Meeting was brought to order by Committee Chairperson Susie Weinacht at 5:30 p.m.

Present: Council members Susie Weinacht, Dale Todd, Ashley Vanorny, Acting Fire Chief Curtis Hopper, Police Chief Wayne Jerman, Building Services Director Kevin Ciabatti, Area Ambulance Services Executive Director Keith Rippy, Amanda Grieder with SAFE-CR, Laura Faircloth for Youth Services, and Diane Webber with Animal Care & Control.

The November 13, 2018 Public Safety and Youth Services Committee minutes were approved.

Council member Susie Weinacht emphasized the continual effort to eliminate the reporting of every single number since they receive the data prior to the meetings via email. In an effort to execute the transition that’s been taking place over the last three years to synopsize the abundance of information, the handouts and binders will be eliminated for the next meeting in March. Prior to the meeting, the collective reports should be emailed in one or two PDF’s to the meeting attendees.

**Fire Department Report—Acting Chief Curtis Hopper**

Chief Hopper addressed the numbers concerning fires confined to the object or room of origin over the last two months. 21 out of 26 or 80.7% of fires were confined to the room of origin. The National average is 75%.

During November and December, they responded to 1044 calls that were EMS and 948 fire related calls, for a total of 1992. The pre-incident value for fire losses is $4,806,671.00, and the actual loss was $261,242.00. For the calendar year, they had 6614 calls that were EMS, and 6175 for fire, for a total of 12,789. These numbers have been pretty consistent throughout the last year with an increase of about 4.25% increase annually for call volume. The totals for pre-incident values were over $150,000,000, with actual losses of just over $6,000,000.

Council member Dale Todd would like some data regarding calls that are suspected arson. Chief Hopper wants to make sure that what is reported on are final determinations as to cause, and not calls that are
still under investigation. However, they will gather data on cases that have been determined as suspected arson for the March meeting.

Council member Ashley Vanorny asked if any of the incident call types are exceeding the typical 4.25% increase per year. Chief Curtis Hopper responded by explaining that they haven’t broken it down by call type, but that the overall call volume increases by about 4.25% per year, but that seems to be a trend even amongst EMS calls. One factor to the increase may be attributed to an increased response in the number of elderly baby boomers in our population. Council member Ashley Vanorny also noticed that some of the stations have higher call volumes than others. She inquired if the trucks are rotated from station to station to cut down on the wear and tear of certain engines. Chief Curtis Hopper did confirm that once a new apparatus is obtained, the previous apparatus is changed to a station with a lower call volume. Ashley inquired if they have had any involvement with the Cedar Rapids Park Salvation’s kayak launch. Chief Hopper stated that they do not currently have any involvement, but that they can help out in any way they can.

**Building Service Report-Kevin Ciabatti**

Kevin Ciabatti from Building Services provided his summary from his Department activities for the months of November and December.

YTD and Calendar Year Building Inspection numbers were included in Kevin’s report. The total number of all trades inspections have been generally trending lower throughout last year. For Example, year-end 2018 total was 10% lower than year-end 2017. In addition, YTD and Calendar Year Building Permit Valuation numbers were included in the report. The total valuation of all trade permits have been trending higher. The year-end total valuation for calendar year 2018 was approximately 6% higher than calendar year 2017.

Two trade inspectors are performing over 20% of their inspections outside their area of expertise. Two additional inspectors around 9% of their inspections outside their area of expertise. In terms of their inspectors, nine inspectors tested for additional certifications. Over half of those certifications obtained were for areas outside their area of expertise. This effort continues to demonstrate the commitment for cross training and cross-trained inspections resulting in added efficiencies into their inspection program.

