws.

The direction that they are proposing, are modifications to an already existing Pedestrian Safety Ordinance, and it will be tied to major intersections where there are safety concerns. Changes will be made via Resolutions, and it keeps the process simple. If there are intersections that need to be added (or deleted), it can be done by Resolution, instead of having to go back and change the Ordinance each time.

Attached is a copy the Proposed Pedestrian Crossing Restrictions map.

Proposed changes are as follows:

1. Pedestrians shall not intentionally impede or obstruct vehicular or pedestrian travel or traffic without lawful authority.
2. Pedestrians shall not walk or stand or enter upon the traveled portion of the roadway used for entrance or exit ramps to Interstate 380 as shown on the following exhibits. The City Manager or designee shall erect signs or similar markings giving notice of the Ordinance on such medians.
3. Pedestrians shall not walk or stand or enter upon the portion of a roadway used for vehicular travel for the purpose of exchanging anything with an occupant of a vehicle which requires the acceptance or rejection of the items being exchanged.
4. Pedestrians shall not occupy a median at the following locations on city streets except that a pedestrian may, for not or than one traffic signal cycle length, occupy a median as a temporary refuge when crossing such city street. The City Manager or designee shall erect signs or similar markings giving notice of the Ordinance on such ramps.
5. Pedestrians shall at all times when walking on or along a roadway, walk on the left side of such roadway. Where sidewalks are provided, a pedestrian shall not walk along, stand or enter upon along or an adjacent roadway.

Also attached are two handouts of Panhandling Calls for Service – Hazard Criteria, relating to public safety and pedestrian safety. Also distributed were photos of intersections.

If someone wants to wash your windshield, or do something for a service, and they deliberately walk out in the road by your car, it allows the Police Department to enforce a safety issue or pedestrian safety, similar to a jaywalking. Also, the pedestrian would have to obey the traffic signal cycle to cross the intersection and not stay there and hang out, but would have to move on.
A lot of Panhandling Ordinances have been found to not be enforceable. Under their proposed changes, people can still panhandle, but they have to do it safely, and at certain locations. Designated intersections will have a sign posted of a pedestrian on a red circle with a slash through it, mounted on each leg of the intersection. The police officer or individual will know this intersection does not qualify for standing on the corner and having an activity. People will still be able to panhandle; however they will not be able to stand out in the middle of the road.

If this concept is feasible, then they will proceed to finalize it, bring it back in detail, and then present it to the City Council as a way to approach this issue in a way that will not infringe on people’s rights to panhandle.

Councilwoman Weinacht and Councilman Overman were supportive of the direction taken, in terms of improving safety concerns.

**JULY AGENDA ITEM FORECAST**

- Approval of April Draft Minutes
- Building Services Report (*Ciabatti*)
- Cedar Rapids Fire Department Report (*English*)
- Area Ambulance Service Report (*Rippy*)
- Youth Services Report (*Hamblin/Leff*)
- Police SAFE-CR Report (*Grieder*)
- Cedar Rapids Police Department Report (*Jerman*)
- October Agenda Forecast Items

The meeting was adjourned at 5:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jean Novak  
Administrative Assistant  
Cedar Rapids Police Department