

Fredericksburg City Council Minutes 1842

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At a meeting of the Common Council of the Town of Fredericksburg at the Council Chamber Monday evening 21st February 1842

Present, Benj Clark, Mayor

H H Wallace, Recorder

Wm Allen, A G Lucas, Jas McGuire, Wm A Jackson, C C Wellford, Jesse Curtis, J J Berrey, S J Blaydes—Common Councilmen

The Mayor stated the Council had been convened to consider a series of Resolutions adopted at a meeting of the Citizens on Saturday Evening last, which being read by the Clerk it was on motion, ordered that the Mayor and he is hereby authorized to offer a reward of two hundred dollars for the detection and conviction of the person or persons who caused the recent fires in Fredericksburg, or either of them.

Ordered that the Mayor be requested to attend to the execution of the 2nd resolution of said meeting by enrolling as many of the citizens, to act as a guard, as possible.

Ordered that the Mayor make proclamation in the Newspapers of the Town that all slaves and free persons of color who are found in the streets half an hour after the ringing of the Nine o'clock bell at night will be apprehended and dealt with according to law

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A Petition signed by a large number of the Citizens of Fredericksburg, praying a repeal or modification of the present law for shooting dogs in the Streets was presented by Mr Thos B Barton, on behalf of the petitioner, accompanied with some explanatory remarks. Whereupon it was on Motion, ordered that the present ordinances of the Corporation in relation to dogs be and the same are hereby repealed.

On motion it was ordered that the Mayor be and he is hereby directed to examine the subject in relation to the keeping of large quantities of gunpowder in private warehouses and report such regulations in relation to the subject that he may deem most proper to the next Council for their action thereon.

On motion the Council adjourned

Benj Clark, Mayor

A Goodwin, CC

At a meeting of the Common Council of the Town of Fredericksburg at the Mayor's office 8th March 1842

Present, Benj Clark, Mayor

H H Wallace, Recorder

J Buck, W A Jackson, J J Berrey, S J Blaydes, T F Know, C C Wellford, James McGuire, and J Curtis—Councilmen

The Mayor in execution of an order of the last meeting of the Council submitted to the Council a sketch for an ordinance in relation to the manner of keeping of gunpowder in the limits of the Corporation which being reads it was on motion made & seconded ordered that the subject be laid on the table for the present.

The Mayor also submitted an ordinance he had prepared in pursuance of an order of Council of the [blank] day, of [blank] in relation to the ringing of the Town Bell, Whereupon, on motion, made and seconded it was ordered that on all occasions except those authorized by law, persons wishing the privilege of using the Court House and ringing the Town Bell for the call [Page 196] of meetings, shall get permission of the Mayor for the purpose and that the Mayor give public notice of this order.

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

An account of Thos Curtis for refreshments for guards in the Christmas holidays for two dollars and fifty cents,

B Cole's for killing dogs amounting to twenty five dollars and fifty cents

On motion the Council adjourned

Benj Clark, Mayor

A Goodwin, CC

At a meeting of the Common Council of the Town of Fredericksburg at the Mayor's office 16th March 1842, pursuant to notice in the Newspaper

Present, Benjamin Clark, Mayor

S J Blaydes, W A Jackson, J Curtis, John Buck, A G Lucas, James McGuire, C C Wellford—Common Councilmen

The Mayor made a verbal report of the manner in which the Police officers has discharged their duties, whereupon it was, ordered that their salaries for the present quarter be paid by the Chamberlain.

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

James D Harrow's for printing	\$22.08
Edw'd D Baptist's for sundries	\$18.00
John Coakley's for stationary	\$6.71
Edw'd McDowell's for stationary	\$2.37
A Richards for sundries	\$1.67
W B Peakes a/c	\$.42
John S Caldwell for sundries	\$14.66
A G Lucas' for sundries	\$2.27
F H Bell's for cleaning Hay Scales	\$4.00
James Ashby for printing	\$12.00
John Buck for candles	\$.50

Ordered that the Chamberlain pay to Mrs Ann C Henry the sum of four dollars and fifty cents [Page 197] amount collected from her by the Sergeant for taxes on 3 Slaves, improperly charged to her on the Commissioner's Books the present year.

An account of Doctors Carmichael, Herndon, & Beck, certified by the Hustings Court, for fifty dollars for the post mortem examination of the body of George Jett in July 1840 (who was supposed to be murdered) was presented to the Council for payment, whereupon, on motion it was ordered that in the event said account is not paid by the State, on the application of said parties, that the Chamberlain of the Corporation be and he is hereby directed to pay the same out of the funds of the Corporation.

An account of Jacob Gore for repairing pumps amounting to fourteen dollars and fifty cents was passed and ordered to be paid.

Ordered that the Sergeant of the Corporation give Wm H White credit for taxes charged him on a horse & Cariole used by him & other teachers attending Hopewell Sunday Schools, the said horse & Cariole being kept by them for the purpose of attending said School.

