STATE OF LOUISIANA
PARISH OF WASHINGTON

WASHINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

ORDINANCE NO. 19-650

Introduced on June 10, 2019
Introduced by Chairman Chris Workman
Public Hearing held on June 24, 2019

The following Ordinance which was previously introduced in written form at a regular
meeting of the Parish Council on June 10, 2019, a Notice of Public Hearing having been published
in the official journal and which public hearing was held in accordance with said public notice,
was offered by Councilman Talley and seconded by Councilman Anthony:

ORDINANCE NO. 19-650

AN ORDINANCE ORDERING AND CALLING A SPECIAL ELECTION TO
BE HELD IN THE PARISH OF WASHINGTON, STATE OF LOUISIANA, ON
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 12, 2019 TO AUTHORIZE THE AMENDMENT AND
RESTATEMENT, IN ITS ENTIRETY, OF THE HOME RULE CHARTER OF
THE PARISH OF WASHINGTON, STATE OF LOUISIANA; MAKING
APPLICATION TO THE STATE BOND COMMISSION; AND PROVIDING
FOR OTHER MATTERS IN CONNECTION THEREWITH.

WHEREAS, the Parish Council of the Parish of Washington, State of Louisiana, acting as
the governing authority (the “Governing Authority”) of the Parish of Washington, State of
Louisiana (the “Parish”), desires to order and call a special election to be held in the Parish on
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 12, 2019, to authorize the repeal and replacement the Home Rule
Charter of the Parish of Washington, State of Louisiana (the “Charter”) such replacement to be
effective on January 1, 2020; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDEIGNED by the Governing Authority, that:

SECTION 1. Election Call. Subject to the approval of the State Bond Commission and
under the authority conferred by Article VI, Section 5(c) of the Constitution of the State of
Louisiana of 1974, as amended (the “Constitution”), Article VII, Section 7-03 of the Charter and
the applicable provisions of Chapter 6-A of Title 18 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950, as
amended (the “Electoral Code”), and other constitutional and statutory authority, a special election
(the “Election”) be and the same is hereby called and ordered to be held in the Parish on
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 12, 2019, between the hours of 7:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m. in compliance
with the provisions of Section 541 of Title 18 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950, as
amended (La. R.S. 18:541), and that at the Election there shall be submitted to all registered voters
residing in the Parish, qualified and entitled to vote at the Election under the Constitution and laws
of the State of Louisiana and the Constitution of the United States of America, the following
proposition, to wit:

PROPOSITION

Shall the Home Rule Charter and Plan of Government (the “Home Rule Charter”)
for the Parish of Washington, State of Louisiana, be amended and restated, in its
entirety, pursuant to Article VI, Section 5 of the Constitution of the State of
Louisiana and Article VII, Section 7-03 of the Home Rule Charter, as further
described in Exhibit B of Ordinance No. 19-650 of the Washington Parish Council?

SECTION 2. Publication of Notice of Special Election. Pursuant to La. R.S. 18:1285, a
Notice of Special Election concerning the Election will be published in the Era Leader, a
newspaper of general circulation within the Parish, and is the official journal of the Parish, once a
week for four (4) consecutive weeks, with the first publication to be made not less than forty-five
(45) days nor more than ninety (90) days prior to the date fixed for the Election, which notice will
be substantially in accordance with the Notice of Special Election annexed hereto as Exhibit A and
incorporated herein by reference, to the same extent as if it were set forth in full.
SECTION 3. Canvass of Election Returns. This Governing Authority will meet on Monday, November 4, 2019 at 6:00 p.m. in Council Chambers, Washington Parish Courthouse, 1st Floor, Franklinton, Louisiana, and shall then and there in open and public session proceed to examine and canvass the official election returns and declare the results of the Election, pursuant to Section 1292 of Title 18 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950, as amended.

SECTION 4. Polling Places; Commissioners. The polling places set forth in the attached Notice of Special Election, and situated within the boundaries of the Parish, be and the same are hereby designated as the polling places at which to hold the Election in accordance with Section 1286(A) or Section 1286.1, as the case may be, of Title 18 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950, as amended, and the Commissioners-in-Charge and Commissioners, respectively, will be those persons designated according to law in accordance with Section 1286(A) or Section 1286.1, as the case may be, of Title 18 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950, as amended.

SECTION 5. Designation of Commissioners and Commissioners-in-Charge. As required in La. R.S. 18:1286(B), the officers designated to serve as Commissioners-in-Charge and Commissioners pursuant to Section 4 hereof, will hold the Election as herein provided solely in compliance with the provisions of Parts II and V of the Election Code, as amended, and will make due returns of said Election in accordance with the aforesaid provisions of the Election Code. The compensation of said officers be and the same is hereby fixed at the sum prescribed by law. All registered voters in each precinct and residing in the Parish are entitled to vote at the Election.

SECTION 6. Authorization of Chairman. The Chairman of the Governing Authority be and he is hereby empowered, authorized and directed to arrange for and to furnish the election officers, in ample time for the holding of said Election, all equipment, forms and other items which may be required in order to hold said Election. The Chairman of the Governing Authority is further authorized, empowered and directed to take any and all further action required by State and/or Federal law to arrange for the Election.

SECTION 7. Furnishing Election Call. In accordance with La. R.S. 18:1285(B)(1), certified copies of this Ordinance shall be forwarded to the Secretary of State, the Commissioner of Elections, the Clerk of Court and Ex-Officio Parish Custodian of Voting Machines in and for the Parish of Washington, State of Louisiana and the Registrar of Voters in and for said Parish, as notification of the Election herein called in order that each may prepare for said Election and perform their respective functions as required by law.

SECTION 8. Application to State Bond Commission. Application be and the same is hereby formally authorized to be made to the State Bond Commission for consent and authority to hold the aforesaid Election as herein provided, and that a certified copy of this Ordinance shall be forwarded to the State Bond Commission on behalf of the Governing Authority, together with a letter requesting the prompt consideration and approval of such application.

SECTION 9. Publication. In accordance with Article VII, Section 7-03, Paragraph C of the Charter, this Ordinance was published in full in the Era Leader, a newspaper of general circulation in the Parish which is the official journal of the Parish prior to adoption.

SECTION 10. Implementation of Charter Amendments. The Council Clerk and the Parish Attorney shall have the authority to take such actions as necessary to implement the replacement of the Charter affirmed by the voters. If favorably approved by the voters, the Charter replacement shall become effective and will be implemented without further action of the Governing Authority on January 1, 2020. The Council Chairman and the Council Clerk are hereby authorized and instructed to take any action as may be required to implement said amendments.

SECTION 11. Effective Date. This Ordinance shall become effective immediately upon its adoption.

[Remainder of this page intentionally left blank]
This Ordinance having been submitted to a vote, the vote thereon was as follows:

YEAS: (7) Lewis, McMasters, Forna, Anthony, Talley, Fussell and Workman

NAYS: (0)

ABSENT: (0)

And the Ordinance was declared adopted on this, the 24th day of June, 2019.

WASHINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

[Signature]
Chris Workman, Chairman

Delivered to the Parish President on the 25th day of June, 2019.

WASHINGTON PARISH GOVERNMENT

[Signature]
Richard N. Thomas, Jr., President

Returned to the Clerk of the Parish Council on the 25th day of June, 2019.

ATTEST

[Signature]
Sarah Cook, Council Clerk
EXHIBIT A

NOTICE OF SPECIAL ELECTION

Pursuant to the provisions of an Ordinance adopted on June 24, 2019, by the Parish Council of the Parish of Washington, State of Louisiana, acting as the governing authority (the "Governing Authority") of the Parish of Washington, State of Louisiana (the "Parish"). NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a special election will be held in the Parish on SATURDAY, OCTOBER 12, 2019, and at said Election there will be submitted to all registered voters of the Parish, qualified and entitled to vote at said Election under the Constitution and laws of the State of Louisiana and the Constitution of the United States of America, the following proposition, to wit:

PROPOSITION

Shall the Home Rule Charter and Plan of Government (the "Home Rule Charter") for the Parish of Washington, State of Louisiana, be amended and restated, in its entirety, pursuant to Article VI, Section 5 of the Constitution of the State of Louisiana and Article VII, Section 7-03 of the Home Rule Charter, as further described in Exhibit B of Ordinance No. 19-650 of the Washington Parish Council?

