The meeting was brought to order by Committee Chairperson Susie Weinacht at 4:00 p.m.

Present: Council members Susie Weinacht, Ashley Vanorny, Dale Todd, Fire Chief Greg Smith, Police Chief Wayne Jerman, Building Services Director Kevin Ciabatti, Area Ambulance Services Executive Director Keith Rippy, Amanda Grieder with SAFE-CR, Sgt. Laura Faircloth for Youth Services

The September 16, 2019, Public Safety and Youth Services Committee minutes were approved.

**After Hours Business License Ordinance-Amanda Grieder**

Amanda Grieder with SAFECR presented information regarding the proposed new ordinance, and a copy of her presentation is attached.

The Police Department, Fire Department, Building Services, Community Development, City Clerk and City Attorney have all worked together in drafting the Ordinance. All of the current after hours businesses that they are aware of, didn’t seem to have any issues with it. A lot of them haven spoken in favor of having an After Hours License, because it is easier to get their inspections done and also know that they are doing the appropriate things with running the business and creating a partnership with the Police Department.

The licenses would be issued for a fixed term and would not exceed one year. That would coincide with the insurance that the business has, as well as the lease that the business has. If a business had a lease for 5 days because they are doing a temporary after hours business, and they have insurance for 5 days, that’s how long the license would last for. Hotels and motels are licensed by the State of Iowa.

The attached report contains the specifics of the After Hours Business License Ordinance.

Comments from Committee members regarding the proposed ordinance included:

- Would adult establishments require an After Hours Business License?
  - They already have regulations that no one under 18 can be in those business.
- Is prostitution and human trafficking outlined in the ordinance?
They should be outlined in the ordinance.

- Comments were expressed regarding the primary purpose of the business and ways business can get around the ordinance.
- If businesses are operating without a license, the property would be placarded and their licenses would be pulled. In addition, if it were a nuisance property, it would be billed for additional police calls for service.
- What about large house parties?
  - Residential property are exempt from licensing.

A motion was made to move the Ordinance out of Committee to the City Council was moved, seconded and the motion carried.

**Fire Department Report-Chief Greg Smith**

Chief Smith provided an update for the Fire Department, and the reports from the Fire Department are attached.

For the months of September and October, the Fire Department had 2374 incidents, 1248 that were EMS, and 1134 that were reported as a fire. Of those, they had 24 structure fires. Of the 24 structure fires, they had a property loss of $255,000; however, the pre-incident value for those structures is just over $2.2 million dollars. The response and efforts of the firefighters resulted in over $2 million dollars in property saved on those 24 structure fires. Of the 24 structure fires in those two months, they had 19 that were confined to either the object or room of origin. Typically if the fire gets beyond the room of origin, then it becomes a 50% loss on that structure, and it is either going to cause that property to be taken down, becoming a total loss, or greater time and expense for the resident or business owner. This can remove the structure from the tax roll. In addition, it is important that they confine those fires so that firefighters are exposed to fewer hazards within that structure, as well as fewer toxic materials. 19 out of 24 is just over 79%, and the national average is right around 75%. In the last two months, their response times have been holding steady, and they are getting to the calls in timely fashion.

Chief Smith provided an update regarding the Fire Station Alerting Project. They are working on a contract vendor to install an updated fire station alerting system. The current system that they have is 20 years old, and it is time to replace it. They have the funding, and hope to award the contract either by March or April. It consists of an automated dispatch voice that will dispatch and provide them the nature of the call and the address, so they can start the apparatus while the dispatcher can still be on the phone with the caller, and then can give them updated information either via MDC or by voice from dispatch once they are off the phone with that individual. This should dramatically improve their response times. The system will provide better service to the citizens, as well as help to maintain their accreditation.

Comments from the Committee regarding the Fire Department included:

- Firefighters feeling like they are taking on more and more responsibility without increasing staffing. Do you feel the Fire Department is adequately staffed?
The department has continued to take on additional calls and additional duties, which is something they watch carefully. They are starting to plan on taking on a master plan study to look at what they would need. At present, Chief Smith feels they are adequately staffed. When needed, they will ask for more resources.

- Great job with what you have, and taking on the master plan. Also, an appreciation was extended regarding the Fire Academy this year.

**Area Ambulance Services - Executive Director Keith Rippy**

Area Ambulance Services Executive Director Keith Rippy reported on their activities, and the Area Ambulance report is attached.

Executive Director Rippy reported that transport volumes and call volumes are running according to their business plan, and they project about 22,000 CFS and about 17,000 transports.

Area Ambulance began construction of a 9,300 sq. ft. expansion to their building, which will bring their building to about 30,000 sq. ft. and give them additional office space. In addition, it will provide additional garage space for their vehicles, additional office space, additional conference room, and a fitness room with showers.

