

Fredericksburg City Council Minutes 1837

[Page 113]

At a meeting of the Common Council of the Town of Fredericksburg at the Council Chamber convened this evening Feb'y 18<sup>th</sup> 1837 pursuant to notice from the Mayor

Present John H Wallace, Mayor

George Cox, Recorder

William Allen, Peter Spilman, William Redd, William Warren, John Goolrick and Benjamin R Hillyard—  
Common Councilmen

The following accounts were passed and ordered to be paid by the Chamberlain, viz;

Bernard Cole's account amounting to	\$14.65
John S Caldwell's account amounting to	\$20.69
George Redd's account amounting to	\$1.87½

Present George W Eve, Jesse Curtis, George Rothrock—Common Councilmen

A memorial from the “Young Men’s Society of the Town of Fred’g” through a Committee of the Society, was presented by the Mayor praying the use of the vacant lot on the Court House Square between the Fire Engine House and Mr Harrow’s printing office, for the purpose of erecting a building on the same for the use of said Society; which memorial was, on motion, laid on the table for future consideration of the [Page 114] Council.

Ordered that the Mayor be associated with the Quarantine Master to take such precautionary steps in the unloading and discharging of a vessel now at the Quarantine ground having a case of small pox on board, so that the infection made not be spread.

On motion the Council adjourned

Jno H Wallace, Mayor

Teste

A Goodwin, CC

At a meeting of the Common Council of the Town of Fredericksburg at the Council Chamber March 17<sup>th</sup> 1837

Present John H Wallace, Mayor

George Cox, Recorder

Peter Spilman, George W Eve, Henry T Phillips, George Rothrock, Jesse Curtis & Benjamin R Hillyard—  
Common Councilmen

The Mayor presented an a/c of money received for affixing Corporation Seal &c shewing a balance due the Corporation of three dollars and forty two cents, which was ordered to be paid to the Chamberlain, and place to the credit of the Corporation in his account.

The following claims against the Corporation were read & passed and ordered to be paid by the Chamberlain viz;

Thomas Curtis's a/c for supper for guard, amounting to	\$5.00
J J Chew's a/c for cash paid for repairs to Clerk's office	\$2.75
Sam'l Phillips & Son's a/c for hauling gravel	\$8.00
Jno S Caldwell's a/c for cash paid for spreading gravel	\$4.50

Wm M Blackford's a/c for printing advertisement of Council of claims	\$1.33
Stephen J Blaydes a/c for oil	\$ .31
James D Harrows for printing 4 quires blank recognizances &c	\$4.50

George Cox, Benjamin R Hillyard & Jesse Curtis were appointed a committee to examine & settle the accounts of the Sergeant and Chamberlain and make report thereon to the next Council.

Ordered that the salaries of the police officers for the quarter ending the 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday in the month be paid by the Chamberlain.

On Motion the Council adjourned till Monday morning at 9 o'clock

Jno H Wallace, Mayor

Arthur Goodwin, CC

[Page 115]

Monday Morning March 20<sup>th</sup> 1837

The Council met pursuant to order of adjournment of the 17<sup>th</sup> Inst at the Council Chamber

Present John H Wallace, Mayor

George Cox, Recorder

P Spilman, B R Hillyard, Jesse Curtis, Wm Redd, George W Eve and Henry T Phillips—Common Councilmen

The Committee appointed to examine and settle the accounts of the Sergeant and Chamberlain of the Corporation made the following reports which were approved and ordered to be recorded.

“In pursuance of an order of Council made on the 17<sup>th</sup> day of March Inst, We the undersigned, appointed a Committee to examine and report upon the account of Arthur Goodwin Chamberlain of the Corporation do hereby certify that we have examined the same and find it correctly stated and supported by proper vouchers and that there is a balance in the hands of the Chamberlain amounting to ninety five dollars and thirty cents

(Signed)

George Cox, B R Hillyard, Jesse Curtis, Committee

March 18<sup>th</sup> 1837

“We the undersigned, a committee appointed to examine the Sergeant's account hereby certify that we have performed that duty and find the same correctly stated and the items all proper and that the same stands balanced.

Given under our hands this 18<sup>th</sup> day of March 1837

(Signed) George Cox, B R Hillyard, Jesse Curtis

The Sergeant returned insolvent lists amounting to two hundred and sixty eight dollars and fifty cents also a list of uncollected taxes amounting to forty nine dollars and thirty six cents and of uncollected rents amounting to three hundred and twenty one dollars and sixty three cents.