The said Election will be held at the following polling places situated within the boundaries of the Parish, which polls will open at 7:00 a.m. and close at 8:00 p.m. on SATURDAY, OCTOBER 12, 2019, in compliance with the provisions of Section 541 of Title 18 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950, as amended (La. R.S. 18:541), to-wit:

WARD/PRECINCT\[\]

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PRECINCT NAME AND LOCATION</th>
<th>WARD/PRECINCT</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Experiment Station, 41217 Bethel Rd, Franklinton</td>
<td>01/01</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bonner Creek Fire Station, 43139 C E Stafford Rd, Franklinton</td>
<td>01/02</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ruritan National Club, 36101 Tennis Court Rd, Mt Hermon</td>
<td>02/01</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School Board Office, 800 Main Street, Franklinton</td>
<td>03/01</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chsce Annex-County Agent Off, 104 Bene St, Franklinton</td>
<td>03/02</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Franklinton High School, 1 Demon Circle, Franklinton</td>
<td>03/03</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chsce Annex-County Agent Off, 104 Bene St, Franklinton</td>
<td>03/03A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chsce Annex-County Agent Off, 104 Bene St, Franklinton</td>
<td>03/03B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Franklinton High School, 1 Demon Circle, Franklinton</td>
<td>03/03C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Columbia Street Fire Station, 300 E Fifth St, Bogalusa</td>
<td>04/01</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St Paul AME Church Hall, 420 Church St, Bogalusa</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Columbia Street Fire Station, 300 E Fifth St, Bogalusa</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Byrd Avenue School, 1600 Byrd Ave, Bogalusa</td>
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<tr>
<td>LA Tech-Sullivan Campus, 1710 Sullivan Dr, Bogalusa</td>
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<td>Superior Avenue School, 625 Superior Ave, Bogalusa</td>
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<tr>
<td>Senior Citizens Center, 603 Willis Ave, Bogalusa</td>
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<td>Senior Citizens Center, 603 Willis Ave, Bogalusa</td>
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<td>Pleasant Hill Fire Station, 500 West 8th St, Bogalusa</td>
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<td>Pleasant Hill Fire Station, 500 West 8th St, Bogalusa</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lakeview Voting Building, 1613 Hwy 10 East, Bogalusa</td>
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<td>Denhamtown Elementary School, 1101 Avenue M, Bogalusa</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Denhamtown Elementary School, 1101 Avenue M, Bogalusa</td>
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<td>RIO Voting Building, 12022 Hwy 1075, Bogalusa</td>
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<td>RIO Voting Building, 12022 Hwy 1075, Bogalusa</td>
<td>04/10A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RIO Voting Building, 12022 Hwy 1075, Bogalusa</td>
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<tr>
<td>RIO Voting Building, 12022 Hwy 1075, Bogalusa</td>
<td>04/11A</td>
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<tr>
<td>Varnado Fire Station, 26021 Hwy 21, Angie</td>
<td>05/01</td>
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<tr>
<td>YACC Building, 23052 YACC Rd, Franklinton</td>
<td>05/02</td>
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<td>Varnado Fire Station, 26021 Hwy 21, Angie</td>
<td>05/03</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>District 8 Fire Station, 17610 Hwy 16, Franklinton</td>
<td>06/01</td>
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<td>District 7 Fire Station, 12196 South Choctaw Rd, Bogalusa</td>
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<tr>
<td>District 8 Fire Station, 17610 Hwy 16, Franklinton</td>
<td>06/03</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Plainview Voting Building, 55241 Hwy 60, Bogalusa</td>
<td>06/04</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Angie Fire Station, 30162 Hwy 21, Angie</td>
<td>07/01</td>
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<td>Angie Fire Station, 30162 Hwy 21, Angie</td>
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</tr>
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<td>District 4 Fire Substation, 56143 Mill Rd, Franklinton</td>
<td>07/02</td>
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<tr>
<td>Angie Fire Station, 30162 Hwy 21, Angie</td>
<td>07/03</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>District 3 Fire Station, 29468 Hwy 430, Franklinton</td>
<td>08/01</td>
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<tr>
<td>District 3 Fire Sta-Clinfus, 28128 Winfred Bateman Rd, Franklinton</td>
<td>08/02</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thomas School, 30341 Hwy 424, Franklinton</td>
<td>08/03</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>District 2 Fire Station-Rhonda Sylvest, 39618 Hwy 10, Franklinton</td>
<td>09/01</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The polling places set forth above and situated within the boundaries of the Parish, be and the same are hereby designated as the polling places in which to hold the said Election, and the
Commissioners-in-Charge and Commissioners, respectively, shall be those persons designated according to law pursuant to Section 1286(A) or Section 1286.1, as the case may be, of Title 18 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950, as amended.

The said Election will be held in accordance with the applicable provisions of Chapter 6-A of Title 18 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950, as amended, and other constitutional and statutory authority supplemental thereto, and the officers appointed to hold the said Election, as provided in this Notice of Special Election, or such substitutes therefor as may be selected and designated in accordance with Section 1287 of Title 18 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950, as amended (L.a. R.S. 18:1287), will make due returns thereof to the Governing Authority, and NOTICE IS HEREBY FURTHER GIVEN that the Governing Authority will meet at its regular meeting place, in Council Chambers, Washington Parish Courthouse, 1st Floor, Franklinton, Louisiana, on MONDAY, NOVEMBER 4, 2019 at 6:00 p.m., and will then and there in open and public session, proceed to examine and canvass the returns and declare the result of the Election. All registered voters in the Parish are entitled to vote at said Election and voting machines will be used in connection therewith.

[Remainder of this page intentionally left blank]
THUS DONE AND SIGNED at Franklinton, Louisiana, on this, the 24th day of June, 2019.

Chris Workman, Council Chairman

ATTEST:

Sarah Cook, Council Clerk

Richard N. Thomas, Jr., Parish President
WASHINGTON PARISH, STATE OF LOUISIANA

OF

HOME RULE CHARTER

PROPOSED AMENDED AND RESTATEMENT

EXHIBIT B
HOME RULE CHARTER

FOR A

PRESIDENT - COUNCIL GOVERNMENT

WASHINGTON PARISH

Prepared by the
Washington Parish Council
Amended and Restated June 2019
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PREAMBLE

"We, the people of Washington Parish, a subdivision of the State of Louisiana, with
decence to Almighty God, in order to form a more independent Government, do elect and
subscribe to a Home Rule Charter."

ARTICLE I. INCORPORATION, FORM OF GOVERNMENT, BOUNDARIES AND
POWERS.

Section 1-01. Home Rule Charter.

The Washington Parish Council have proposed, and the electors have adopted, this revised and
updated Charter, under the authority of Article VI, Section 5, of the Louisiana Constitution of
1974, hereinafter referred to as "constitution." The Parish of Washington is therefore a local
Governmental subdivision which operates under a Home Rule Charter and, subject to said
Charter, is authorized the power hereinafter provided to exercise and perform any function
necessary, requisite, or proper for the management of its local affairs.

Section 1-02. Form of Government.

The plan of Government provided by this Home Rule Charter shall be known as the "President-
Council" form of Government. It shall consist of an elected Council which shall be called the
Washington Parish Council and shall constitute the legislative branch of the Government and an
elected President who shall be the chief executive officer and head of the executive branch.

Section 1-03. Boundaries

The boundaries of Washington Parish, hereinafter referred to as Parish, shall be those in effect as
of the effective date of this Charter and shall be subject to change thereafter as provided by law.

Section 1-04. General Powers.

Except as otherwise provided by this Charter, the Parish shall continue to have all the powers,
rights, privileges, immunities and authority heretofore possessed by Washington Parish under the
laws of the state. The Parish Government shall have and exercise such other powers, rights,
privileges, immunities, authority and functions not inconsistent with this Charter as may be
conferred on or granted to a local Governmental subdivision by the constitution and general laws
of the state, and more specifically, the Parish Government shall have, and is hereby granted, the
right and authority to exercise any power and perform any function necessary, requisite, or
proper for the management and supervision of its affairs, not denied by this Charter, or by
general state law, or inconsistent with the Constitutions of the United States and the State of Louisiana.

Section 1-05. Special Powers.

The Parish Government shall have the right, power, and authority to pass all ordinances requisite or necessary to promote, protect, and preserve the general welfare, safety, health, peace and good order of the Parish, including, but not limited to, the right, power, and authority to pass ordinances on all subject matters necessary, requisite, or proper for the management and supervision of Parish affairs, and all other subject matter without exception, subject only to the limitation that the same shall not be inconsistent with the Constitution of the State of Louisiana or expressly denied by general state law applicable to the Parish.

Section 1-06. Joint Service Agreements.

A. The Parish Government is authorized, as provided by Article VII, Section 14, of the Louisiana State Constitution, or any other applicable authority, to enter into joint service agreements or cooperative efforts with other Governmental agencies, political subdivisions, or for any public purpose.

B. The Parish Government shall not impose any fee, assessment or shared expense on a municipal government or modify any fee, assessment or shared expense previously imposed on a municipal government unless and until one of the following two conditions are met:

1. The governing authority of the affected municipality is granted a public hearing and afforded a full opportunity to be heard relative to the proposed imposition or modification of the fee, assessment, or shared expense, and the governing authority of the affected municipality is provided written notice of said imposition or modification of the fee, assessment, or shared expense not later than 30 days prior to the municipality’s adoption of its annual budget for the next fiscal year; or

2. The Parish Government and the affected municipality enter into a written joint service agreement relative to said imposition or modification of the fee, assessment, or shared expense.

ARTICLE II. PARISH COUNCIL.

Section 2-01. Composition, Qualifications and Election

A. The legislative power of the Parish Government shall be vested in a Council consisting of seven (7) members elected for four-year terms from the seven (7) Parish Districts. One council member shall be elected by the qualified electors in each district.

B. A Council member shall be a qualified elector of the district from which elected at the time of qualification.
C. A Council member shall have been legally domiciled and shall have actually resided for at least two (2) years immediately preceding the time established by law for qualifying for office in an area which, at the time of qualification, is within the district from which elected.

D. A Council member shall continue to be legally domiciled and to actually reside within the district from which elected during the term of office. Should the legal domicile and/or actual residence of a Council member change from the district from which they were elected, unless changed by reapportionment, the office shall automatically become vacant as of the date the member ceases residing in the district from which elected, which vacancy shall be filled as set out hereinafter.

Section 2-02. Reapportionment

A. Following official publication of the federal census by the United States Bureau of the Census for the area covered by Washington Parish and at least six (6) months prior to the time established by law for qualifying for office in the next regular election for Council members, the Council, by ordinance, shall alter, change, or rearrange Council district boundaries so as to provide for population equality among the districts as near as reasonably practicable. To the extent possible, Council districts shall be compact and be composed of contiguous territory.