Another substantial initiative they are working on is an in-house pharmacy, which should be done by the first of January. They currently utilize the pharmacy at Mercy Hospital, but for logistic reasons and financial reasons, they are establishing an in-house pharmacy. Pharmaceuticals will be less costly, and they will have more control, giving them the ability to cut some of the costs. These drugs are used during transports.

They are also in the process of updating their AVL (automated vehicle locator) mapping software. Their dispatchers can look at the screen and see where their units are and where they are moving to, so that the closest ambulance always gets the call.

In addition, they are updating their reporting software, as well as replacing their Panasonic Toughbooks with IPADs.

Also, they have established a program for employee development. If EMTs meet a certain criteria, they will put them in paramedic school. Area Ambulance Service will write the initial check to pay for school for them, and then they will reimburse AAS through payroll deduction for half of that course. If they successfully graduate, then they sign an agreement to stay with AAS for 3 years after they have successfully completed their paramedic program. There is a shortage of paramedics in the state of Iowa, and they have three EMTs starting the program in January.

Comments from the Committee regarding Area Ambulance included:

- How many openings do you have right now for paramedics?
They currently have three paramedic openings; however, there are six EMTs in school right now who will graduate in May or sooner and will become paramedics.

- A question was raised regarding the number of opioid overdoses (AAS and Fire).

- AAS does not keep that stat on their performance metrics, but it could be supplied at the next meeting. Also, the Fire Department does not have that listed, but it is something they can certainly look up and provide.

- A request was made to put together a metric so that it can be tracked.

- It was mentioned that the overdoses county-wide were going down, but it would be nice to get that information for Cedar Rapids.

- Area Ambulance’s statistics are in general terms, and they cannot tell if the overdose was for heroin, cocaine, etc.

- It was mentioned to use the data that is coming in through the Linn County Board of Health, Fire Department and Area Ambulance.

- It was mentioned that the Indianapolis Fire Department has a heat map, that enables you to see where these type of events were happening, but it doesn’t give the address just a geographical idea where there is a spike in that type of activity.

- Area Ambulance will check to see if their map would do the same thing.

**Building Services Report-Kevin Ciabatti, Director**

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

The September and October building inspection numbers are included in the report. As Director Kevin Ciabatti has been forecasting, the total number of all trades inspections have generally been trending lower throughout last year for a total of 13,524. However, total inspections completed in September and October of this year are 4% higher than the same time-period last year for a total of 2,957. In addition, the report also highlighted permit valuations for September and October. Per the analysis, commercial permit valuation are significantly lower than same time last year, while residential permit valuation is significantly higher than last year. The top five commercial building permits issued had a valuation of over 7.8 million dollars. The total valuation recorded was over 30 million dollars of construction for September and October.

Director Ciabatti highlighted the September and October aggregate permit numbers. Per the report, the total permits issued were approximately 5% higher than the same time-period last year. There were 22 new single-family permits issued in September and October, bringing the year to date total to 122, trending 3% lower that YTD last year.

Director Ciabatti also highlighted the code case numbers from September and October. Per the report, in the month of September and October, 186 cases were opened (or created). In the month of September and October, 172 cases were closed. There remains 756 code cases open at this time.
Comments from the Committee regarding Building Services included:

- Thanks was extended to Building Services and SAFECR regarding the work in Wellington.
- Do you think the inspections are going to trend down for the year?
  - Last year was a great year, but this year will probably be more of a typical year.

Youth Services Update-Sgt. Laura Faircloth with CRPD

Sergeant Laura Faircloth presented the attached reports for Youth Services.

Listed below is a synopsis of some of the initiatives:

- This year in December, they are having Cops and Kids, which is a reading program where our Police PALs will go into schools and read with the kids. Students receive a book to take home, which are supplied by Quota International.
- Washington HS --Brother to Brother and Sister to Sister, which is a peer support group, talking about culture. They also have the MVP program, which started this year.
- Jefferson has the MVP Program, which also started this year.
- Kennedy continues their MVP program, which is doing well. They also have the Black Student’s Club.
- Prairie has Beyond the Bell, which promotes leadership for African American students, and the FCA, which stands for Fellowship of Christian Athletes.
- Metro has Robotics
- McKinley has Robotics and after school basketball programs to keep kids engaged after school, as well, which is not their normal basketball teams. They also have the LBA (Leaders, Believers, and Achievers).
- Roosevelt has LBA, Robotics and the LGBT Club.

Jefferson had an uptick in Disorderly Conducts this year, and the schools are working to correct some of that behavior in school with the students.

The Cedar Rapids Protective Charity this year, which is referred to as Santa Cop, has made a change this year. Instead of shopping with students at Target, they will be adopting students from Taylor, and 248 students will be receiving coats and boots from the CR Protective Charity, and then the local high schools – Jefferson, Kennedy, Washington and Metro have collected hats, gloves and socks for the children.