Ordered that a poll be now opened for the election of twelve men to serve as Common Council for the ensuing year.

This being the day appointed by law for the election of twelve men to serve as Common Council men until the 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday in March 1838 and till others shall be elected in their stead, a [Page 116] poll was

opened for that purpose and the freeholders and housekeepers of the Town having been duly notified of such election, met at the Council Chamber and deposited their ballots, and upon counting the same the largest number of votes were found to be given for the following persons, to wit:

William Redd	127
Peter Spilman	125
John Goolrick	122
Charles C Wellford	116
George W Rothrock	116
John Buck	109
Stephen J Blaydes	108
Henry T Phillips	105
John H Wallace	86
Jesse Curtis	83
William Warren	75
Fayette Johnston	63

Who were declared duly elected Common Councilmen to serve one year.

On motion the Council adjourned  
Jno H Wallace, Mayor  
A Goodwin, CC

Tuesday Evening, March 21<sup>st</sup> 1837

William Redd, Stephen J Blaydes, John Goolrick, Henry T Phillips, Peter Spilman, Fayette Johnston, George W Rothrock, John Buck, William Warren, Charles C Wellford and Jesse Curtis, members elect of the Common Council of the Town of Fredericksburg appeared at the Council Chamber and severally took the oath of office before the Mayor

On motion made and seconded the salary of the Mayor for the ensuing year was fixed at the sum of four hundred dollars.

The Council then proceeded to the election of a Mayor when John H Wallace was unanimously re-elected, who toll the several oaths of office before Reuben T Thom, a Justice of the Peace for the County of Spotsylvania.

The Council elected Thomas F Knox a member of the Council to supply the vacancy occasioned by the election of John H Wallace, Mayor, who being notified thereof by the Messenger of the Council appeared, was qualified and took his seat at the Board.

William Redd was elected Recorder of the Corporation and took the several oaths of office before Reuben T Thom a Justice of the Peace for the County of Spotsylvania.

On motion the salaries of the following officers were fixed at the following sums per annum viz

That of the [Page 117]

Clerk of the Council fifty dollars

Chamberlain of the Corporation one hundred and fifty dollars

The Ayes and Noes being called for on the vote for the salary of the Chamberlain were,

Ayes P Spilman, G W Rothrock, H T Philllips, C C Wellford, F Johnston & T F Knox 6

Noes Jno Goolrick, John Buck, S J Blaydes, J Curtis, Wm Warren & Wm Redd 6  
There being a tie the Mayor gave the casting vote in favor of the sum of one hundred and fifty dollars.

Police Office one hundred and fifty dollars  
Constables (to act as assistant Police officers) one hundred and fifty dollars each.  
Commissioner of the Revenue sixty dollars  
Clerk of the Market one hundred dollars  
Bellman fifty dollars  
Jailor fifty dollars

On motion to reconsider the vote on the salaries of the Police Officer and Constables the same were fixed at the sum of two hundred dollars each.

The Council then proceeded to the election of officers for the current year, when  
Arthur Goodwin was elected Clerk of the Council and Chamberlain of the Corporation  
John Metcalfe, Commissioner of the Revenue  
John S Caldwell, Police Officer and Collector of Taxes, Rents &c &c  
Mathew D Anderson, Clerk of the Market and Bellman  
John Goolrick, Surveyor and Geographer of the Corporation  
William M Baggott, Inspector & Measurer of Wood, Lumber &c &c at the Wharf  
Bernard Cole, Inspector and Measurer of Wood, Lumber &c &c at the Basin  
Robert Parrott, Guager  
Linsey Pullen, Measurer of Salt, Grain, Coal &c

On motion a Commission of 10 pr cent on Taxes and 5 pr cent on Rents was allowed the Collector upon all collections.

On motion it was ordered that hereafter the sum of Thirty one and a quarter cents per hundred bushels for measuring be and the same is hereby allowed the Measurer of salt, Grain, Coal &c &c as a legal charge.  
[Page 118]

Arthur Goodwin John S Caldwell, John Goolrick, Bernard Cole, George Ayler, Matthew D Anderson and Linsey Pullen severally took the oaths of office before the Mayor.