B. The Council shall begin immediately the process of reapportionment upon receiving the official publication of the Census Report. The Council is required to introduce an ordinance affecting reapportionment no later than six months prior to the time established by law, for qualifying for office for the next regular election for Council members. If the Council fails to introduce an ordinance affecting reapportionment within the said time, all compensation, benefits, and reimbursement for expenses as defined in section 2-05 shall be forfeited without benefit retroactivity by Council members for the remainder of term in said office and for any extension of said term until such time as the Council does introduce an ordinance affecting reapportionment.

C. No Ordinance affecting reapportionment shall be considered for final passage by the Council until at least three (3) advertised public hearings have been held on the proposal.

Section 2-03. Forfeiture of Office.

A Council member shall forfeit the office if such member during the term of office:

A. Lacks any qualification for the office prescribed by this charter.

B. Is convicted in the court of original jurisdiction of a state or federal felony.

C. Enters a plea of guilty or nolo contendere to a state or federal felony.

D. Violates an express prohibition of this charter.
Section 2-04. Council Vacancies.

A. The office of a Council member shall become vacant upon that Council member's death, resignation, removal from office in any manner prescribed by law, or forfeiture of office, failure to take office, or as otherwise provided in this charter.

B. A vacancy on the Council shall be filled by appointment, within twenty (20) days after the vacancy occurs, of a person meeting the qualifications for office by a majority vote of the remaining members of the Council.

C. If eighteen (18) months or less of the unexpired term remains when the vacancy occurs, the appointee shall serve out the remainder of the unexpired term.

D. If the vacancy occurs more than eighteen (18) months before the expiration of the term, the appointee shall serve until the office is filled by the vote of the qualified voters in an election called for that purpose and the person elected assumes the office.

E. The Council, within twenty (20) days after the vacancy occurs, shall request the Governor to schedule an election to fill the vacancy. The election shall be held according to the timetable and procedures established by state law for the filling of vacancies in elected local offices.

F. The person appointed to fill the vacancy shall not be eligible to be a candidate for that office at the next election.

G. If the Council does not make an appointment as required by this section within twenty (20) days after the vacancy occurs, the appointment shall be made by the Governor.

Section 2-05 Compensation.

A. The total compensation which individual Council members and the Council Chair are eligible to receive shall be established by ordinance. Such compensation shall be composed of both a base compensation per month and a per diem for attendance at regularly scheduled Council meetings. The base compensation for a Council member shall not be less than $700.00 per month, and for the Council Chair not less than $900.00 per month. The per diem for a Council member and for the Council Chair shall not be less than $150.00. An individual Council member or the Council Chair shall be eligible to receive a per diem for a maximum of two (2) regularly scheduled council meetings per month, regardless of the number of meetings actually attended. Council members must be present at a scheduled meeting and record a vote on an agenda item requiring a vote in order to receive a per diem for that day.

B. The Council may, by ordinance and subject to the provisions of Part A. herein, modify the compensation and per diem received by Council members and the Council Chair, provided that no ordinance increasing the salary shall be adopted during the last year of a
term and provided further that the change shall not become effective during the current
term of the council members adopting the ordinance.

C. Council members may be reimbursed for properly authorized vouchered expenses
incurred in conducting official business of the Parish government except that Council
members shall not be reimbursed for travel within the parish.

D. Council members shall NOT be eligible for health and hospital insurance nor retirement
benefits which are available to the employees of the Parish Government.

E. The Council may, by ordinance, reduce the salary of the full Council with the reduction
being effective not less than thirty (30) days after passage of said ordinance. Under no
conditions can the Council defer their salaries.

Section 2-06. Prohibitions.

A. A Council member shall hold no other elected public office, nor be a compensated
official or employee of the Parish Government during the term(s) for which elected to the
Council.

B. No former Council member shall hold any compensated appointive Parish Government
office or employment, nor shall a member of the Council enter into any consulting or
other similar contract with the Parish, including, but not limited to the Executive
Department, the Council or any of the Parish’s departments, offices or agencies, until two
(2) years after expiration of the term for which elected.

C. Except as specifically provided in this Charter, neither the Council nor any of its
members shall remove, direct, or supervise any administrative officers or employees
whom the President or any subordinates of the President is empowered to appoint.

D. No Council member shall serve on a board or commission of the Parish Government
having administrative or policy making authority unless the ordinance or state law
creating such board or commission specifies that one or more members of the Council
shall serve on such board or commission.

E. Nothing in this section shall prohibit a Council member from serving as a member of a
charter commission, constitutional convention, or political party committee.

Section 2-07. Council Meetings and Rules.

A. At the first regular meeting of a newly elected Council, and annually thereafter, a Chair
and Vice Chair shall be elected by the Council from among the Council members. The
Chair shall preside at meetings of the Council, supervise and delegate supervision of
Council employees, and carry out such other duties as the Council may authorize.

B. In the absence or disqualification of the chair, the Vice Chair shall preside. In the absence
or disqualification of both the Chair and Vice Chair, the council shall designate one of its
other members as temporary presiding officer. The Chair, Vice Chair, and temporary presiding officer shall be voting members of the council.

C. The Council shall meet regularly, at least twice a month at such times and places as the Council may prescribe. Special meetings may be held on the call of the presiding officer of the Council or a majority of the authorized membership of the Council with such notice as may be required by state law. To meet a public emergency affecting life, health, property or public safety, the Council may meet upon call of the President, the presiding officer of the Council or a majority of the authorized membership of the Council at whatever notice it shall be convenient to give. The call convening a special or emergency meeting of the Council shall state the object(s) of the meeting. The power of the Council to act at a special or emergency meeting shall be limited, under penalty of nullity, to objects specifically enumerated in the call.

D. All the meetings of the Council and its committees shall be open to the public in accordance with the provisions of general state law.

E. The Council shall determine by resolution its own rules and order of business and shall provide for keeping a record of its minutes and proceedings. All official actions of the Council shall be published in the official journal within thirty (30) days of the action taken. However, the failure to publish any proceedings in a timely manner shall not affect the validity of such proceedings.

F. At all regular meetings of the Council, the Council shall operate from an agenda which shall have been posted at least two (2) days, excluding Saturdays, Sundays and holidays, prior to the meeting. The agenda for special or emergency meetings shall be made available to the public as soon as is practicable prior to the meeting. In accordance with the Louisiana open meetings law, items may be added to the agenda at a regular meeting, with approval of two-thirds of the Council members present.

G. The Council shall provide by ordinance a procedure whereby interested persons shall be given an opportunity to be heard at Council meetings on any matter relating to Parish Government.

H. All voting shall be by recorded roll call. The ayes and nays shall be recorded in the minutes of the Council by the individual vote of each Council member. Not less than a majority of the authorized membership of the Council shall constitute a quorum to transact business, but if a quorum is lost during a meeting, a smaller number may recess from time to time and compel the attendance of absent members in the manner and subject to the penalties prescribed by Council rules.
Section 2-08. Investigations.

The Parish Council may make investigations into the affairs of the parish government and the related conduct of any Parish official, officer, employee, department, office, or agency under its jurisdiction, and for this purpose may subpoena witnesses, administer oaths, take testimony and require the production of evidence. Investigations shall be for a specified purpose and may be undertaken only by the affirmative vote of two-thirds of the authorized membership of the Council at a regular meeting of the Council. Any person who fails or refuses to obey any lawful order of the Council may be cited for contempt. No Council member shall vote on any matter under investigation in which said Council member has a conflict of interest.

Section 2-09. Independent Audit.

The Council shall provide for an annual independent post fiscal year audit, and such additional audits as it deems necessary, including but not limited to, sales tax audits and audits of the accounts and other evidence of financial transactions of the Parish Government, including those of all Parish Government departments, offices, agencies and political subdivisions. Audits may be by the state legislative auditor or the Council may designate a private auditor to make such audits. The private auditor shall be without personal interest in the affairs subject to audit, shall not participate in budget preparation and adoption, and shall be a certified public accountant or firm of such accountants. The audit shall be submitted to the Council at one of its regularly scheduled meetings and shall be a public record, and a summary of findings and recommendations shall be published at least once in the official journal. If there are any audit exceptions, the Council must make known, within sixty (60) days, what steps are being taken to correct those exceptions.

Section 2-10. Council Employees.

A. The Council shall, by vote of a majority of its authorized membership, appoint a clerk of the Council who shall serve at the pleasure of the Council. The clerk shall give notice of Council meetings to its members and the public, keep the journal of its proceedings, be official secretary of the Council and perform such other duties as are assigned to the position by this Charter or by the Council.

B. The Council shall, by Resolution, fix the salary of the clerk.

C. Except as specifically provided in this charter, neither the Parish President, nor any members of the executive branch or the administration, shall remove, direct, or supervise any Council employees of whom the Council appoints.

D. The Council Chair will be responsible for the supervision of Council employees unless a majority vote of the Council designates another council member to serve as supervisor to council employees. By resolution, the council shall direct the chair of the council, or designee, in how to proceed with supervision of council employee's accountability, attendance, conduct, work schedule, and expectations.
Section 2-11. Action Requiring an Ordinance.

