Committee Chairperson Susie Weinacht brought meeting to order at 3:00 p.m.

Present: Council members Susie Weinacht and Ashley Vanorny; Police Chief Wayne Jerman; Acting Fire Chief Greg Smith; Building Services Director Kevin Ciabatti; Area Ambulance Executive Director Keith Rippy; and Amanda Grieder with SAFE-CR.

The September 17, 2018 Public Safety and Youth Services Committee minutes were approved.

**Fire Department Report – Acting Chief Greg Smith**

Firefighters and members of the Cedar Rapids Firefighters Foundation raised $9,650, which was donated to the St. Florian Fire & Burn Foundation of Sioux City. The foundation sends children whose lives have been impacted by burns so they can attend burn camp. The Fire Department has several members that volunteer at burn camp as well.

Fire Department average response times continue to go down, and they are getting to the scene faster. The Accreditation process has created an awareness of the turnout times and response times. They have gained another second, and another second on response time makes a difference, continuing to save lives.

Regarding fire losses for the months of September and October, there was a fire loss of about $104,000. However, the pre-incident value for that property was 6.7 million dollars. Therefore, firefighters had a save of probably about 6.6 million dollars.

Of 29 fire calls that were dispatched in September, 23 of the fires were confined to the room or object of origin, for a percentage of about 79.3%. The NFPA average across the country, is about 75%, so they beat the national average. When fires are contained in a room or object of origin, then the damage is under 50% loss for the structure. If the fire goes beyond the room of origin, typically the loss to the structure and contents increases about 50%. This increases the inconvenience for the homeowner or business owner, length of time outside their home or business, and having to re-build their home or business. Also, when the fire moves beyond the room of origin, the fire conditions are more hazardous for the firefighters.

Regarding Community Risk Reduction/Public Education Programs from January 1, 2018 to October 31, 2018, they have conducted 264 events, with 10,363 participants. Their community risk reduction department is comprised of only 2 ½ people, and they perform car seat installations, community
presentations, fire extinguisher training, bike helmets, safety assessments, smoke alarms installation and programs in the school system.

**Area Ambulance Report – Keith Rippy**
Area Ambulance Services’ Key Performance Indicators and Special Events Summary reports are attached.

As is the trend, they are again projecting an increase of over 1,000 calls for service for the year, which has happened year after year. That translates into an additional 700 transports that they are projecting for this fiscal year. They are working towards adding some additional unit hours sometime after the first of the year to keep up with this increased call volume. Over the last five years, their call volume and transport volume have gone up about 22%. This is a significant increase each year, and they are incorporating this increased demand in their strategic plan to keep up with this anticipated, continuing increase. Additionally, in terms of response times, they continue to be above the threshold of 9 minutes or less, 90% of the time. In spite of the call volume increase, they managed to stay ahead of it and their response times are still very strong, above 90%.

Regarding patient survey feedback, they have received 94+% as an excellent rating. They have not received any “needs to improve” in any of their patient surveys.

As the weather continues to deteriorate with snow and ice, they expect for have weather related calls for transports. Normally, they see an uptick starting in December. It’s higher in December and January, and it also depends on how severe the flu season is. This has a direct correlation in their call volume. Also, during the first snowfall there usually are many traffic accidents, creating calls for service.

**Building Services Report – Director Kevin Ciabatti**
The Building Services Report is attached, and Director Ciabatti presented the following information:

The total building trade inspections is trending lower than the completed trade inspections in both September and October, as a comparison to the same time period last year. As stated in previous reports, the valuation is trending higher, with larger projects, which is good news for the City of Cedar Rapids and the construction industry. A higher reported valuation of construction does not necessarily correlate to increased inspections. The total trade inspections YTD is at 13,749. Year-end in 2017 was 18,135. Currently, the gap is 4,386. Building Services’ best estimate is the projected total number of inspections at year-end to be down approximately 5%.

Building Services is continuing their commitment for cross training of the residential inspection staff. For example, there are two trade inspectors who are performing close to 20% of their inspections outside their area of expertise. Two additional inspectors around 10% of their inspections outside their area of expertise. Again, this demonstrates Building Services’ commitment for cross training and cross-trained inspections. It also demonstrates the opportunity to have single inspectors with an in-depth understanding of areas of the code outside their primary focus. However, more importantly, it saves City resources (only sending one vehicle), saves citizens time (only required to be home for one inspection) and is a more efficient process.