Comments from the Committee regarding Youth Services:

- Who attended the School District City meeting?
  - Chief Jerman and Captain Estling attended, and the second follow up meeting will be held sometime after the first of year.
- It was mentioned that there is a group called Green Bandanas at Kennedy, which works with suicide prevention.
The Green Bandanas are a peer support type of program, and not necessarily for suicide prevention. This group started in a college, and the students underwent training to learn how to provide peer support. If a student has a green bandana tied to their backpack, then that means other students could feel safe enough to come and talk to them about any issues that might be going on. Linn Mar has adopted the program, but Cedar Rapids has not implemented the official program. There is some training that goes along with it. Because the kids not only need training to talk to these other kids, but also how to get them help, and someone to go to make sure that help is being put in place.

SAFE-CR Update-Amanda Grieder

Amanda Grieder presented the report for SAFE-CR, and it is attached.

Of the 836 nuisance properties, 697 have been brought back into compliance. They have billed around $90,500 for 113 properties. They are looking at some landlords who have multiple bills across the City that they owe, and also have nuisance properties. One landlord in particular has quite a few bills owed to the City for things like mowing, or solid waste pickup, etc. SAFECR can ask problematic landlords to submit a nuisance abatement plan or take them to small claims court.

Comments from Committee members regarding SAFECR included:

- If someone is living in an apartment and the landlord will not take care of the tenant’s complaint, what is the process for reporting that?
  - Contact the Building Services Department since they perform the inspections. Citizens may also contact SAFECR, and they would forward the complaint through Energov and the complaint can be tracked and followed up on. If it is something that a landlord refuses to fix and the City is involved, it would go through their normal process. They can start with calling the Building Services main line, or they can call SAFECR. In addition, there is information on the Building Services website. They can always call SAFECR and if they do not know the answer, they will figure it out and call them back with exactly what they need to do. Also, the admins in Building Services and SAFECR do a really good job of trying to get to the bottom of their issue and solving it for that customer.
- What is my timeframe and how should someone document the problem?
  - Typically Building Services requires it in writing either in the form of a letter or an email and there is a two week time-period. The timeframe also varies depending on how soon the Building Services Department can get a hold of the landlord to schedule an inspection, and then perform the inspection. Also, Building Services’ staff carries with them packets of information to hand out to social service agencies and to some of the churches, etc. Some cases can be referred to Legal Aid or Civil Rights.
- Thank you for sharing that information. We appreciate all that you do.
Police Department Report-Chief Wayne Jerman

Chief Jerman presented the Police Department’s reports, which are attached.

Violent crime continues to trend down compared to the five-year average, and shots fired numbers are trending down compared to last year. The Police Department is accepting applications for police officer through January 9, 2020. The written and physical tests will be administered on February 1st, and the Civil Service Commission should have a certified list by May 4, 2020. The Police Academy will begin in June, and graduation in October 2020. Due to projected vacancies, they anticipate hiring 15 officers. If you know of someone who would make a good police officer, please let them know that the Police Department application process is open for recruitment.

Comments from the Committee Members:

- What strategies are we trying with gun violence?
  - The Chief mentioned that the PCAT team works to prevent gun violence. They continue to attend the WARN meetings, provide information regarding social service programs, and other programs that the offenders both juvenile and adults can enter to steer them away from the risky behavior that leads to incidents of tragedy.
- What is risky behavior?
  - Risky behavior is using, buying, selling illegal drugs; associating with known criminals, especially violent criminals; associating with known gun carriers; and those individuals who are legally prohibited from carrying guns. The likelihood of becoming involved in an act of violence increases tremendously with risky behavior.
- It was mentioned that there is a proposed subsidized program with Ring that would help put more cameras in the city, and help to gather more information regarding guns/crime. This could possibly be implemented at the beginning of next year.
  - This would be great because that will go hand in hand with the voluntary camera registration program that Sgt. Faircloth has instituted.
- People who are travelling different parts of the nation, who are specifically trying to cause disruption to see how far they can push the First and Second Amendment. An example cited was someone who was seen walking with an AR rifle along First Avenue. Have we seen more of this activity?
  - Someone came to City Hall and was videotaping the public areas and members of the City Manager’s Office and other City Hall employees. He also went to the Police Station and did the same. City Hall staff did exactly what they should have, and this person was exercising his rights. There was an occurrence a couple of years ago where protestors were outside the Federal Courthouse.
- Is there a specific posting for no guns allowed on the premises of any City building?
  - Council member Vanorny said that she could look into this.
JANUARY AGENDA ITEM FORECAST

- Building Services Report (Ciabatti)
- Cedar Rapids Fire Department Report (Smith)
- Area Ambulance Service Report (Rippy)
- Youth Services Report (Faircloth)
- Police SAFE-CR Report (Grieder)
- Cedar Rapids Police Department Report (Jerman)
- January Agenda Forecast Items – Report from Recreation Department

The meeting adjourned at 5:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jean Novak
Administrative Assistant III
Office of the Chief
Cedar Rapids Police Department