YTD and Calendar Year Valuation numbers were included in the report. The total valuation of all trade permits issued have been trending higher. The year-end total valuation for calendar year 2018 was approximately 6% higher than calendar year 2017. In most cases and in most work classes, the total permits issued were lower in Calendar year 2018 than Calendar Year 2017. The most notable benchmark was the new single-family home construction was down to 136 in calendar year 2018 from 215 in calendar year 2017. Multi-family housing has increased dramatically during that same time-period.
Two building permits were issued in the month of November and December with totals alone of over 6 million dollars leading to a great finish to the year. The valuation of all permits will be continually monitored moving forward throughout this year.

In the Months of November and December, a total of 157 Code Cases were opened (or created). In the Months of November and December, a total of 199 code Cases were closed. This demonstrates that generally, citizens do respond to requests and notices to correct found violations.

**Area Ambulance Report-Keith Rippy**

Keith Rippy discussed a few calls for service trends for Area Ambulance over the past two months. Last year there were 21,266 calls for service, and this year they are projecting to take over 22,000 calls for service. Last year, AAS had about 15,500 transports, and this year they are trending over 16,000 transports.

They are starting to replace cardiac monitors. They cost around $30,000 each, so they have implemented a three-year replacement plan, so that by the third year all current monitors have been replaced. They are also adding a Lucas device to each ambulance. A Lucas device is an automated CPR device so that their people don’t have to do manual CPR. These devices can be set so each compression is the same exact compression every single time. AAS currently has three Lucas devices, and they will continue over the next two years to purchase enough for each unit. They cost about $10,000 per piece.

This fiscal year, AAS will be upgrading the CAD system. Next fiscal year they will be adding additional unit hours and hiring about four more crewmembers to accommodate the increased call volume. In addition, they will be starting within the next 30-45 days the accreditation process for EMS. This time of year, there are two factors that attribute to call volumes. One is hazardous road conditions and secondly is the impact of flu season. If it is a bad flu season, call volume is impacted substantially in terms of an increase. Calls for service continue to increase as the population is getting older and heavier.

Council member Dale Todd commented on the stat of “inter-facility”. He inquired if the University of Iowa was considered “out of town”. Rippy confirmed that the out of town statistics does include the University, and that the vast majority of transports to the University are from Mercy and St. Luke’s for a higher level of care. Another “out of town” destination included in the data are transports to the Mayo Clinic.

**SAFE-CR Update-Amanda Grieder**

SAFE-CR stated they have their two areas of focus are recurrent Nuisance Properties and collecting unpaid SAFE-CR debts. In addition, SAFE-CR has asked the District Lieutenants or police officers serve paperwork for small claims cases to interested parties involved in the small claims lawsuit. Serving
paperwork in this manner has helped create a stronger presence and also helps save our department money. If we use CRPD Law Enforcement Officers, we do not have to pay Linn County to serve paperwork to those involved in the case.

SAFE-CR will continue efforts to reduce the number of properties on our recurrent Nuisance Properties list. Our repeat properties are those that have failed to get their property into compliance. A property becomes compliant when 12 months pass without having an additional Nuisance Property designation. A majority of those occur because the property is placarded. They are rarely from criminal activity as most of the property owners address the criminal activity, especially in rental properties.

Council Member Ashley Vanorney would like to continue efforts related to holding landlords accountable who have properties involved in human trafficking. Amanda confirmed that any property found to be involved would immediately become a nuisance property. Going forward Ashley would like to have a report on human trafficking during each Public Safety and Youth Services Committee Meeting.

**Youth Services Update- Sgt. Laura Faircloth CRPD**

Sergeant Faircloth presented the report for Youth Services. There was an increase in robbery, theft of motor vehicle and weapons violations from this time last year. They have been in discussion with the Juvenile Justice Center regarding these crimes, and they said forcible felonies are always referred to the court, but all of the other crimes can be handled by the Juvenile Justice Center by taking each juvenile through an intake interview and risk assessment. These programs are community based so they try to keep the juvenile at home but check in once a week unless that method is unsuccessful. The next step is to go to a success program, which is the most restrictive intervention that they have. They would then have to check in several times a day and may have to do drug screening tests or trackers along with a mentoring program designed to help them make better choices.

