

Fredericksburg City Council Minutes 1831

February 17<sup>th</sup> 1831

The Mayor and Common Council assembled in Council in their Chamber this day at 11 O'clock

Present: Thomas Goodwin, Mayor

Common Councilmen

Fayette Johnston

Beverly R Wellford

Stephen J Blaydes

James Williams

Robert Dickey

William Warren

James Cooke

Henry T Phillips

John James Chew presented a minute [?] of the proceedings of a meeting of the Citizens of the Town held at the Court House on the 16<sup>th</sup> Inst containing a resolution that the Mayor & Council be instructed to present a petition to the Legislature of V<sup>a</sup> forthwith to pass a law authorizing the Mayor & Common Council to borrow fifteen thousand dollars for the purpose of discharging the debts due by the Corporation to the Banks in the Town, which was borrowed for the purpose to erect the public buildings, which resolution was considered and a petition was prepared pursuant to the resolution and signed by the Mayor and members of the Council

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The Committee appointed by the town meeting on the 11<sup>th</sup> Inst for the purpose made a report that in their opinion it would be inexpedient to petition the legislature at the time on the subject of the location of the Court, and recommended that a Committee be appointed to address a letter to our delegate and senator upon the subject and that they be authorized to employ a suitable person to present said letter and other documents relating to the subject.

Whereupon, John S Caldwell, Henry T Phillips, James Williams, Fayette Johnston and Beverly R Wellford were appointed the committee.

On Motion it was Resolved that the expenses of the person employed by the committee aforesaid be paid by the Chamberlain out of the funds of the Corporation on the Warrant of the Committee

Ordered that the account of John W Shepherd amounting to twenty six dollars and ninety nine Cents be paid by the Chamberlain (paid)

The Council adjourned

Thos Goodwin, Mayor

March 18, 1831

The Mayor and Common Council assembled in Council this day pursuant to Notice by the Mayor

Present Thomas Goodwin, Mayor

John H Wallace, Recorder

Common Councilmen

Fayette Johnston

James Williams

Stephen J Blaydes

James Cooke

Robert Dickey

George Rothrock

The Mayor presented an account of money's received by him for affixing Corporation Seal amounting to seven dollars & fifty cents with a credit of fifty two & ½ cents leaving a balance of Six dollars & ninety seven cents which he paid to the Chamberlain

John M Shepherd presents an a/c against the Corporation for #10.68 which is allowed and ordered to be paid by the Chamberlain (paid)

James D Harrow presented an a/c for \$9.99 which was ordered to be paid (paid)

John J Caldwell presented an a/c of his as Coroner amounting to \$10 which was allowed (paid)

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John S Caldwell is allowed the sum of twenty five dollars for extra services as Chamberlain

Ordered that the Chamberlain prepare an abstract statement of the receipts & expenditures of the Corporation the past year and publish the same in a newspaper of the Town

This day a poll was opened for the election of Twelve Common Councilmen to serve for the ensuing year, the Free Holders & House Keepers being duly notified met at the Council Chamber and deposited their Ballots, and upon counting the same the largest number of votes were in favor of the following persons to wit:

Thomas Goodwin

William Warren

Robert Dickey

Stephen J Blaydes

Henry T Phillips

James Williams

Beverly R Wellford

Charles C Wellford

John Goolrick

George Cox

John H Wallace

George Rothrock

Who were declared duly elected Common Councilmen according to law

Ordered that the Council meet tomorrow evening at 4½ O'clock

Thos Goodwin Mayor

Tuesday March 22, 1831

This day, Stephen J Blaydes, Robert Dickey, George Rothrock, William Warren, James Williams, Charles C Wellford, John H Wallace, Beverly R Wellford and George Cox met in the Council Chamber and took the oath of office of a Common Councilman before the Mayor and then met in Council

On Motion of John H Wallace seconded by James Williams the Salary of the Mayor for the present year was fixed at four hundred dollars, payable quarterly

The Council then proceeded to the election of Mayor by ballot and Thomas Goodwin, Esq'r was duly elected and took the several oaths of office before Samuel Phillips Esq'r, a justice of the peace for the Corporation of Fredericksburg

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John H Wallace was duly elected Recorded of the Corporation and took the oath of office before Samuel Phillips Esq'r

The Council proceeded to the election of a member of the Common Council to fill the vacancy in their body by the election of Thos Goodwin to the office of Mayor and John Terrill was duly elected a member of the Common Council

On motion it was, Resolved that the chamberlain salary for the present year be one hundred dollars and the salary of the Clerk of the Council be fifty dollars

On Motion it was, Resolved that the Clerk of the Market be allowed one hundred dollars for his service the present year

On Motion it was, Resolved that the jailor salary be fifty dollars for the year

Resolve that the Messenger of the Council be allowed two [dollars] for each session of the Council that he shall summon and attend whilst in session.

Resolved that the Salary of the Commiss'r of Revenue be sixty dollars this year.

