The Washington Parish Council met in Regular Session on February 22, 1999 and was called to order by Chairman Hollis A. Stafford, III.

The invocation was given by Councilman Matthew Tate.

The following members were present:

Glen Sheridan, David Dillon, Marvin Thomas, John Brock, Darwin Sharp, Hollis A. Stafford, III, Matthew Tate, Rodney Brown, Randy Strickland, Melvin Keith, Ken Wheat, Michael Applewhite and Clinton Miley.

Absent was Randy Brumfield.

Item No. 4 - Adoption of Minutes - A motion was offered by Glen Sheridan, seconded by Clinton Miley, to adopt the minutes of the Regular Meeting of February 8, 1999. All being in favor, the motion carried.

Ordinance # 99-209

Item No. 5 - Public Hearing - A motion was offered by Glen Sheridan, seconded by Matthew Tate, to open the public hearing on an Ordinance to authorize the Parish President to sign the contract with the successful bidder on the construction of Cell No. 3 at the Choctaw Landfill. All being in favor, the motion carried.

No one addressed the council during the public hearing.

A motion was offered by Glen Sheridan, seconded by Clinton Miley, to close the public hearing. All being in favor, the motion carried.

A motion was offered by Glen Sheridan, seconded by Clinton Miley, to adopt Ordinance No. 99-209 authorizing the Parish President to enter into a contract with the successful bidder for construction of Cell No. 3 at the Choctaw Landfill. Roll call vote was as follows:

Yees: 13 (Sheridan, Dillon, Thomas, Brock, Sharp, Stafford, Tate, Brown, Strickland, Keith, Wheat, Applewhite and Miley).

Nays: 0 (None)

Absent: 1 (Brumfield)

Item No. 6 - Public Hearing - A motion was offered by Clinton Miley, seconded by Matthew Tate, to open the public hearing on an ordinance to reinstate the compensation of the Council Members to what they received prior to the adoption of the Home Rule Charter. All being in favor the motion carried.

John Walz, former chairman of the Charter Commission, addressed the council. Mr. Walz cited sections of the Home Rule Charter that would not allow the council to adopt such an ordinance. He pointed out that no ordinance increasing the salary of the council members could be adopted during the last 12 months of a council’s term in office. He also stated that passage of such an ordinance could result in forfeiture of their office. Mr. Walz said he felt it would be a mistake to allow the council to deviate from the charter.

Councilman Michael Applewhite read a state statute which provides that the salary of a police juror should not be reduced during his term.

Legal Advisor Dale Branch reminded the council that the District Attorney’s office had been asked to render a legal opinion on this matter when the charter was adopted. After researching the Attorney General’s Opinions, a similar situation was found in another parish. The Attorney General determined that once the charter was in place, all provisions of that charter were in effect.