A. An act of the Council having the force of law, shall be by ordinance. An act requiring an ordinance shall include, but not be limited to, those which:

1. Adopt or amend an administrative code.
2. Provide a fine or other penalty or establish a rule or regulation for violation of which a fine or other penalty may be imposed.
3. Levy taxes or assessments as provided by law, except that no sales tax shall be levied or increased without a vote of the people, nor ad valorem millages be increased above the amount authorized by the constitution, without a vote of the people.
4. Adopt the operating and capital improvement budget, and appropriate funds for the Parish Government.
5. Grant, renew, or extend a franchise.
6. Provide for raising revenue.
7. Regulate the rate or other charges for service by the Parish Government.
8. Authorize the borrowing of money in any manner authorized by law.
9. Incur debt in any manner authorized by law.
10. Dispose of any property owned by the Parish Government.
11. Convey or lease, or authorize the conveyance or lease, of any lands or property of the Parish Government.
12. Acquire real property on behalf of the Parish Government.
13. Adopt or modify the official Parish map.
14. Adopt or modify regulations for review and approval of plats.
15. Adopt or modify subdivision controls or regulations.
16. Adopt or modify the comprehensive development ordinance, zoning plan, maps, and regulations.
17. Amend or repeal any ordinance previously adopted.
18. Propose amendments to this Charter.

B. All Parish ordinances shall be codified in accordance with Article VI, Section 10, of the Louisiana State Constitution.

C. An act of the Council which is not to have the force of law may be enacted by resolution. A resolution may be used by the Council for purposes such as calling an election pursuant to the Louisiana Election Code; formally expressing the will of the Council; authorizing a person or persons to sign legal and financial documents for a project or purpose previously approved by ordinance; and as may otherwise be authorized by Louisiana Law and/or this Charter. The President's veto authority shall not apply to resolutions.

D. All ordinances and resolutions shall be passed by the favorable vote of at least a majority of the authorized membership of the Council except as otherwise provided in this Charter.
Section 2-12. Ordinances in General.

A. All proposed ordinances shall be introduced in writing by any member of the Council at a meeting of the Council in the form required for adoption and, except for codifications, the operating budget and capital improvement budget shall be confined to one subject, expressed clearly in the title.

B. Each proposed ordinance shall be read by title when introduced and shall be published in the official journal by title within ten (10) days after the proposed ordinance’s introduction, except that each ordinance proposing an amendment to the Charter will be published in full. The publication of a proposed ordinance shall also contain a notice of the date, time and place, when and where said proposed ordinance will be given a public hearing and be considered for final passage. At the time and place so advertised, or any time and place to which such hearing may be adjourned from time to time, the proposed ordinance shall be read by title and, after the reading, all interested persons shall be given an opportunity to speak to the proposed ordinance. Except as otherwise provided in the section on “Emergency Ordinances”, no ordinance shall be considered for final passage until at least two (2) weeks from date of introduction and after a public hearing has been held on the ordinance. Copies of proposed ordinances shall be available in the office of the Clerk of the Council for review by any citizen and such fact shall be stated in the notice of introduction.

C. With the final approval of ordinances by the President, or the Council in case of a veto by the President, or the expiration of ten (10) days without the ordinance being signed or vetoed by the President as set out in Section 2-13-B below, such enacted ordinances shall be published in full or in summary, at the Council’s discretion, in the official journal by the clerk of the Council within thirty (30) days after its adoption. Every enacted ordinance, unless it shall specify another date, shall become effective at the expiration of thirty (30) days after approval in the manner set forth herein.

Section 2-13. Submission of Ordinances to the President.

A. Every ordinance adopted by the Council shall be signed by the presiding officer, except that upon failure of the presiding officer to sign the ordinance, the clerk of the Council shall certify to its passage and it shall be presented to the President within three (3) calendar days after adoption, excluding Saturdays, Sundays, and Parish holidays. The clerk of the Council shall record upon the ordinance the date and hour of its delivery to the President.

B. Within ten (10) calendar days after the President’s receipt of an ordinance, excluding Saturdays, Sundays and Parish holidays, it shall be returned to the clerk of the Council with the President’s approval, or with the President’s veto. The Clerk shall record upon the ordinance the date and hour of its receipt from the President. If the proposed ordinance is not signed or vetoed by the President within ten (10) days after receipt, it shall be considered approved. If the ordinance has been approved, it shall be considered finally enacted and become effective as provided in Section 2-12 (Ordinances in General). If the Ordinance is vetoed, the President shall submit to the Council through
the clerk a written statement of the reasons for the veto which shall be presented with the vetoed ordinance. The veto statement shall be published in full in the official journal by the clerk as soon as is practicable thereafter. All ordinances vetoed by the President shall be vetoed in full, except that the President shall have authority to veto individual appropriation items in the ordinances adopting the operating budget and capital improvement budget.

C. Ordinances vetoed by the President shall be submitted by the clerk to the Council no later than the next regular meeting held after publication of the veto statement. Should the Council vote, not later than the second regular meeting held after receipt of the vetoed ordinance, to readopt the ordinance by the favorable vote of at least two-thirds of its authorized membership, said ordinance shall be considered finally enacted and become law irrespective of the veto by the President. The same procedure shall apply to individual appropriation items in the operating and capital improvement budgets vetoed by the President, except the Council may overturn the veto of the President by a vote of two-thirds of the Council membership.

D. The right of the President to veto as provided in this section shall apply to all ordinances adopted by the Council except ordinances for reappointment; amendments to this Charter; establishing, altering or modifying Council procedure; or appropriating funds for auditing or investigating any part of the executive branch; or as may be otherwise provided by this Charter.

Section 2-14. Emergency Ordinances.

A. To meet a public emergency affecting life, health, property, or public Safety, the Council by a favorable vote of at least two-thirds of the membership, may adopt an emergency ordinance at the meeting at which it is introduced, provided that no such ordinance may be used to levy taxes or special assessments; grant or extend a franchise; incur debt, except as provided in Section 5-04 B (Emergency Appropriations); adopt or amend an official map, platting or subdivision controls or zoning regulations; or charge rates, fees or charges established by the Parish Government. Each emergency ordinance shall contain a specific statement describing the emergency. After adoption the ordinance shall be printed and published as soon as practical thereafter.

B. Notwithstanding the provisions of Section 2-13 (Submission of Ordinances to the President), any emergency ordinance adopted by the Council shall be signed by the presiding officer, except that upon failure of the presiding officer to sign the ordinance, the clerk of the council shall certify to its passage and it shall be presented to the President within six (6) hours after adoption. Within twelve (12) hours after the President’s receipt of an emergency ordinance, it shall be returned to the clerk of the Council with the President’s approval, or with the President’s veto. If the proposed ordinance is not signed or vetoed by the President within twelve (12) hours after receipt, it shall be considered adopted. If the emergency ordinance has been approved, it shall be considered finally enacted and become effective immediately upon receipt by the clerk. If the emergency ordinance is vetoed, the President shall submit to the Council through the clerk a written statement of the reasons for the veto which shall be presented with the
vetoed ordinance. The clerk shall record upon the emergency ordinance the dates and hours of its delivery to and receipt from the President. Should the Council vote, not later than twelve (12) hours after receipt of the vetoed emergency ordinance from the President, to readopt the emergency ordinance by the favorable vote of at least two-thirds of its membership, said emergency ordinance shall be considered finally enacted and become law immediately upon readoption, irrespective of the veto by the President. Upon final approval by the President, or the Council in case of a veto by the President, such enacted emergency ordinance shall be published in full in the official journal by the clerk as soon as practical thereafter.

C. Emergency ordinances shall be effective for no longer than thirty (30) consecutive days after final adoption, except that the Council, by a favorable vote of two-thirds vote of its authorized membership, may extend the life of the emergency ordinance for a period not to exceed an additional thirty (30) consecutive days.

Section 2-15. Codes of Technical Regulations.

The Council, by ordinance, shall adopt any standard code of technical regulations by reference. The procedure and requirements governing the adopting of such ordinances shall be as prescribed for ordinances generally, except that a period of sixty (60) days shall be allowed between the time of introduction and final passage of the ordinance. During this interim, copies of any proposed code shall be available for public review. A copy of each adopted code of technical regulations as well as the adopting ordinance shall be authenticated and recorded by the clerk of the Council in the official records of the Parish Government. Such adopted codes of technical regulations shall be published at least by title or by reference in the official journal by the clerk as soon as practical following such final adoption.

Section 2-16. Authentication and Recording of Ordinances, Resolutions; Printing and Distribution.

A. All finally enacted ordinances and resolutions shall be authenticated, numbered and recorded by the clerk of the Council. All ordinances shall be indexed and codified in a book or books kept for this purpose. All resolutions shall be indexed and recorded in the minutes of the Council meeting at which the resolution was approved.

B. The Clerk of the Council shall cause all of the public records to be available for review by any citizen. Copies shall be sold to the public at cost.

Section 2-17. Power to Levy Taxes.

A. The power to perform any service or provide any facility granted to the Parish Government by this Charter or by the constitution and general laws of the state shall in all cases carry with it the power to levy taxes and to borrow money within the limits and in accordance with procedures prescribed by the constitution and general laws of the state. The Council shall have, and is hereby granted, all of the authority to levy and collect taxes, to incur debt, and to issue bonds and other evidences of indebtedness, as is now or hereafter conferred on governing authorities of local governments by the constitution and
general laws of the state, or as may be hereafter specially conferred by the electors of the Parish.

B. Any tax being levied by Washington Parish on the effective date of this Charter is ratified and continued in effect for the term for which same is currently authorized.

C. All proposals to levy property taxes in excess of that authorized by the constitution to be levied without a vote of the people shall be submitted to the qualified voters of Washington Parish for approval in accordance with the election laws of the state.

D. All proposals to renew, levy a new or increase an existing sale and use tax shall be submitted to the voters for approval in accordance with the election laws of the state.