On motion ordered that James McGuire, John Buck and Jesse Curtis be a Committee to examine and settle the accounts of the Sergeant and Chamberlain of the Corporation & report thereon to the Council on Monday morning next at 9 o'clock.

Benj Clark, Mayor
A Goodwin, CC

At an adjourned meeting of the Common Council of the Town of Fredericksburg Monday morning 21st March 1842

Present Benj Clark, Mayor

H H Wallace, Recorder

J Curtis, J Buck, W A Jackson, A G Lucas, James McGuire, T F Knox—Common Councilmen

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An account of John S Caldwell, Serg't for sundry work &c at the Jail, amounting to thirteen dollars was passed and ordered to be paid by the Chamberlain; also an account of H H Wallace for cash paid the Bellman for carrying notice of Town Meeting, amounting to fifty cents.

On motion, made and seconded it was ordered that in consideration of the faithful discharge of their duties for the past year & the great reduction of their salaries at the commencement of the year, the sum of twenty five dollars each be allowed the Police officers and that the Chamberlain do pay the same.

The committee appointed to examine & settle the accounts of the Sergeant & Chamberlain of the Corporation made the following reports which were read, approved, and ordered to be filed by the Clerk viz;

On the Chamberlain's acc't "In pursuance of an order of the Common Council of the 16th Instant the undersigned Committee have examined and settled the account of A Goodwin, Chamberlain of the Corporation of Fredericksburg & report that the same has been correctly stated and the charges therein supported by proper vouchers & further report that after the payment of all current demands of the year against the Corporation, there is, upon the settlement of said account a balance in the hands of the Chamberlain of one hundred & eighty seven dollars & ninety four cents.

Given under our hands this 21st March 1842

(Signed) James McGuire, Jesse Curtis, John Buck, Committee"

On the Sergeants account "the undersigned a committee appointed by the Council for the purpose have examined the foregoing account and they hereby certify that the same is correctly stated and that it stand properly balanced.

Given under our hands this 21st March 1842

(Signed) James McGuire, Jesse Curtis, John Buck, Committee"

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The Sergeant of the Corporation returned the following insolvent lists, viz;
Of whites, amounting to one hundred & forty four dollars & fifty cents
Of free Negroes, one hundred and ten dollars & fifty cents
Which were accepted, but it was at the same time ordered that the Sergeant should, if he meets with an opportunity hereafter collect such said amounts as he can and place the same to the credit of the Corporation.

The Sergeant of the Corporation also returned the lists of deferred Rents and Taxes, viz
Of deferred taxes, amounting to two hundred and seventy dollars and twelve cents
Of deferred rents, due 1st March 1841, one hundred and thirty seven dollars.

On motion it was ordered that the Chamberlain pay to Mrs Norris the sum of one dollar & ninety nine cents being balance due her late husband by the Corporation and that he carry the same into the account of the next year.

This being the day appointed by law for the Election of Twelve men to serve as Common Councilmen until the 3rd Monday in March 1843, and until others are elected in their stead, a 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;

H H Wallace	184
Thomas F Knox	172
James McGuire	172
J Buck	171
C C Wellford	166
J Curtis	158
W A Jackson	154
A K Phillips	154
Wm Allen	148
A G Lucas	140
J J Berrey	136
R C Bruce	77
James W Lucas	67

The first twelve of whom are declared duly elected to serve as Common Councilmen until the 3rd Monday in March 1843 and until others are elected in their stead.

On motion the Council adjourned till tomorrow evening 7 o'clock

Benj Clark, Mayor

A Goodwin, CC

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Tuesday evening March 22nd 1842

William Allen, John Buck, H H Wallace, W A Jackson, Thomas F Knox, C C Wellford, A G Lucas, J Curtis, R C Bruce, James McGuire & John J Berrey members-elect of the Common Council of the Town of Fredericksburg met 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 current year was fixed at the sum of four hundred dollars.

The Council then proceeded to the election of a Mayor when Benjamin Clark was re-elected Mayor for the present year and took the several oaths of office before Wm Redd, a Justice of the Peace for the Corporation of Fredericksburg.

The Council then balloted for a Recorder when H H Wallace was re-elected and took the several oaths of office before the Mayor.

On motion, Resolved that in all cases of elections for officers in this Corporation before the Common Council, applicants for office shall be required to withdraw when an election is going on to fill the office for which they are candidates.

On motion made and seconded the salaries of the officers of the Corporation were fixed at the following rates per annum, being the same as last year viz;

Clerk of Council	\$50
Chamberlain of the Corporation	\$100
Commissioner of the Revenue	\$60
Clerk of the Market	\$100
Bellman	\$50
Jailor	\$50
Police officer and assistants (each)	\$100

The usual commission of 10 per cent on Taxes and 5pr ct on Rents was fixed upon as compensation to the Collector of Taxes and Rents

The Council then proceeded to the election of officers for the current year, when Arthur Goodwin was elected Clerk of the Council and Chamberlain [Page 201] of the Corporation;

John Metcalfe, Commissioner of the Revenue;

John S Caldwell, Collector of Taxes & Rents;