The following standing committees were appointed by the Mayor  
On Public Property; John Goolrick, Henry T Phillips, Peter Spilman, John Buck  
On Pumps; C C Wellford, S J Blaydes, William Warren, Thomas F Knox  
On Streets; Wm Redd, Jesse Curtis, Geo W Rothrock and Fayette Johnston

On motion, Ordered that the usual tax of five dollars for a license to run a dray or cart on the Streets, and of eight dollars on each wagon be laid for the current year and that the same be collected by the Collector of Taxes &c &c

Ordered that the following named free persons of color, from their age and infirmities be exempt from capitation tax, viz;  
Judith Brokenbrough, Betty Dunlop, Sally Hager, Tony Munroe & wife, Betty Minor, Nelly Starr, Polly Tate, Lucy Wood and Maria Washington.

On motion the Council adjourned  
Jno H Wallace, Mayor  
A Goodwin, CC

At a meeting of the Common Council of the Town of Fredericksburg at the Council Chamber May 13<sup>th</sup>  
1837

Present John H Wallace, Mayor  
Wm Redd, Recorder

Peter Spilman, Stephen J Blaydes, William Warren, Fayette Johnston, Thomas F Knox, Henry T Phillips,  
John Buck, John Goolrick and George W Rothrock—Common Councilmen

The official bond of the Chamberlain in the penalty of five thousand dollars with Reuben T Thom and  
John Coakley as securities, was submitted to the Board approved and ordered to be filed by the Mayor  
[Page 119]

The official bond of the Collector of Taxes, Rents &c in the penalty of five thousand dollars with Samuel  
Phillips and Henry T Phillips as securities was submitted to the Board approved and ordered to be filed by  
the Mayor.

The resignation (by letter) of Matthew D Anderson as Bellman was presented and accepted and  
On motion Jesse White was appointed Bellman and it was ordered that his salary commence from the 3<sup>rd</sup>  
Monday in March last

Present; Jesse Curtis—Common Councilman

An estimate of the receipts and expenditures of the Corporation for the current year was submitted to the  
Board and

An ordinance entitled “An ordinance imposing taxes for the year 1837” was passed in the following  
words, to wit;

Be it ordained by the Mayor and Common Council of the Town of Fredericksburg that the taxes on  
persons and property in the town aforesaid for the year 1837 shall be as follows viz; on all houses and lots  
at the rate of four dollars for every hundred dollars yearly rent or annual value thereof;

On every male white person above the age of 16 years one dollars and thirty cents;

On every slave above the age of 12 years one dollar and thirty cents;

On every free Negro and Mulattoe above the age of 16 years, one dollar and thirty cents;

On every pleasure carriage of any description, Cariole, Gig and Chariot of less value than one hundred  
dollars, two dollars

And on all above the value of one hundred dollars two per cent on the value thereof;

On every Horse, Mare, Mule, one dollar and fifty cents;

On every cart and dray license five dollars and

On every Waggon license eight dollars.

This ordinance shall be in force from and after its passage.

Ordered that an Inspector and Measurer of Lumber, Wood, Plank, Staves, Shingles, Bark &c be  
appointed to attend to the Rail Road Depot and that said Inspector & Measurer be governed by the  
ordinance now in existence on the subject of his duties and that he be allowed the same rates of charge for  
measuring &c &c that the Inspectors and Measurers at the Basin & Wharves are allowed.

On Motion John B Alexander was appointed Inspector [Page 120] and measurer at the Depot.

And then the Council adjourned  
Jno H Wallace, Mayor  
Arthur Goodwin, CC

At a meeting of the Council at the Mayors office May the 19<sup>th</sup> 1837

Present John H Wallace, Mayor  
William Redd, Recorder

Jesse Curtis, Geo W Rothrock, Stephen J Blaydes, John Buck, Peter Spilman, Fayette Johnston, C C Wellford, Henry T Phillips, William Warren & John Goolrick—Common Councilmen

The Mayor stated that he had convened the Council for the purpose of ascertaining if any powers were vested in them under certain acts of Assembly to issue scrip of less denomination than five dollars & that he had invited several gentlemen of the legal profession to attend & give their opinions on the subject which were given in opposition to the existence of such powers on the part of the Corporation.

Present Thomas F Knox, Common Councilman

The following preamble and resolution was passed

Whereas great inconvenience has resulted to the people of this Corporation from the want of small change owing to the suspension of specie payments by the Banks of the Commonwealth.