For the purpose of carrying out the powers and duties generally or specially conferred on the Parish Government, the Council shall have the power to grant franchises, to issue and revoke, subject to reasonable requirements, licenses and permits and fix the fees to be paid therefore, to regulate and supervise any such licensee or permittee, to charge compensation for any privilege or franchise granted or service rendered, and to provide penalties for the violation of any ordinance or regulation, including but not limited to the revocation of licenses, franchises and permits, as provided by law.

ARTICLE III. EXECUTIVE BRANCH

Section 3-01. Executive Authority.

The President shall be the chief executive officer of the Parish Government and shall exercise general executive and administrative authority over all departments, offices, and agencies of the Parish Government, except as otherwise provided by this Charter.

Section 3-02. Election.

The President shall be elected at large by the qualified voters of the parish according to the election laws of the state for a four (4) year term.

Section 3-03. Qualifications.

A. The President shall be at least twenty-five (25) years of age and a qualified voter of the parish at the time of qualifications and shall have been legally domiciled and shall have actually resided within the parish for at least the five (5) years immediately preceding the time established by law for qualifying for office.

B. The President shall continue to be legally domiciled and to actually reside within the Parish during the term of office. Should the legal domicile and/or actual residence of the President change from the Parish, the office shall automatically become vacant, which vacancy shall be filled as set out hereinafter.
Section 3-04. Compensation.

A. The salary of the President shall be the average total compensation of the two highest of the Washington Parish sheriff, assessor and clerk of court.

B. Should the compensation of the Washington Parish sheriff, assessor or clerk of court change during a term, the President's salary shall be adjusted accordingly at the beginning of the fiscal year after said change.

C. The President shall be eligible for health and hospital insurance and retirement benefits all under the same terms and conditions which are available to employees of the Parish Government.

D. The President shall, upon presentation of properly documented receipts, be reimbursed for reasonable expenses incurred in carrying out the official duties of the office.

Section 3-05. Forfeiture of Office.

The office of President shall be forfeited if during the term of office, the officeholder:

1. Lacks any qualification for the office prescribed by this Charter.
2. Convicted in the court of original jurisdiction of a state or federal felony.
3. Enters a plea of guilty or nolo contendere to a state or federal felony.
4. Violates an express prohibition of this Charter.

Section 3-06. Vacancy in Office of President.

A. The office of President shall become vacant upon death, resignation, removal of office in any manner authorized by law, forfeiture of office or failure to take office, or as otherwise provided in this Charter.

B. A vacancy in the office of President shall be filled by appointment within fifteen (15) days after the vacancy occurs of a person meeting the qualifications for that office. Said appointment shall be affected by the favorable vote of a majority of the authorized membership of the Council.

C. If one (1) year or less of the unexpired term remains when the vacancy occurs, the appointee shall serve the remainder of the term.

D. If the vacancy occurs more than one (1) year before the expiration of the term, the appointee shall serve until the office is filled by the vote of the qualified electors voting in an election called by the Governor for that purpose and the person elected assumes the office. The Council, within fifteen (15) days after the vacancy occurs, shall request the Governor to schedule an election to fill the vacancy. The election shall be held according to the timetable and procedures established by state law for the filling of vacancies in elected local offices.
E. The person appointed to fill the vacancy shall not be eligible to be a candidate for that office at the next election.

F. The person filling the vacancy shall receive the same compensation and benefits as the President.

G. If the Council does not make an appointment as required by this section within thirty (30) days, the appointment shall be made by the Governor.

Section 3-07. President's Temporary Absence.

A. When the President is absent from and unavailable to the Parish Government for more than seventy-two (72) consecutive hours, the powers and duties of the office of President shall be exercised by a department head designated in writing by the President with the clerk of the Council. In the absence of such a filing, the department head shall be designated by the Chair of the Council.

B. When the President expects to be absent from the Parish for more than seventy-two (72) consecutive hours, the President shall notify the clerk of the Council in writing of the expected duration of the absence.

C. If a temporary absence of the President extends to more than thirty (30) consecutive days, the office shall become vacant and shall be filled in accordance with section 3-06 (Vacancy in the office of Parish President) except that the council, by the favorable vote of majority of its authorized membership, may authorize a longer absence.

D. Military leave shall be granted under terms and conditions established by the state.

Section 3-08. President's Disability.

A. Disability of the President may be determined either by action of the President or by action of the Council as follows:

1. Upon becoming disabled and unable to discharge the powers and duties of the office of President, the President shall transmit to the Clerk of the Council a written declaration stating the same. When and until the President transmits to the Clerk of the Council a written declaration to the contrary, the office of President shall be filled in the same manner as in section 3-07 of the (President's Temporary Absence).

2. Whenever a panel of three (3) physicians, two (2) designated by resolution adopted by the favorable vote of at least the majority of the authorized membership of the Council, and one (1) physician designated by the Chief Judge of the First Circuit Court of Appeal of the State of Louisiana transmits to the Clerk of the Council its unanimous written declaration that the President is unable to discharge the powers and duties of the office, the office of the President shall be filled in the same manner as in the section 3-07. (President's Temporary Absence). The person filling the office shall serve until said panel transmits to the Clerk of the Council its unanimous written declaration that the President's disability has ended. The medical physicians shall
review the President’s disability at least once every three (3) months until such time as
it has been determined that the disability has ended by a unanimous vote of the three
(3) medical physicians.

B. Should the President, due to disability, be unable to discharge the powers and duties of
the office for a period exceeding six (6) consecutive months, the Council shall have the
authority upon the favorable vote of at least two-thirds of its authorized membership to
declare the office of the President vacant due to disability or to extend the disability for a
period not to exceed an additional three (3) consecutive months. Provided, however, that
the Council shall hold a public hearing on said issues before any such action.

Section 3-09. Powers and Duties of the President.

A. The President, as chief executive officer of the Parish Government shall have the
following powers and duties:

1. See that all laws, provisions of this Charter and acts of the Council, subject to the
President’s direction and supervision, are faithfully executed.

2. Hire and suspend or remove, for just cause, any Parish Government employees and
appointive administrative officers provided for by or under this Charter, except as
otherwise provided by this Charter or other personnel rules adopted pursuant to this
Charter. The President may authorize any administrative officer who is subject to the
President’s direction and supervision to exercise these powers with respect to
subordinates in the officer’s department, office or agency.

3. Direct and supervise the administration of all departments, offices and agencies of the
Parish Government, except as otherwise provided by this Charter.

4. Prepare and submit a recommended annual operating budget to the Council under the
terms and conditions required in Article V. The Council shall adopt by means of an
appropriation ordinance an annual operating budget no later than ten (10) days before
the beginning of the fiscal year. The President may recommend changes to the
operating budget during a fiscal year, and the Council may approve such changes by
means of an appropriation ordinance. Payments from the treasury shall be made by
the Treasurer only pursuant to an appropriation adopted by ordinance.

5. Prepare and submit to the Council a recommended five (5) year capital outlay budget
under the terms and conditions required in Article V, and the Council shall adopt by
resolution a five (5) year capital budget not later than ten (10) days before the
beginning of each fiscal year. Payments for items included in the capital budget shall
not be made until appropriated by ordinance.

6. Sign contracts for projects, equipment, professional services and materials and
supplies specifically identified in the approved operating and capital improvement
budgets or as specifically identified in ordinance. Contracts for projects, equipment,
professional services or materials and supplies not so identified shall be submitted to
the Council for approval.

7. Submit to the Council and make available to the public, within one-hundred twenty
(120) days after the end of the fiscal year, a status report on the finances and
administrative activities of the Parish as of the end of each fiscal year. This annual
preliminary financial report shall conform with generally accepted accounting
principles applicable to Governments as prescribed by the Governmental Accounting Standards Board, or a successor organization. (If this is pertaining to the audit reports then the date must change to accommodate the finance department.)

8. Make such other reports as the Council may reasonably request to enable the Council to conduct its functions.

9. The President or designee shall attend all meetings of the Council and keep the Council fully advised in writing as to the financial condition and future needs of the Parish Government as deemed desirable.

10. Perform such other duties as are specified in this Charter or may be required by the Council, not inconsistent with this Charter.

**Section 3-10. Prohibitions.**

A. The President shall be a full-time official and shall hold no other elected public nor any other compensated appointive Parish Government office or employment during the term of office for which elected. The President shall not engage in any activity unrelated to Parish Government business that would interfere with or detract from the performance of duties as President.

B. The President shall not hold any compensated appointive Parish Government Office or employment, nor shall the President enter into any consulting or other similar contract with the parish, the Council or any of the Parish’s departments, offices, or agencies until two (2) years after expiration of the last term for which that President was elected.

C. The President shall not be prohibited from serving as an elected member of a political party committee, charter commission or constitutional convention.

D. The President shall not order or authorize payments from the Treasury beyond the Council’s appropriations, and the Director of Finance shall not make payments from the Treasury in excess of the amounts appropriated by the Council.

**ARTICLE IV. ADMINISTRATION.**

**Section 4-01. General Provisions.**

A. Except as otherwise provided by this charter, all departments, offices and agencies shall be under the direct supervision of the President.

B. Directors of all departments created by or under this charter shall be nominated by the President, subject to council approval, and shall serve at the pleasure of the President. The position shall be advertised at least once by publication in the official journal of the parish at least fourteen (14) calendar days prior to the council approval. The council may interview the nominee in executive session.

