

**ANN ARBOR CITY COUNCIL MINUTES
WORKING SESSION - OCTOBER 26, 1998**

The working session of the Ann Arbor City Council was called to order at 7:04 p.m. in the City Hall Council Chamber by Mayor Ingrid B. Sheldon.

ROLL CALL OF COUNCIL

PRESENT : Councilmembers Patricia Vereen-Dixon, Jane Lumm, Jean Carlberg, Heidi Cowing Herrell, Stephen C. Hartwell, Christopher Kolb, Mayor Ingrid B. Sheldon, 7;

ABSENT : Councilmembers Tobi Hanna-Davies, David Kwan, Patrick A. Putman, Elisabeth L. Daley, 4.

REGIONAL DISPATCH

Police Chief Carl Ent introduced Lt. Craig Swenson, Interim Director of the Washtenaw Regional Dispatch Authority, and Sgt. Dennis Betz of the Ann Arbor Police Department, who gave an overview of the project.

The Washtenaw Regional Dispatch Authority is an effort to provide an exceptional level of public safety dispatching and information technology to the citizens, police officers, fire fighters and paramedics of the City of Ann Arbor and Washtenaw County in a cost-effective manner. A key objective of the Washtenaw Regional Dispatch Authority is to provide technology, leadership and infrastructure to the public safety community through the economy of scale theory.

The Regional Dispatch idea was proposed based on a desire to address needs for new technology in dispatch centers as well as an opportunity to explore a trend seen at the national level. A Regional Dispatch Authority would provide a new dispatch center to share telephone, radio, and computer technologies; a regionalized criminal justice computer system; mobile computing (in car/field computers); video image database; 800 Mhz radio system management; and internet access and data integration needs of police officers, fire fighters and citizens in this area.

The capital investment plan approved by the Regional Dispatch Board calls for a five year bond project to fund improvements. Each entity would pledge an equal portion of their 911 surcharge funding as an investment in the facility and technology required to operate a modern safety dispatch center. Operating funds would continue to come from the Ann Arbor Police Department budget. The Regional Dispatch plan will provide a state of the art, fully functional Public Safety Answering Point that prepares the City to meet the challenges of dispatching in the 21st century.

Ann Arbor Police Department dispatchers were present to voice their opinion on the idea of Regional Dispatch. Ann Arbor dispatchers are in support of improving the City's current technology and equipment, but oppose becoming a separate entity by relocating to another facility. Ann Arbor Dispatchers present to speak were Ann Daws-Lazar, Janet Logghe, Mary Oxender, Becky Harrison, Officer Greg Bazick, Patricia Slager, Lynn Hart and Nina Lunsford.

Officer Dennis Agurrie, AAPOA President, explained the importance of keeping dispatchers under the jurisdiction of the Ann Arbor Police Department. He mentioned that the union is concerned with retirement and Public Act 312.

Police Chief Ent stated that he will present the financial figures to City Council and a written recommendation within 30 days.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before Council the Mayor declared the meeting adjourned at 9:17 p.m.

W. Northcross
Clerk of the Council

Frances M. McMullan
Recording Secretary