Therefore, Resolved, that a Committee be appointed to draw a petition or memorial asking of the Legislature the right on the part of the Corporation to issue its notes to afford change upon this suspension of specie payments by the Banks.

The Mayor appointed the following Committee in pursuance of the above resolution, viz;  
C C Wellford, John Buck & Geo W Rothrock, who are to report their proceedings to the Council on Saturday evening next week

On motion the Council adjourned  
Jno H Wallace, Mayor  
Arthur Goodwin, CC  
[Page 121]

At a meeting of the Council at the Council Chamber May the 27<sup>th</sup> 1837

Present John H Wallace, Mayor  
William Redd, Recorder

C C Wellford, George W Rothrock, John Buck, Peter Spilman, S J Blaydes & William Warren—  
Councilmen

The committee appointed at the last meeting of the Council to draught a memorial to the Legislature submitted a memorial which was approved & ordered to be forwarded to the Delegate of Spotsylvania County by the Mayor

An a/c of George Redd for painting the Clerk's Office of the Corporation Court amounting to fourteen dollars and ninety four cents was passed and ordered to be paid by the Chamberlain.

Ordered that the Sergeant of the Corporation be requested to procure as many signatures of citizens of the Town & County to the above named memorial to the Legislature as he conveniently can.

On motion the Council adjourned

Jno H Wallace, Mayor

Arthur Goodwin, CC

Saturday evening July 1<sup>st</sup> 1837. The Council met this evening at the Council Chamber pursuant to notice from the Mayor

Present John H Wallace, Mayor

William Redd, Recorder

John Goolrick, Wm Warren, Peter Spilman, S J Blaydes, John Buck, C C Wellford, Fayette Johnson & George W Rothrock—Common Councilmen

Ordered that the Chamberlain do pay to the police officers their quarterly salaries falling due the 20<sup>th</sup> Ultimo

The following accounts were passed and ordered to be paid by the Chamberlain viz;

Bernard Cole's amounting to	\$7.25
George Aler's amounting to	\$5.56
John Goolrick's amounting to	\$4.37½

Present Thomas F Knox—Councilman

On motion Ordered that so much of the Ordinance relative to the prohibition of hogs going at large in the streets be and the same is hereby suspended until the first day of November next.

Present Jesse Curtis—Councilman

The Mayor presented to the Board the proceedings of a meeting of the citizens on the subject of issue of small notes by the Corporation [Page 122] and stated that he had invited most of the Gentlemen of the Bar to attend the meeting of the Council for the purpose of obtaining their opinions as to the construction of the penal laws of the Commonwealth on the subject.

Mess'rs Marye, Morson, Patton, Seddon, Berry & Stevenson having given their opinions at length to the Council & Mr Morson having submitted in the course of his remarks, a paper or ticket, for the consideration of the Council, it was on motion of Mr Fayette Johnson,

Resolved, that Mess'rs Morson, Marye & Seddon be authorized to consult the most eminent counsel of the State they may elect, not exceeding three in number, on the subject of the legality of the issue, by the Corporation, of such paper or tickets of the description above named.

Ordered that the Chamberlain pay to the order of the above named gentleman a fee not exceeding \$20 each to be paid to the Counsel they may consult.

On motion the Council adjourned

Jno H Wallace, Mayor

A Goodwin, CC

At a meeting of the Common Council at the Mayor's office on Saturday Evening July the 8<sup>th</sup> 1837

Present John H Wallace, Mayor

William Redd, Recorder

John Buck, Stephen J Blaydes, Peter Spilman, William Warren, Geo W Rothrock, Thomas F Knox, Fayette Johnston, John Goolrick, Jesse Curtis and Henry T Phillips—Common Councilmen

The following ordinance was read and passed;

An ordinance to prevent hogs from running at large

Be it ordained by the Mayor and Common Council of the Town of Fredericksburg that from and after the 15<sup>th</sup> day of July 1837 it shall not be lawful for any hog to run at large within the limits of this Town, any former ordinance to the contrary notwithstanding. And it shall be the duty of the Constables to take up all hogs found running at large in the Town and sell the same at any public corner of the streets, to the highest bidder for ready money, one moiety whereof shall go to the Constable and the other shall be paid to the person or persons owning such hog at the time of its being taken up.

Be it further ordained that all ordinances and [Page 123] parts of ordinances coming within the purview of this ordinance be and the same are hereby repealed.