C. The salaries of the directors of the departments appointed by the President shall be set by the President subject to approval by the Council.
Section 4-02. Legal Services

A. The District Attorney of the judicial district serving Washington Parish shall serve as the general legal advisor to Washington Parish Government and shall be the regular attorney, advisor and counsel to the Parish Council, Parish President and all Parish departments, offices and agencies. In the event that the District Attorney has a conflict of interest in a particular legal matter, or lacks the specialized legal expertise required in a particular legal matter, he shall be relieved of his obligations enumerated in this Paragraph A. as to that particular legal matter. Under such circumstances, special legal counsel for that particular legal matter, referred to as a special matter, shall be appointed by the President, subject to approval by the Council. Compensation of said special legal counsel shall be negotiated by the President and subject to approval by the Council.

B. Any special legal counsel retained by the Parish Government for a special matter shall be by written contract for a specific purpose, approved by the favorable vote of a majority of the authorized membership of the Council. Such authorization shall specify the compensation, if any, to be paid for such services.

Section 4-03. Department of Finance.

A. The head of the department of finance shall be the director of finance.

B. The director of finance, at the time of appointment, shall have at least a Bachelor’s degree in business administration, accounting, public administration or a related field from an accredited college or university, and at least two (2) years experience in a responsible managerial or administrative fiscal position, governmental accounting/administrative preferred or in lieu of the preceding, have at least five (5) years experience in a responsible managerial, administrative, or governmental fiscal position.

C. The director of finance shall direct and be responsible for the following duties:

1. Collection (except where specifically otherwise provided for by law) and custody of all monies of the Parish Government from whatever source.
2. Assistance to the President in the preparation of the annual operating budget and capital improvement budget.
3. Maintenance of a record of indebtedness and the payment of the principal and interest on such indebtedness.
4. Ascertaining that funds are available for payment of all contracts, purchase orders and any other documents which incur financial obligation for the Parish Government, and that such documents are in accordance with established procedures.
5. Disbursement of all funds from the Parish treasury.
6. Administration of a uniform central accounting system for all Parish departments, offices and agencies, using nationally accepted standards where applicable.
7. Preparation of a monthly statement of revenues and expenditures which shall be completed and made available for public inspection not later than thirty (30) days after the end of each month.
8. Procurement of all personal property, materials, supplies, and services required by the Parish Government shall be under a central purchasing system for all departments, offices and agencies and shall be in accordance with applicable state law, Council policy, and administrative requirements.

9. Preparation of all intergovernmental grant applications on behalf of the Parish Government and informing departments, offices, and agencies of all relevant local, state, and federal programs.

10. Maintenance of an inventory of all property, real and personal.

11. Investment of idle funds, as permitted by law, in accordance with a written investment policy adopted by the Council.

12. Provide technology services.

13. Provide general administrative services.

14. Other actions as may be directed by the President.

Section 4-04. Director of Public Works.

A. The director of public works, at the time of appointment, shall be a graduate registered civil engineer with at least two (2) years related experience in a responsible managerial or administrative position; or, in lieu of the preceding, have at least five (5) years related public works experience in a responsible managerial or administrative position.

B. The director of public works shall direct and be responsible for the following activities:

1. Engineering services for all Parish departments and agencies.
2. Supervision of all contract construction work.
3. Maintenance of Parish property, buildings, grounds, and equipment.
4. Mapping and surveying, including zoning maps.
5. Coordination of planning activities.
6. Animal control program.
7. Garbage, trash collection, and disposal; landfill operation.
8. Oversee water systems for quality, purity, and safety.
9. Inspection, licensing and permit issuance in conjunction with the enforcement of any zoning ordinances and building, housing and other technical codes.
10. Flood Plan Program Administrator overseer.
11. Other such activities as may be directed by the President.

Section 4-05. Director of Transportation.

A. The director of transportation, at the time of appointment, shall be a graduate registered civil engineer with at least two (2) years related experience in a responsible managerial or administrative position; or, in lieu of the preceding, have at least five (5) years related public works/transportation experience in a responsible managerial or administrative position.
B. The director of transportation shall direct and be responsible for the following activities:

1. Construction and maintenance performed by the Parish Government road crews regarding roads, sidewalks, bridges, and drainage facilities.
2. Operation of a central facility for the repair and maintenance of Parish Government vehicles and equipment.
3. Other such activities as may be directed by the President.

Section 4-06. Personnel System.

A. It shall be the policy of the Parish Government to employ those persons best qualified to perform the functions of the Parish Government and to foster effective career service in Parish Government. All appointments and promotions in the service of the Parish Government and of each of its departments, offices, and agencies shall be made on the basis of merit and fitness.

B. The director of the department of finance shall serve as personnel officer until such time as the President, upon approval by the Council, appoints a personnel director. The personnel officer shall:

1. Administer personnel rules and regulations governing the classified service, including working hours, attendance regulations, leave of absence, sick leave and vacation leave.
2. Maintain a uniform classification and pay plan for all positions in the classified service.
3. Administer an employee grievance procedure for dismissals, demotions and other disciplinary matters.
4. Perform such other duties and functions as may be directed by the President.

C. The administration of the classified service, including the classification and pay plans of the Parish Government, shall be governed by written rules and regulations to be known as the Employee Handbook.

D. The personnel policies and rules in effect in the Parish Government at the time this charter becomes effective shall continue in effect until amended by the Council or as they may conflict with this charter.

E. The following shall be considered exempt employees of the Parish Government:

1. Elected officials of the Parish Government.
2. Employees hired on a temporary basis.
3. Department heads/Director.
4. Employees appointed directly by the Council.
5. Legal Counsel
Section 4-07. Other Departments.

Except as otherwise provided by this Charter, all Parish Government departments, offices, agencies and functions in existence on the effective date of this Charter shall continue in existence as organized on that date until reorganized in accordance with Section 4-08 (Administrative Reorganization).

Section 4-08. Administrative Reorganization.

A. The President may propose to the Council the creation, change, alteration, consolidation or abolition of the Parish departments, offices and agencies and/or the reallocation of the functions, powers, duties, and responsibilities of such departments, offices or agencies, including those provided for in this Charter.

B. Upon receipt of the President's proposed plan of reorganization, the presiding officer of the Council shall cause to be introduced an ordinance to implement the proposed reorganization plan. The ordinance shall follow the same procedure as provided in Section 2-12 (Ordinances in General) and Section 2-13 (Submission of Ordinances to the President) of this Charter.

C. The reorganization plan submitted by the President shall become effective if the Council fails to act on the proposed reorganization with ninety (90) days of its submission to the Council.

ARTICLE V. FINANCIAL PROCEDURES.

Section 5-01. Fiscal Year.

The fiscal year of the Parish Government shall be January 1 through December 31, subject to change by ordinance by the Council.

Section 5-02. Operating Budget Preparation and Adoption.

The annual operating budget process shall be conducted in accordance with the Louisiana Local Government Budget Act, as amended, subject to the following exceptions:

1. At least forty-five (45) days prior to the beginning of each fiscal year, the President shall submit to the Council, a proposed operating budget.
2. Operating budget shall be adopted by the Council not later than fifteen (15) days prior to the end of the fiscal year.

Section 5-03. The Operating Budget Document.

The operating budget for the Parish Government shall present a complete financial plan for the ensuing fiscal year and shall consist of a least three (3) parts as follows:
Part I shall contain:

1. A budget message, prepared by the President, which shall outline the proposed fiscal plan for the Parish Government and describe significant features of the budget for the forthcoming fiscal period.

2. A general budget summary which, with supporting schedules, shall show the relationship between total proposed expenditures and total anticipated available funds with supporting documents from all revenue sources and collectors for the forthcoming fiscal period and which shall compare these figures with corresponding actual figures for the last completed fiscal year and estimated figures for the year in progress.

Part II shall contain:

1. Detailed estimates of all proposed expenditures, showing the corresponding estimated expenditures for each item for the current fiscal year and actual figures for the last preceding fiscal year with explanations of increases or decreases recommended related to performance standards or workload measurements, to the extent of availability of such information. When information is not available, explanations shall be given as to why it is not.

2. Manning or organizational tables for each of the departments, agencies or programs.

3. Detailed estimates of all anticipated revenues and other income available for appropriation showing the corresponding estimated revenue or income for each item for the current fiscal year and actual figures for the last preceding fiscal year with explanations of increases or decreases.

4. Delinquent taxes for current and preceding years, with the estimated percentage collectible.

5. Statement of the indebtedness of the Parish Government, showing debt redemption and interest requirements, debt authorized and unissued, and conditions of the sinking funds.

6. Such other information as may be requested by the Council. The total of proposed expenditures shall not exceed the total of estimated revenues and other funds legally available for expenditure.

Part III shall contain:

1. A proposed complete draft of the appropriation ordinance. All appropriations shall be by department and/or program.

Section 5-04. Amendments to Operating Budget.

A. Supplemental Appropriations: If during the fiscal year the President certifies that there are available for appropriation, revenues in excess of those estimated in the operating budget, the President may present a supplemental budget for the disposition of such revenues, and the Council by ordinance may make supplemental appropriations for the year up to the amount of such excess in the same manner required for adoption of the budget.
B. Emergency Appropriations: To meet a public emergency affecting life, health, property or the public peace, the Council may make emergency appropriations. Such appropriations shall be made by emergency ordinance in accordance with the provisions of this Charter. To the extent that there are no available unappropriated funds to meet such appropriations, the Council may, by such emergency ordinance, borrow money in sums necessary to meet the emergency. The repayment of such sums shall be a fixed charge upon the revenues of the fiscal year next following the fiscal year in which the sums are borrowed.

C. Reduction of Appropriations: If at any time during the fiscal year it appears to the President that the funds available will be insufficient to meet the amount appropriated, the President shall report to the Council, without delay, indicating the estimated amount of the deficit, any remedial action taken and recommendations as to any other steps to be taken. The Council shall then take such further action as it deems necessary to prevent a deficit.