John Terrier a member of the Council appeared, qualified before the Mayor and took his seat

John Goolrick a member of the Council elect appeared qualified and took his seat

Beverly R Wellford presented the following resolution which were read and adopted:

1<sup>st</sup> Resolved that the Council convene the duties of Police Office included in those of Constable

2<sup>nd</sup> Resolved that the town be divided into wards corresponding with the number of Constables and that one of said wards be assigned to each constable whose duty it shall be to attend to the execution of the police laws within, under the direction of the Mayor

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3<sup>rd</sup> Resolved that it is also the duty of each Constable to correct any violation of the police laws which may fall within his notice, whether it be in his own peculiar ward on in that assigned to any other constable

On Motion it was, Resolved that each Constable be allowed one hundred & fifty dollars for their service to be performed the present year, payable quarterly by the Chamberlain

The Council proceeded to the election of the several officers of the Corporation to serve one year when John S Caldwell was elected Clerk of the Council and Chamberlain of the Corporation

John M Shepherd Clerk of the Market and Messenger

John Goolrick, Surveyor of the Corp'n

Robert Parrott, gauger & Measurer of coal, salt & grain

Samuel Phillips, Measurer & inspector of lumber and

John Metcalfe, Comm'r of the Revenue

On Motion it was, Resolved that the Belman be allowed forty dollars payable quarterly for his service this year; Jesse White was elected Belman for the year

The following Standing Committees were appointed by the Mayor:

Henry T Phillips, John H Wallace, John Goolrick and Robert Dickey, Committee of Corpo property

George Rothrock, Chas C Wellford, Step J Blaydes and Beverly R Wellford, Street Committee

William Warren, John Terrier, George Cox & James Williams, Pump Committee

The following Resolutions were read & passed

Resolved that a Committee be appointed by the Mayor of three whose duty it shall be to prepare and amended Charter of incorporation of the Town and report the same to the Council on or before the first day of next November.

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Resolved that said Committee shall be empowered to employ legal council to assist them if they deem it necessary and that a sum not exceeding fifty dollars be allowed for that purpose to be paid by the Chamberlain

Beverly R Wellford, George Cox and John H Wallace were appointed the Committee under the foregoing resolution

John Goolrick, Robert Parrott, Samuel Phillip & Jno M Shepherd took the oath of office to which they were severally elected this day, before the Mayor

John S Caldwell took the oath of Office of Clerk of Council, before the Mayor

A Memorial from sundry Merchants & grocers of the Town praying that an Inspection of Bacon, Butter & Lard be ordained was presented by John H Wallace and on Motion was laid on the table

Ordered that the Council adjourn

Thos Goodwin, Mayor

April 30, 1831

The Common Council met in Council this evening

Present: John Goodwin, Mayor

Common Councilmen

John Goolrick            James Williams

George Cox             John Terrier

Robert Dickey

Henry T Phillips who was elected a Common Councilman appeared, qualified, and took his seat

John H Wallace and William Warren appeared and took their seats

John Metcalfe presented a Statement of the Annual Value of the real estate in the Town & of the Personal property liable to taxation which was as follows, Viz

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|                                  |         |
|----------------------------------|---------|
| Annual value of real property    | \$43500 |
| White persons above 16 years old | 360     |
| Free Negroes 7 Mulattoes         | 145     |
| Slaves above 12 years old        | 590     |
| Horses                           | 130     |

An Ordinance entitled an Ordinance imposing Tax for the year 1831 was presented, read & passed in the following words, Viz.

Be it Ordained by the Common Council of the Town of Fredericksburg, That the taxes on persons and property in the town aforesaid for the year 1831 shall be as follows, Viz, on all houses and lots, at the rate of three dollars & fifty center for ever hundred dollars years rent or annual value thereof, on every male white person above the age of sixteen years, one dollar; on every slave above the age of twelve years one dollar; on ever free Negro & Mulatto above the age of Sixteen years one dollar; on every riding and pleasure carriage of any description, carryall, Gig and chair of less value than one hundred dollars one dollar; above that sum one percent on the value thereof; On every horse, mare and mule one dollar and fifty cents; on every cart or dray license five dollars, on every wagon license eight dollars; on every male animal of the dog kind one dollar & on every female animal of the same kind two dollars

The Ordinance shall commence and be in force from and after the passing thereof  
Ordered that the sum of fifty dollars be and the same is hereby appropriated for the repairs of the streets

Ordered, that a sum not exceeding ten dollars be and the same is hereby appropriated for walks in the burying ground near the Methodist Church, the walks to be made under the direction of the Mayor, and that the Mayor is permitted to cut down the weeds and grass in the ground aforesaid for his own use

Ordered that the council adjourn  
Thos Goodwin, Mayor  
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At a Meeting of the Common Council of the Town of Fredericksburg, at the Council Chamber September 8<sup>th</sup> 1831