The Police Department has the PCAT team, which works with these individuals on a one to one basis when they feel that they could make a difference and offer them resources on how to help.

Some of the crimes that have decreased are aggravated assault, assault with intimidation and trespassing. A majority of the other categories have stayed on track with the previous year.

Police Pals have already reached over 3000 students in just the last two months. The curriculum for Kindergarten officers focus on talking about how to get to school and home safely and how to use 911. In 2nd grade they cover “stranger danger”, in 3rd grade they talk about bullying, 4th grade’s curriculum focuses on theft and 5th grade covers internet and sexting. These programs are flip flopped during the year between their spring and fall curriculum.

The School Resource Officers are back in school, and they also teach government classes so there is a consistent presence for students to have positive interactions with police officers.
The MVP program is in place at Kennedy, and they continue their homeroom training in the fall and most recently did some more training. They had some fights that they had at the beginning of the year, but they were able to slow those down through their positive programs. There were two individuals that were creating most of the issues at school, but they moved them to Washington and Polk. Since then there have been a reduced number of incidences. They are making sure that students are not allowed in the hallways while class is in session, as well as holding kids accountable when issues arise. Jefferson High School had the same problems with fighting, and they implemented the same restrictions with not being allowed in the hallways while school is in session.

All of the School Resource Officers are now trained in crisis intervention. They are able to help students who are in crisis whether it’s mental or drug related.

There was an incident at Washington High School where one of the teachers overheard one of the students talking about a student who might have a weapon. The School Resource Officer was contacted right away and within 6 minutes, he called for other units. They were quickly able to come up with a plan and implement the isolation of the student. It was handled very well and quickly. A replica gun was found and that student has been suspended. They have yet to find out the long term repercussions for that student. While they were dealing with that situation, an altercation also broke out involving several females. Three were arrested that day and 4 more, including an adult were arrested following the incident, and one more arrest is still to follow.

Council member Susie Weinacht mentioned that there has been positive feedback regarding the MVP program, but Washington High School has yet to implement the program. She inquired as to why it hasn’t been implemented yet. Sergeant Faircloth confirmed that it indeed has not been implemented at Washington High School, and that it is mainly up to the school itself on whether or not they implement programs. Susie suggested there be a meeting set up with the school to revisit the benefits of this program.

Council member Ashley Vanorney asked if there was any way to target specific times of the day or days of the week where there’s increased incidences involving juveniles so that we can pinpoint a more specific time to proactively handle some of these issues. Sergeant Faircloth explained that the PCAT team heavily focuses on talking to and mentoring juveniles with a history of issues. They try to explain that these issues can be brought into adult life and have severe consequences in an effort to deter them from continuing down a dangerous path and prevent further crime. If they are able, they also sit down with the juveniles parents to find out what they can do and what resources are available to help them. These methods are also used by the Juvenile Justice System, but unfortunately, there is only so much they can do, and they have to accept the help.
Animal Care & Control Report-Diane Webber

Diane presented an overview of 2018 for Animal Care & Control. Overall, they took in 826 dogs, 14,015 cats, as well as 187 “others” which can be anything from ferrets, rabbits, gerbils and reptiles. Their return to owner, rescue and adopted out is consistently above the national standards which reports only 15% of dogs and 2% of cats that enter shelters are reunited with their owners. They have been seeing 64% and higher of dogs and 9% of cats return to the owner. Cats are typically going to be lower because a majority of the cats are feral and cannot be tamed. These increased numbers are largely in part to the relationship they have with Cedar Rapids Area Lost Pets, and because each pet that leaves the shelter is microchipped. Life release rate is 79% of dogs and 60% of cats, which is a number that they are extremely proud of.

They respond to over 20,000 calls for service and information a year, and they just celebrated their 5th year at their current location where they have housed over 3,310 animals a year. When the building was built, it was supposed to have the capacity for 124 cats and 43 dogs. Because of the way they designed the space and the types of housing units that they use, they have been able to hold much more than that. During peak season, which is May-Oct., they have as many as 200 cats and as many as 86 dogs if they double up the cages if necessary.