D. Subject to the limitations in Subsection G of this section, the Council may, by ordinance, reduce any appropriation at any time.

E. Transfer of Appropriations: At any time during the fiscal year the president may transfer part or all of any unencumbered appropriation within the programs, except that no transfer shall be made to or from the salary account unless approved by the Council by ordinance. Such transfers shall not cause the total appropriated to be increased.

F. An unencumbered appropriation balance may be transferred from one department, office or agency to another or from one program to another only upon Council action by ordinance.

G. Limitations: No appropriation for debt service may be reduced or transferred and no appropriation may be reduced below any amount required by law to be appropriated or by more than the amount of the unencumbered balance thereof.

Section 5-05. Capital Improvement Budget.

A. Each year, no later than the time of submission of the operating budget for the ensuing fiscal year, the President shall prepare and submit to the Council a capital improvement budget covering a period of at least five (5) years. The capital improvement budget shall include new or expanded physical facilities that are relatively large, expensive and permanent. Capital improvements shall include but not be limited to major construction or renovation projects.

B. The capital budget shall include:

1. A general summary of its contents.
2. A list of all capital improvements and acquisitions which are proposed to be undertaken for at least the five (5) fiscal years next ensuing with the appropriate supporting information as to the necessity for such improvements and acquisitions.
3. Cost estimates, method of financing and recommended times schedules for each such improvement or acquisition.

4. The estimated annual cost of operating and maintaining the capital improvement to be constructed or acquired.

The information shall be revised and extended each year with regard to capital improvements still pending or in process of construction or acquisition.

C. At the meeting of the Council at which the capital improvement budget is submitted, the Council shall order a public hearing on such capital improvement budget and shall cause to be published in the official journal, at least ten (10) days prior to the date of such hearing, the time and place thereof, a general summary of the proposed capital improvement budget and the times and places where copies of the proposed capital improvement budget are available for public inspection. At the time and place so advertised, the Council shall hold a public hearing on the capital improvement budget as submitted. Changes in the proposed capital improvement budget by the Council shall be by the favorable vote of at least a majority of the authorized membership of the Council. The capital improvement budget shall be finally adopted not later than the end of the fiscal year and may be adopted in conjunction with the operating budget. The capital improvement budget as finally adopted shall be reproduced and sufficient copies shall be made available for use by all offices, departments and agencies of the Parish Government. Copies shall be available for public review in the office of the clerk of the Council. Individual copies may be purchased at cost.

D. Amendments to the finally adopted capital improvement budget shall be by ordinance in accordance with provisions of this Charter relative to ordinances.

Section 5-06. Administration of Operating and Capital Improvement Budgets.

A. No payment shall be made, or obligation incurred against any allotment or appropriation except in accordance with the approved operating and capital budgets and appropriations duly made and unless the President or the President’s designee first certifies that there is a sufficient unencumbered balance in such allotment or appropriation and that sufficient funds therefrom are or will be available to cover the claim or meet the obligation when it becomes due and payable. However, this provision shall not limit the authority to borrow funds in anticipation of revenues as provided in the general laws of the state. Any authorization of payment or incurring of obligation in violation of the provisions of this Charter shall be void and any payment so made illegal; such action shall be cause for removal of any official, officer or employee who knowingly authorized or made such payment or incurred such obligation or who caused such payment to be authorized or made or obligation to be incurred. Such persons shall also be liable to the Parish Government for any amount so paid.

B. Nothing in this Charter shall be construed to prevent passage of any ordinance making or authorizing of payments or making of contracts for capital improvements to be financed wholly or partly by the issuance of bonds or other evidences of indebtedness or to prevent the making of any contract or lease providing for payments beyond the end of the fiscal
year. Except as otherwise provided by state or federal law, contracts for services not covered by the public bid law shall be for a period not to exceed a total of three (3) years. No extension provision contained in any contract for services shall operate to extend any contract beyond this three (3) year maximum limitation. A contract for the operation of a landfill must be advertised utilizing a request for proposal process. The contract may be awarded for a term up to ten (10) years.

C. Deficit spending is prohibited except for emergencies as provided in Section 5-04 (Amendments to Operating Budget).

Section 5-07. Lapse of Appropriations.

Every appropriation, except an appropriation for a capital expenditure, shall lapse at the close of the fiscal year to the extent that it has not been expended or encumbered. An appropriation for a capital expenditure shall continue in force until the purpose for which it was made has been accomplished or abandoned; the purpose of any such appropriation shall be deemed abandoned if three (3) years pass without any disbursement from or encumbrance of the appropriation.

Section 5-08. Bonded Debt.

The Parish Government is empowered to incur bonded debt in accordance with this Charter and the constitution and general laws of the state. When voter approval is required for the issuance of revenue bonds, no resolution shall be passed calling for an election to incur a bonding debt until an engineering and economic feasibility report shall have been made to the Council and a summary thereof published in the official journal at least forty-five (45) days prior to the proposed date of the election, unless the Council is required to call such an election pursuant to a petition as provided for under the general laws of this state.

Section 5-09 Facsimile/Electronic Signatures.

Facsimile/Electronic signatures are authorized for negotiable instruments and multiple certificates of indebtedness in those cases where an official is required by law to sign.

ARTICLE VI. INITIATIVE, REFERENDUM, RECALL AND REMOVAL BY SUIT.

Section 6-01. Initiative and Referendum.

The electors of Washington Parish shall have the power, except as herein restricted, to propose to the Council passage, amendment, or repeal of ordinances and to vote on the question if the Council refuses action. This power shall not extend to the proposing or repealing of ordinances making or reducing the appropriation of money, to the repeal or reduction of the levy of any taxes or to change the salaries of Parish Government officers or employees or to affect dedicated revenues or bonded indebtedness or to affect redistricting or term length. The initiative power shall be exercised in the following manner:
A. The person or persons proposing the exercise of this power shall submit the proposal to the Council which shall specify within thirty (30) days a form of petition for circulation in one or multiple copies as the proposer may desire. The petition shall contain the full text of the proposed ordinance.

B. Within sixty (60) days after the form of the petition shall been specified, the person or persons circulating the petition shall obtain the signatures of at least fifteen (15) percent of the total registered voters of the Parish. There shall be noted after each signature on the petition: the date signed and the address of the signer. Each person circulating a copy of the petition shall attach a sworn affidavit to it stating the number of signers, and the fact that each signature was made in the presence of the circulator of the petition.

C. The signed petition(s) shall be filed with the Council within sixty (60) days of the form of the petition(s), and upon filing, the Council shall order a canvass of the signatures through the office of the parish registrar of voters to determine their sufficiency and authenticity. The Council's canvass shall be completed within thirty (30) days. If the number of signatures is insufficient, or the petition is deficient as to form or compliance with this section, the Council shall notify the person or persons filing the petition of such insufficiency or deficiency and allow thirty (30) days for filing of additional papers, at the end of which time the sufficiency and correctness of the petition(s) shall be determined finally. At this time should the petitions still be insufficient or deficient, they will be declared null and void.

D. Within thirty (30) days after a petition shall have been certified as sufficient and correct by the Council, the Council shall cause the proposed ordinance, and a summary thereof, to be published in the official journal of the Parish Government at least once with a notice of the date, time and place, when and where it will be given a public hearing and be considered for a passage, which notice shall appear at least seven (7) days prior to the time advertised, for the hearing. At the time and place so advertised the Council shall hold a public hearing. No later than ten (10) days after the public hearing, the Council shall determine to either:

1. Adopt the proposed ordinance submitted in an initiative petition, without substantive amendments, or effect the repeal referred to by such petition.
2. Submit the proposal to the electors.

E. If the Council adopts an ordinance following the submission of an initiatory petition as provided above, it shall not amend or repeal the ordinance by its own action within one (1) year following the date of submission of the petition proposing the ordinance, but may submit proposals amending or repealing such ordinances to a vote of the electors. After the expiration of one (1) year, the ordinance may be amended or repealed as any other ordinance.

F. If an initiative ordinance is submitted to a vote of the electors as provided in Section 6-01, the election shall take place at the first election already scheduled for other purposes which occurs at least thirty (30) days after the date the Council proposes to submit the
proposal to the electors. The results shall be determined by a majority vote of the electors voting on the proposal.

G. If a majority of the qualified electors voting on a proposed initiative ordinance in its favor, it shall be considered adopted upon certification of the election results. If conflicting ordinances are approved at the same election, the one receiving the greatest number of affirmative votes shall prevail to the extent of such conflict.

H. Any proposed ordinance brought by initiative or referendum and pertains to an area less than parish wide but has an impact parish wide, the proposed ordinance shall be considered adopted only if approved by the voters parish wide and by the voters in the area to be affected. No parish wide vote shall be required if the impact of the proposal and its costs are limited to the affected area. In such a case, the proposed ordinance shall be considered adopted if approved by the voters in the area to be affected.

I. An ordinance adopted by the electorate through the initiative process shall not be amended or repealed by council action for a period of one (1) year after the election at which it was adopted, but it may be amended or repealed any time by a vote of the electorate. After one (1) year, such ordinance may be amended or repealed in the same manner as any other ordinance.

J. Ordinances adopted through the initiative process shall not be subject to veto by the President.

Section 6-02. Recall.

A. Any elected official of the Parish Government may be removed from office by the electors of the Parish through a recall process. The recall procedure shall be the same as is provided in the general laws of the state.

B. If, in a recall election, the majority of those voting vote for recall, the official named in the recall petition shall be removed ipso facto from office, and the vacancy thereby created shall be filled as in the case of ordinary vacancies in accordance with this Charter. The person recalled shall not be eligible for appointment to fill the vacant position.