Although cross training is very important, their focus on this cross training effort has been focused on residential projects, both remodeling and new construction. Commercial projects required a higher
level of code knowledge; therefore, it is very difficult to have one inspector with expertise in all areas. They do have a few instances where staff is seeing cross training is occurring on smaller commercial projects as well.

The top five building permits in September and October make up 13.5 million dollars’ worth of work. This total reported valuation is approximately 23 million ahead, compared to the same time period last year. Keep in mind this is a calendar year total, and not fiscal year total. For example, in 2017 (Jan-Oct) the total valuation reported was $273,924,380. In 2018, (Jan-Oct) the total valuation reported was $296,996,991.

Total permits issued are in line with the previous four years. In September and October, there were 19 new single-family starts. This is fairly consistent with this time of year of getting foundations in the ground before inclement weather.

There were 234 “opened” code cases in September and October. During that same timeframe, there were 266 code cases “closed”. The largest complaint category still remains vehicle-parking complaints. These include parking on unpaved surfaces, oversize vehicle storage and inoperable vehicles. The total caseload is trending slightly lower on current “open” cases in the past two months, down from 833 to 821.

Building Services scheduled a trade Board of Appeal meeting. The applicant felt their office was misinterpreting a portion of the code. Prior to the scheduled meeting, staff worked with the applicant to continue to research the related code provision. Research and additional effort was put forth by staff, and it included contacting the International Code Council for clarification, contacting the State of Iowa Fire Marshall’s Office for clarification and offering up alternative methods to solve the specific issue. The application was subsequently withdrawn, and the alternate method was approved. It demonstrated the commitment of staff working through the issues to solve a very complicated proposed design and alternative.

Building Services has provided assistance in the search for the overflow homeless shelter. In conjunction with the Fire Department, they have visited each site proposed to determine a level of code compliance and additionally offered additional contacts for alternative locations.

**Youth Services Report – Sergeant Laura Faircloth/Captain Cody Estling**

Sgt. Faircloth reviewed the attached juvenile arrest data.

Crime in the schools has gone up through September and October, and that is because school is in session. The crimes that have increased include Person Under Legal Age – Tobacco, Theft, Disorderly Conduct, Drug Paraphernalia, and drug possession charges. At a football game, two people were charged with six crimes. Drug Paraphernalia, PCS charges, and Assaults increased at Jefferson High School. The overall crime for juveniles stayed about the same. There was an 8% overall rate for assaults that went up (12 incidents over last year). Thefts have gone down 7%, and Juvenile Probation has an on-line program that has a 10% recidivism rate. The Police Department continues with its 4th grade education for theft. Robbery was up 250% because there were three arrests in October of juvenile offenders.
Captain Estling and Sgt. Faircloth gave the CIVIC presentation, which describes various outreach programs. The handout containing the information presented is attached. They also presented information regarding the Rough Riders’ partnership with the Police Department regarding their anti-bullying campaign.

SAFE-CR Report – Amanda Grieder
Amanda presented the SAFE-CR Public Safety Update, and the report is attached.

SAFE-CR has had 721 total Nuisance Properties, and currently they have 154 that are active. Out of the 721 properties, they brought 567 into compliance. They have billed $77,262.08, and collected $41,849.56. The collection process is their biggest obstacle. They can take people to small claims court, and after they have that judgment, they can proceed through collections. If they get a judgment, they hope to be able to assess against property taxes. They have not received a final answer regarding this yet. Perhaps they may be able to enter into the Offset programs. There are seven cases going to small claims court.

Amanda highlighted a success story of SAFE-CR helping an individual inquiring about the installation of an accessible parking sign on the street adjacent to them. SAFE-CR provided the individual with answers regarding cost, required paperwork, a direct phone number, etc. Although this was not their responsibility, they provided assistance to this individual.

Police Department Report – Chief Wayne Jerman
Chief Jerman reviewed the attached Cedar Rapids Police Activity Report, Shots Fired Report, and the Citizen Assistance Summary.