The vote on its passage being taken by Ayes & Noes

The Ayes were S J Blaydes, G W Rothrock, J Curtis, Wm Redd, H T Phillips, Thos F Knox, Wm Warren, and John Goolrick 8

Noes John Buck, Peter Spilman and Fayette Johnston 3

The Mayor presented to the Council the opinions of Chapman Johnson and B W Leigh, Esquires, on the subject of an emission of small notes by the Corporation, which being read by the Clerk the following preamble & resolution was passed and ordered to be published.

Whereas the Common Council, after giving the resolution of instructions from a meeting of the Citizens of Fredericksburg relative to emitting small notes for circulation as change, the consideration it merits and fully submitting the propriety of such a course to the most eminent professional gentlemen in the State have come to a determination that any issue in any form whatever, will be in direct violation of the law. Resolved, therefore, that while they regret the embarrassments of the country and the legal disability on the part of the Corporate authorities of the town to contribute towards the relief of the community, they will not take upon themselves the responsibility of a course involving not only a violation of the most highly penal laws of the State, but also, as they conceive a violation of their oaths of office.

The vote on its adoption being taken by Ayes and Noes was

Ayes Buck, Blaydes, Spilman, Rothrock, Curtis, Redd, Phillips, Knox, Warren, and Goolrick 10

Noes Fayette Johnston 1

On motion the Council adjourned

Jno H Wallace, Mayor

Arthur Goodwin, CC

July 13<sup>th</sup> 1837. The Common Council convened at the Council Chamber pursuant to notice from the Mayor.

Present John H Wallace, Mayor

William Redd, Recorder



Stephen J Blaydes, Geo W Rothrock, Chs C Wallace, Fayette Johnston, H T Phillips, J Curtis and Thomas F Knox—Common Councilmen.

[Page 124]

The Mayor stated that he had convened the Council for the purpose of receiving the proposals of Mr H L Hughes for putting up Pumps in the wells of the Corporation, who having in person explained his views and submitted an estimate of the cost for putting up a pump at the corner to Mr John S Wellford's, it was Ordered that the Pump Committee be authorized to pay the sum of sixty three dollars to Mr Hughes for the erection of a pump entire in every respect, at said corner, provided said Committee are satisfied that the contract on the part of Mr Hughes is fully complied with

On Motion of Mr Johnson it was

Resolved that the Pump Committee locate a pump in the upper part of the town, if, in their opinion they think it expedient to do so and to draw on the Chamberlain for the necessary expenses thereof

On motion the Council adjourned

Jno H Wallace, Mayor

Arthur Goodwin, CC

At a meeting of the Common Council of the Town of Fredericksburg at the Council Chamber September 23<sup>rd</sup> 1837

Present John H Wallace, Mayor

William Redd, Recorder

Peter Spilman, Jesse Curtis, Geo W Rothrock, S J Blaydes, Thomas F Knox, John Buck—Common Councilmen

Ordered that the Chamberlain pay to the police officers their salaries for the quarter ending the 20<sup>th</sup> Instant

An a/c of George Aler, or four dollars & fifty cents for killing dogs was passed and ordered to be paid. Also an account of Samuel Phillips, of five dollars for holding an inquest on the body of an infant found dead on the River shore & and account of John S Caldwell, of three dollars and fifteen cents for summoning an inquest on the body of said infant was passed & ordered to be paid by the Chamberlain.

A letter from Doctor R O Grayson, complaining of [Page 125] losses sustained by him in the weighing of hay at the public scales, by reason of the inaccuracy of the scales and praying indemnity at the hands of the Council, was submitted to the Council, whereupon it was, ordered that the Mayor communicate to Doctor Grayson the following resolution on the subject as reply to his letter.

Resolved that while the Council regret the loss sustained by Doctor Grayson in the weighing of his hay at the public scales, yet they cannot grant the request contained in his letter, because of the uncertainty of the amount of loss sustained by him and also because it has been stated at the Board that some few years back, the condition of the hay scales was such as to operate very much in favor of the sellor & against the purchaser, making the gain of the sellers during the period of such condition of the scales, more than an equivalent for the losses sustained by them lately; In addition to which the Council moreover say that the Committee of their body, whose duty it is to attend to any complaints or abuses about the weighing of Hay or the condition of the scales are always ready & willing to attend to and rectify them.

On motion the Council adjourned

Jno H Wallace, Mayor

A Goodwin, CC