Section 6-03. Removal by Suit.

Any elected official of the Parish Government may be removed from office by court suit as provided in the constitution and general laws of the state.

ARTICLE VII. GENERAL PROVISIONS.

Section 7-01. Legal Process.

Legal process against the Parish Government shall be served upon the President or in his absence upon the presiding officer of the Council.
Section 7-02. Code of Ethics.

All officers, officials and employees of the Parish Government shall comply with the provisions of the state code of ethics pertaining to local Governments.

Section 7-03. Amending or Repealing the Charter.

A. Proposals to amend or repeal this Charter may be made by two-thirds vote of the authorized Council membership or by petition signed by not less than fifteen (15) percent of the total number of registered voters of the Parish. A petition shall contain the full text of the proposed amendment(s) or repeal of the Charter. The procedures and time limits for filing such a petition shall be the same as for an initiative ordinance as provided in Section 6-01.

B. Within thirty (30) days after a petition shall have been certified as sufficient and correct by the Council, the Council shall cause the amendment(s) or repeal provisions being proposed, and summaries thereof, to be published in the official journal of the Parish.

C. Proposals to amend or repeal this Charter shall be submitted for ratification to the qualified electors of the Parish Government at a special election or at the first election already authorized for other purposes which occurs at least thirty (30) days after publication of the proposed amendment(s) or repeal. The results shall be determined by a majority vote of the voters voting on any particular proposal.

D. Proposals by the Council and by petition may be submitted to the voters at the same election, and voters may, at their option, accept or reject any or all such proposals. Should conflicting proposals be approved at the same election, the one receiving the greater number of affirmative votes shall prevail to the extent of such conflict.

E. Upon rejection of a proposal by the voters, at least two (2) years shall lapse before the same issue can again be submitted to the voters.

Section 7-04. Bonding of Officers.

Parish Government officers or employees as the Council may designate shall give bond in the amount and with the surety prescribed by the Council. The premiums on such bonds shall be paid by the Parish Government.

Section 7-05. Oaths of Office.

All elected officials of the Parish Government shall take the following oath of office to be administered by any qualified person:

"I............. do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will support the constitution and laws of the United States and the constitution, laws of this state and the Charter of this Parish and that I will faithfully and impartially discharge and perform all the duties incumbent upon me as ............... according to the best of my ability and understanding, so help me God."

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Section 7-06. Advisory Boards and Commissions.

A. The Council, by resolution, and the President may appoint advisory boards and commissions to provide advice regarding the operations of the Parish Government. No such board or commission shall have administrative or Legislative authority. Appointments to the advisory boards and commissions shall provide for minority representation.

B. A member of an advisory board or commission shall receive no compensation for service and shall serve at the pleasure of the appointing authority.

C. Members of all existing advisory boards and commissions shall complete their terms of office, except as may be provided by this Charter or by action of the appointing authority.

D. All meetings of advisory boards and commissions shall be open to the public.

E. This section shall not apply to special service districts that are political subdivisions or to an administrative board or commission created by ordinance or in accordance with general state law.

Section 7-07. Administrative Boards and Commissions.

A. This section pertains to administrative boards and commissions created by ordinance or in accordance with the general state law.

B. The Council and the President may appoint members to boards and commissions as provided in ordinances and general state laws creating such boards and commissions. Appointments to the administrative boards and commissions shall provide for minority representation.

C. No such board or commission shall have legislative authority except as may be provided by general state law.

D. Members of all existing administrative boards and commissions shall complete their terms of office, except as may be provided by this Charter or by action of the Council.

E. All meetings of administrative boards and commissions shall be open to the public in accordance with state law.

F. The Council may, by ordinance, create, consolidate, merge, abolish or reorganize any administrative board or commission in existence at the date this Charter becomes effective or as may be created in the future, unless prohibited by state law.
Section 7-08. Reconstitution of Government.

In the event of war or public disaster that incapacitates the President and/or a majority of the Council, the remaining members of the Council may act on an emergency basis and shall appoint such other officials as are necessary to reconstitute the Parish Government. It shall be the intent of this section that these emergency powers shall subsist only so long as an emergency exists and that regularly constituted elections shall be held as soon as it is judicially determined that conditions permit their being held.

Section 7-09. Control over local Agencies and Special Districts.

A. The Council shall have general power over any agency or special district heretofore created by the governing authority of Washington Parish or hereafter created by the Council including, without limitation, the power to abolish the agency or special district and to require prior approval of any charge or tax levied or debt issued by the agency or special district.

B. The Parish Government may consolidate and merge into itself any special district or local public agency, except a school district, situated and having jurisdiction entirely within the boundaries of the Parish. Upon the consolidation and merge, the Parish Government shall succeed to and be vested with all the rights, revenues, resources, jurisdiction, authority, and powers of the special district or local public agency. A consolidation and merger shall become effective only if approved by a majority of the electors voting thereon in the Parish as a whole and by a majority of the electors voting thereon in the affected special district. A local public agency shall be consolidated and merged only if approved by a majority of the electors voting thereon in the Parish as whole.

C. If the special district or local public agency which is consolidated and merged has an outstanding indebtedness, the authority provided by this section shall not be exercised unless provision is made for the retirement or assumption of the indebtedness.

ARTICLE VIII. CHARTER PROVISIONS.

Section 8-01. Continuation of Actions.

A. All rights, actions, suits, proceedings, civil or criminal liabilities, prosecutions, judgments, sentences, contracts, franchises, debt or other obligations due by Washington Parish, rights or causes of action, claims, demands, titles and rights existing on the effective date of this Charter shall continue unaffected. All sentences for punishment for ordinance violations or for crime shall be executed according to their terms.

B. All actions, ordinances, and administrative rules and regulations of Washington Parish in force prior to the effective date of this Charter shall, insofar as they are not inconsistent with this Charter, remain in full force and effect until amended or repealed by the Council or until they expire by their own limitation.
Section 8-02. Special Districts.

Any special district heretofore established and existing in Washington Parish shall continue to exist to effectuate the purpose for which it was created, to complete any works begun or authorized therein, to pay the debts of the district and to levy taxes and other charges as may have been or may be legally authorized in the district.

Section 8-03. Fees, Charges, and Tax Levies.

A. Constitutional limitations on the maximum property tax millages that can be levied without voter approval shall continue to be applicable to Washington Parish.

B. No special assessment for improvements shall be imposed on the property owners until such proposal has been submitted to the electors of the area affected in an election called for that purpose. The results shall be determined by a majority vote of the electors voting on the proposal.

C. All fees, charges, taxes levied by Washington Parish shall continue to be levied by the Parish Government until changed by the Council by Ordinance or by a vote of the people when a vote is required for tax purposes.

D. Receipts from fees, charges, rentals and royalties, taxes, federal and state grants, and shared revenues and taxes applicable to special districts which are less than parish wide geographically shall be used only for services to be rendered in those geographic areas.

E. The levy of property tax millages above the constitutional maximum previously approved by the voters of Washington Parish or a special district shall continue to be levied by the Parish Government and used only for the approved purposes. Such levies may be renewed upon the favorable vote of the electors within the geographical area involved.

Section 8-04. Special Legislative Acts.

All special legislative acts pertaining to Washington Parish, insofar as they are in conflict with the provisions of this Charter, shall henceforth be inoperative and of no effect.

Section 8-05. Parish Retirement Systems.

No pension or retirement plan(s) for employees of Washington Parish in existence at the time the Charter is approved shall be affected in any way by this Charter. The Plan(s) shall remain in full force and effect and shall be carried out and regulated in accordance with applicable laws and procedures.

Section 8-06. Declaration of Intent.

The Charter shall be liberally construed in aid of its declared intent which is to establish for the people of Washington Parish effective home rule free from legislative interference as to the structure and organization of its local Government, and with the power and authority to manage...
its local affairs, all as contemplated and intended by the provisions of Article VI, Sections 5 and 6, of the Louisiana State Constitution.

Section 8-07. Severability.

If any provision of this Charter is declared invalid for any reason, that provision shall not affect the validity of this charter or any other provisions thereof.

Section 8-08. Violation of Civil Rights Act.

In the event the Civil Rights Division of the United States Department of Justice or any court of competent jurisdiction declares any part of this Charter to be in violation of the Voting Rights Act prior to the date the Charter becomes effective, the Washington Parish Home Rule Charter Commission shall reconvene for a period not to exceed ninety (90) days for the purpose of drafting and proposing amendments to the Charter which will be limited to correcting those specified violations to the electors of Washington Parish.

Section 8-09. Required Approval by Electors.

The Amended and Restated Charter shall become effective only if approved by a majority of those voting on the Charter.
STATE OF LOUISIANA
PARISH OF WASHINGTON

I, the undersigned Clerk of the Parish Council of the Parish of Washington, State of Louisiana (the “Governing Authority”), acting as the governing authority of the Parish of Washington, State of Louisiana (the “Parish”), do hereby certify that the foregoing constitutes a true and correct copy of an Ordinance adopted by the Governing Authority on June 24, 2019, ordering and calling a special election to be held in the Parish of Washington, State of Louisiana, on Saturday, October 12, 2019 to authorize the amendment and restatement, in its entirety, of the Home Rule Charter of the Parish of Washington, State of Louisiana; making application to the State Bond Commission; and providing for other matters in connection therewith.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have subscribed my official signature of the Parish Council of the Parish of Washington, State of Louisiana on this, the 24th day of June, 2019.

[Signature]
Sarah Cook, Council Clerk

[SEAL]