Present: Thomas Goodwin, Mayor  
Common Councilmen

|                   |                |
|-------------------|----------------|
| Stephen J Blaydes | James Williams |
| George Cox        | James Dickey   |
| George Rothrock   | William Warren |

It was Resolved that a further sum of fifty dollars be and the same is hereby appropriated for the repairs of the Streets

George Cox, William Warren, and John S Caldwell were appointed a Committee to ascertain if the tenement used & occupied by James Cunningham is not reverted to the Corporation of Fred'bg and to make report to the first Session of the Council after they have received information concerning the premises

The lessees of the lot now occupied by [blank]  
Carter, William B Peake & Co, Benjamin R Hillyard and James Cunningham have lease to erect a brick wall on the Market House yard twelve feet four inches from the back part of the house occupied by Benjamin R Hillyard, to run from the upper back corner of the house occupied by Carter to the Brick wall at the Back of the lot now occupied by Abner Leitch, provided the wall be made as the wall enclosing the Episcopal church yard and be made circular at the end back of Carters house, and the applicants being permit it was understood that the wall might be recovered and the ground taken possession of at the pleasure of the Council

Present, John Goolrick, Common Councilmen

Joshua Myers is allowed five dollars for riding express to Col Crutchfield on the night of the 28<sup>th</sup> August and the Chamberlain is hereby ordered to pay the same

Benjamin R Hillyard is allowed five dollars & three cents for refreshments furnished the guard on the night of August

Lemuel Doggett is allowed two dollars for riding express to Spotsylvania Court House  
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Robert C Bruce is allowed three dollars and fifty cents for coffin for [blank] Fugit who was drowned in the River

On Motion is was, Resolved that the Union Fire Company have lease to sell their old Engine and vest the proceeds in hose or any implement for the use of said Company

The Jailor of the Corpo is hereby requested to receive any Gun Powder in the Jail which the Citizen may wish to deposit therein in the time or a fire or insurrection

Ordered that the Council adjourn

Thos Goodwin, Mayor

At a Meeting of the Common Council at the Council Chamber on Saturday the 15<sup>th</sup> of October 1831

Present, Thomas Goodwin, Mayor

Common Councilmen

John Goolrick

George Cox

Henry T Phillips

Step J Blaydes

Geo Rothrock

John Terrier

It was stated by the Mayor that he had received information that Judge Coalter was injuring the Channel of the River by causing dirt, stones, and other obstructions thereon and that he was causing the same & trees to be thrown on the margin of the River just below the lower ferry landing on the Stafford Shore which might be washed in the river to the great injury of the Navigation of the Rappahannock and the Council was convened that measures might be adopted to prevent Judge Coalter from further operation at the place stated if lawfully it could be done, Whereupon agreeably to the proposition in writing from Judge Coalter, Henry T Phillips, Geo Cox, and John Terrier were appointed a committee to examine the operation of Judge Coalter at the place before stated, confer with the Judge and report to the next Council [Page 21]

And on Motion it was ordered that said Committee invite three or four of the citizens of the town to view and examine in company with the Committee the work of Judge Coalter at the place mentioned

Ordered the Council adjourn

Thos Goodwin, Mayor

At a Meeting of the Common Council of the Town of Fredericksburg at the Council Chamber on the 19<sup>th</sup> October 1831

Present: Thomas Goodwin, Mayor

Common Councilmen

Henry T Phillips

John Terrier

George Cox

Robert Dickey

Stephen J Blaydes

Geo Rothrock

Beverly R Wellford

The Committee appointed at the last meeting of the Council to examine the operation of Judge Coalter on the Margin of the River presented a Report, Signed by said Committee which was Ordered to be filed; Captain Samuel Phillips, Bragden & Parrott who were present at the Council and who were invited by the Committee to view the place aforesaid concurred in the report of the Committee

On Motion of Beverly R Wellford, duly seconded, it was; Resolved that the report be adopted

And on his motion & seconded, it was further; Resolved that the same Committee confer again with Judge Coalter and request him to suspend his operations, or to place the works in such a situation as shall in the opinion of three persons experienced in the Navigation of the Rappahannock River be unlikely to cause any obstruction to the passage of vessels

On Motion Beverly R Wellford was added to the Committee

Ordered that Joshua Myers be allowed a further sum of five dollars for riding express to Col Crutchfield on the night of the 28<sup>th</sup> August last

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Ordered that the estate of William Caldwell, dec'd be exempt from paying Capitation Tax on Negro Sam, a very old and very infirm man

On Motion it was Resolved that a committee be appointed to draw a memorial to be presented to the next Legislature praying for the passage of an Act for the further protection of the Navigation of the River Rappahannock

Ordered that Beverly R Wellford, George Cox, Henry T Phillips, Carter L Stephenson, and John S Caldwell be the Committee to carry the foregoing resolution into effect

Ordered that the Council now adjourn

Thos Goodwin, Mayor