Violent Crime is at 0% change from the same period last year, and rapes, robberies, and burglaries are all down. Also, thefts and property crime are down for the year. Aggravated assaults and domestic violence aggravated assaults have increased. The introduction of the Lethality Assessment Protocol program may be responsible for that increase, because the victims of domestic assault are becoming more engaged with officers in reporting domestic violence. That may be one of the reasons for the increase.

The Chief explained that there is some decline in drug arrests, because there have been a high number of drug investigations that have been adopted by the Drug Enforcement Administration, and these statistics are being reported on the federal statistics. That is part of the reason those numbers are not as high as they were in previous years. However, drug investigations and arrests are occurring.

Shots Fired are up 14 from the same period last year, and the Police Department continues to work hard in addressing this. The Police Community Action Team of four officers has to date seized 28 illegal guns. They use pro-active policing techniques and intelligence that they receive from various sources within the Police Department.

There were 27 citizen assists with three resulting in robbery arrests.

In August, the Police Department held a 40-hour Crisis Intervention Team training class in which 20 people were trained. The participants included street officers, school resource officers, and dispatchers, since dispatchers are the first individuals who have contact with persons who are in crisis. This class was taught by a number of people who are professionals in the mental health industry. The Police
Department is planning a second class of another 20 participants later this month. At the conclusion of this session, all of the School Resource Officers will have received this training. They have also opened up the CIT training to other law enforcement agencies in the county. Chief Jerman extends his thanks to NAMI (National Alliance for Mental Illness) which is helping with the cost to have this training. Many of the issues that police officers are encountering is the result of a reduction in mental health treatment, and the individuals are persons who are in crisis or experiencing some other type of mental health episode. They are not criminals, but they end up committing a criminal act, being incarcerated, and they don’t get the treatment that they need in jail. They need treatment in a mental health facility, or by mental health professionals.

All police officers now carry Narcan, and last month they had their first save by an officer who administered a dose of Narcan to a woman who was unresponsive. The officer had been trained, carried Narcan, and administered it to save the woman’s life. Chief Jerman anticipates that they will save many more lives due to officers carrying Narcan. Opioid overdoses is on the decline; however, they will continue to train new officers and provide all patrol officers with Narcan. The Chief reminded everyone that the Police Department has a drug drop off box inside the vestibule at the police department to deposit unused medications for their safe disposal. In his role as the Eastern Iowa Heroin Officer, Al Fear promoted education and intervention for opioid use. He has been promoted to Sergeant, and Officer Lindsay Schrader has replaced him as the Eastern Iowa Heroin officer.

Eight new officers graduated from the Cedar Rapids Police Academy on October 6th, and these officers are now completing their Field Training Officer program. A ninth officer is currently receiving his training at the Iowa Law Enforcement Academy in Johnston, and he will graduate on December 14th.

The Police Department has implemented a Mobile Field Force, which is more commonly known as a Civil Disturbance Unit. They are training officers to be used in the event of some form of civil unrest. They have partnered with the International Association of Chiefs of Police and COP’s Office who are providing grants and expertise for the training. On December 4th, there will be a joint training exercise with CRPD officers, as well as officers from Linn County Sheriff’s Office and Marion police officers.

The Police Department has hired a new Crime Analyst, who has a lot of experience with GIS mapping and processing intelligence information. He is designing some new graphs and charts that they will use to streamline into a new format for the crime statistics. This should be in a more friendly format and easier to read.

The Police Department is recruiting for police officers, and on-line applications will be accepted through Thursday, January 10, 2019. Also, Chief Jerman provided an update of the accreditation process. A mock assessment was held six weeks ago, and on January 28 – 30, 2019 the national assessment team will be at the Police Department to do the full on-site assessment.

**AGENDA ITEM FORECAST**

- Approval of November Draft Minutes
- Building Services Report *(Ciabatti)*
- Cedar Rapids Fire Department Report *(Smith)*
- Area Ambulance Service Report *(Rippy)*
- Youth Services Report *(Faircloth/Cole)*
- Police SAFE-CR Report *(Grieder)*
Public Safety & Youth Services Committee Meeting
November 13, 2018

- Cedar Rapids Police Department Report (*Jerman*)
- Public Comment (10 min.; 2 min. limit per person)
- January, 2019 Agenda Forecast Items

The meeting adjourned at 4:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jean Novak, Administrative Assistant
Cedar Rapids Police Department