In 2012, Diane formed a non-profit called “Friends Helping Friends Foundation”. Their purpose is to improve the quality of life for both the citizens and the four-legged companions. The more they can do for the pet owners the better they are going to be able to take care of their pets. The foundation has been able to provide several in depth surgeries for some of the pets that have come in either injured or issues that are discovered once they’re in the shelter. A lot of these injuries are easily fixed with surgery, making these animals completely adoptable. They also erected a 40x60 foot exercise yard behind the building with agility equipment.

The “Paws for the Holiday” adoption event has been successful for the past 6 years, and it continues to grow larger every year. It is usually held a few weeks before Christmas, and this year it was held on the 8th of December. This year they advertised $5 adoptions because they have been at the facility for five years. They had 40 people lined up outside the door before they even opened. In 4 hours, they adopted out 30 cats, 9 dogs and raised $1100 for the shelter.

Police Department Report-Chief Wayne Jerman

The crime statistics that were released last week were included into the packet. While they are encouraged that there continues to be a downward trend in violent crime within the last decade, they also rolled out a 5-year rolling average and violent crime was down 3% in 2018 compared to 5 years ago. With respect to 2018 to 2017, they saw a decrease in murders, robberies and burglaries. Attempted murders did increase this past year, as well as domestic violence and domestic abuse, to an alarmingly high number. Over the last 5 years, the number of calls for service for domestic violence has increased
by 1,500 calls. In 2013, there were 4,434 calls, and five years later, it increased to 5,934 calls for service. There are a number of reasons for this, and one of them is that in 2017 the Police Department adopted and implemented the Lethality Assessment Program, which is a series of questions that officers ask when responding to a domestic abuse call. If officers receive affirmative responses to 3-4 of the questions, there is an immediate referral to a counselor/programs that can provide relief from the abuser. The legislature has also changed the law so if there is an obvious injury present, then there is no discretion to arrest and an arrest is mandatory. Many victims are more comfortable speaking to the officers, and that officers are receiving more training and insight into the circle of domestic violence.

Property crimes decreased, and there was nearly a 4% decrease in burglaries. However, the 5-year average in property crimes did show an increase. People need to stop leaving items of value inside their vehicles, and to lock it as well. The theft of motor vehicles also attributed to an increase over the last 5 years. There were incidents where people were leaving their vehicle unattended while running, or vehicles where the owners had decided to leave their keys in the car. A large number of the vehicles reported stolen are eventually recovered in another part of the city where the thief was looking for an easy mode of transportation to their destination. Theft from building was up by 76 cases. This is a new crime classification that was added after the Police Department’s Analyst reviewed all of the reports. Previously, these crimes would fall under the theft “all other” category. Over the last year, there was a decrease from six murders to three, and the department has made an arrest in all three homicides.

Council member Ashley Vanorny would like data on repeat offenders for domestic abuse calls, as well as the average number of altercations between individuals.

Council member Ashley Vanorny spoke about the significant pay off for an investment in early childhood education in ages 3-6 that can result in a reduction in crime later on in life. She also inquired if we are looking into any early childhood education programs with either Youth Services or the Police Department in trying to solicit that with the State or Board of Education. Chief Jerman is not aware of any programs involving the school districts, but is personally involved in “Fight Crime, Invest in Kids” which is a National organization that has similar positions regarding the benefits of early childhood intervention. Councilwoman Ashley Vanorny would like to see some sort of discussion happen to see if we can’t get the ball rolling on a related program.

MARCH 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
Public Safety & Youth Services Committee
Meeting

January 14, 2019

The meeting was adjourned at 7:23 p.m.

Thank you,
Megan Schillinger
Cedar Rapids Fire Department
Central Fire Station Admin II
319-286-5210