

**CITY OF CEDAR HILLS  
CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION  
Tuesday, January 18, 2022 – 6:00 p.m.  
Community Recreation Center  
10640 North Clubhouse Drive, Cedar Hills, Utah**

**Present:** Mayor Denise Andersen, Presiding  
Council Member Laura Ellison  
Council Member Mike Geddes  
Council Member Alexandra McEwan  
Council Member Brian Miller  
Council Member Kelly Smith

**Staff:** Chandler Goodwin, City Manager  
Kevin Anderson, Public Works Director  
Greg Gordon, Recreation Director  
Jeff Maag, Building Official  
Hyrum Bosserman, City Attorney  
Colleen Mulvey, City Recorder

**Absent/Excused:** Council Member Mike Geddes

**Others:** Lieutenant Josh Christensen  
Interim Police Chief Cameron Paul

The Work Session of the City Council of the City of Cedar Hills, having been properly noticed, was called to order at 6:04 p.m. by Mayor Andersen.

- **Oath of Office Ceremony for the Newly Elected Officials.**

City Recorder, Colleen Mulvey administered the Oath of Office. Denise Andersen was sworn in as Mayor, and Laura Ellison and Alexandra McEwen as members of the Cedar Hills City Council.

- **Station Appreciation – Officer Recognition Presentation.**

Mayor Andersen honored Lieutenant Scott Christensen of the Fire Department with the Station Appreciation Award. Lt. Christensen has served with American Fork Fire and Rescue (“AFFR”) since 2015. He is currently working as a Lieutenant on 52B. He is a remarkable asset to the Department, the Fire Service, and the citizens he serves. He is an active member of the Utah Valley Metro Special Response Team where he has spent numerous hours of training, specializing in structure collapse, trench, rope, and confined space rescue. His special skillset is ready for deployment throughout the County. He is one of our ice rescue trainers where he teaches and trains department members in the specialty of ice rescue. He is a Fleet Manager whose job is to keep the City’s apparatus in pristine working condition and ready to respond on any call. He recently helped develop the Asset Management Program that monitors fleet checkoffs and repairs.

He is a skilled Apparatus Operator, Paramedic, and Officer. His leadership is extremely valuable to the department where he helps mentor and develop the future members of AFFR.

The Police Officer to be recognized was not able to be in attendance as he was out doing his job.

Mayor Andersen expressed gratitude for all first responders.

- **Presentation – American Fork Chaplain.**

American Fork Chaplain, Michael Denos introduced himself as the Volunteer Chaplain for the Police Agency. He has been in Utah County for three years. He began his Chaplaincy work 40 years ago as a volunteer in Delaware as a young man. He started with the Unified Police, which at the time was the Salt Lake County Sheriff's Office. His goal is to be of service to police agencies in critical response situations, including accidents, suicides, crime situations, and other situations. His intent is to stay active and serve the community. Mr. Denos spoke of his uncle who was a Utah Highway Patrolman for several years and finished his career in Southern Utah. He always admired him and what he did and wanted to be able to serve his community as well.

Council Member Ellison asked Mr. Denos what he does specifically. Mr. Denos reported that he responds to crisis situations for officers and citizens and works with families of people involved in various situations to offer emotional support that police officers do not have time to do.

Mayor Andersen thanked him for his service and attendance.

- **Discussion on 2021 Police Activity.**

Interim Police Chief, Cameron Paul, thanked the City Staff and Council Members for their diligence and hard work in making the City a great place to live. He presented the 2021 police activity statistics for Cedar Hills. The Crime Statistics and Trends show that Cedar Hills is a great, safe, place to live. It is a beautiful community with parks and open spaces, trails, and friendly people. Chief Paul presented the Calls for Service in 2021, showing that police responded to 2,149 calls in the City. These are calls that come through the dispatch system and do not include police-initiated activity. The officers generate approximately 80 additional calls in Cedar Hills which include DUIs, on-view crimes, and other situations that officers see first-hand. He presented a graph showing the trends in calls. There has been a downward trend over the last two years. The estimated calls for 2022 were 1,677. The main reason for the decrease was that dispatch can field calls from cell phone numbers to determine if they require an officer to respond.

Statistics show information that the public would want to know in determining where a good place to live may be. In Cedar Hills, there have been no homicides over the last five years and no kidnappings. There have been three robberies, but they have been minimal. He presented information and numbers on alcohol offenses, assaults, residential burglaries, mental illness calls, and robberies. There was a total of five alcohol offenses in the past year, most of which were very minor. Of the 22 assaults, only one included a person that the victim did not know. The majority were domestic violence cases. Residential burglary is where anyone makes unlawful or forced entry into a home with the intent to commit some type of crime. For the purpose of statistic

tracking, an attached garage is part of the home, so if someone enters an open garage and takes anything, it is considered a residential burglary. Of all 17 residential burglaries last year, only one involved forced entry. The others were either through open or unlocked doors.

Of the 17 burglaries, 12 involved items taken from the garage. There were five incidents involving entry into the home. Of these, only two involved the theft of anything significant. Most occurred through unlocked doors. Mental illness was an increasing issue in the community. There have been three robberies in the last five years in Cedar Hills. In 2017, there was a questionable situation. In 2018, a man stole the keys to a vehicle and then took the vehicle. In 2021 there was a robbery at Walmart.

Another interesting trend was an increase in traffic accidents in the Walmart parking lot. Chief Paul urged caution. Although typically minor, they take up a significant amount of police time to process. Officers patrol the City, especially at night, looking for suspicious activity. Community involvement and education are important, and the officers use social media to help educate and inform the public.

In 2021, the department was awarded a multi-thousand-dollar federal grant to hire a full-time Social Worker at the Police Department that includes a vehicle, equipment, and other necessary perks. This individual will help with the Mental Health Program and assist the department with mental health calls.

Park enforcement was another area of focus to help with crime reduction. Chief Paul reported that calls from residents reporting suspicious activity are welcomed and encouraged. They were, however, urged to call at the time rather than wait to report something. It is important to lock doors to cars and homes as it is one of the greatest crime deterrents in the City.

Chief Paul described the Walmart robbery in greater detail and showed pictures of the broken window and several items the suspect hid along his escape path. He initially eluded officers but later was turned in by his stepfather. He is currently incarcerated and awaiting trial. Chief Paul discussed activities officers are hosting to bring awareness to the citizens, including the Family Festival, Night Out Against Crime, and the NOVA program at the school. As there is a downward trend in overall crime, there is no potential financial impact on the current contract.

Chief Paul thanked the Council and stated that the department sees Cedar Hills as family and appreciates the opportunity to help and serve.

Mayor Andersen asked how long the grant for the Social Worker will be in place. Chief Paul stated that it would be about two years, after which the City of American Fork will continue to fund that position.

Council Member Smith and the Mayor expressed appreciation to the Police Department. In response to a request, Chief Paul provided the non-emergency phone number, which is (801) 794-3970. It was noted that the number should be published in the newsletter.

**ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION: Council Member Smith moved to adjourn. Council Member Miller seconded the motion. The motion passed with the unanimous consent of the Council.**

The Work Session adjourned at 6:55 p.m.

Approved by Council:  
February 1, 2022

/s/ Colleen A. Mulvey, MMC  
City Recorder