M D Anderson, Clerk of the Market

Jesse White, Bellman

John Minor, Surveyor and Geographer of the Corporation

A motion was made and seconded that the be a separation of the office of Inspector & Measurer of Wood, Lumber &c at the Wharf & Basin which was negative by the following vote viz;

Ayes, McGuire, Curtis, Wallace, Wellford, Allen 5

Noes, Jackson, Buck, Bruce, Knox, Lucas, Berry 6

Wm M Baggott was elected Inspector & Measurer of Wood, Lumber &c at the wharf & Basin;

John B Alexander, Inspector & Measurer of wood, Lumber &c at the Depot;

Matthew D Anderson Measurer of Coal, Grain &c;

John S Caldwell, Police Officer

George Aler & L Pullen, assistant police officers

Arthur Goodwin, John S Caldwell, George Aler & M D Anderson were severally qualified before the Mayor

On motion the taxes on licenses for drays & wagons were ordered to be the same as for the last year.

On motion it was ordered that the Commissioner take a list of the dogs in town, when he takes the list of taxable property and that he discriminate in taking said list between the males & females.

The following standing committees were appointed by the Mayor viz;
On Public Property, H H Wallace, Wm Allen, John Buck, and C C Wellford
On Streets, Robert C Bruce, Jesse Curtis, W A Jackson and James McGuire
On Pumps, A G Lucas, A K Phillips, T F Knox, J J Berrey

Linsey Pullen was duly qualified as assistant police officer before the Mayor.

On motion the Council adjourned

Benj Clark, Mayor

A Goodwin, CC

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At a meeting of the Common Council of the Town of Fredericksburg at the Council Chamber May 26th 1842, convened pursuant to notice from the Mayor.

Present, Benjamin Clark, Mayor

H H Wallace, Recorder

Wm Allen, J J Berrey, R C Bruce, Thomas F Knox, A G Lucas, J Curtis, John Buck, W A Jackson—
Common Councilmen

The Commissioner of the Revenue having returned a list of taxable property and the Chamberlain an estimate of the receipts and expenses for the present year, it was on motion ordered that the taxes on persons & property for the present year be as follows, viz;

On Real Property 4½ pr cent on the annual value thereof

On each white male above the age of 16 years \$1.75

On each slave above 12 years of age \$1.75

On each free male Negro or Mulatto above the age of 16 years \$1.75

On each free female Negro or Mulatto above the age of 16 years \$1.25

On each horse \$1.75

On every carriage, cariote, Gig, Pheaton, or pleasure carriage of any description of the value of \$100 or under, the sum of \$2.00

For each over that value 2 pr cent on the value thereof.

An account of Benjamin Clark for holding an inquest on the body of a child found drowned amounting to five dollars, was ordered to be paid by the Chamberlain;

Also an account of B Cole for summoning said inquest amounting to four dollars and three cents.

An account of Doctor Wm M Smith for a post-mortem examination of the body of the infant named above, amounting to ten dollars was presented and ordered to be paid.

On motion, the subject of taxing dogs was postponed to the next meeting of the Council.

On motion the Council adjourned
Benj Clark, Mayor
A Goodwin, CC
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At a meeting of the Common Council of the Town of Fredericksburg at the Council Chamber Friday evening the 24th June 1842

Present, Benjamin Clark, Mayor
J Curtis, John Buck, Jas McGuire, J J Berrey, W A Jackson, R C Bruce—Common Councilmen

A K Phillips, Common Councilman elect was duly qualified & took his seat at the Board

The official bond of A Goodwin Chamberlain with R T Thom and John Coakley securities, in the penalty of five thousand dollars for the faithful discharge of the duties of his office was submitted to the Board, read, approved and ordered to be filed by the Mayor.

The official bond of John S Caldwell, Collector of taxes & rents &c with Samuel Phillips and A K Phillips securities in the penalty of five thousand dollars, for the faithful discharge of the duties of his [office] was submitted to the board, read, approved and ordered to be filed by the Mayor.

The Mayor having submitted a report in writing on the subject of the manner in which the Police officers have discharged their duties for the past quarter, it was, on motion, ordered that the Chamberlain of the Corporation pay to L Pullen & George Aler, police officers their salaries for the quarter ending the 3rd Monday of the this month.

On motion, J J Berrey, J Curtis & A K Phillips were appointed a committee to enquire into and ascertain the exact boundaries & dimensions of the lots purchased by the Corporation for the purpose of a burial ground at the west end of the Town commonly called “Potters field” & make report thereon at the next meeting of the Council.

A memorial of a committee of the Union Fire Company was presented to the Council by Thomas B Barton, Esq on behalf of said Committee, praying an enlargement of their Engine House by extending the same to the outer pillars of the Market House. [Page 204] which having been read it was on Motion ordered that the consideration of the Memorial be postponed to the next meeting of the Council.

On motion the Council adjourned
Benj Clark, Mayor
A Goodwin, CC

At a meeting of the Common Council of the Town of Fredericksburg at the Council Chamber on Saturday evening 29th October 1842 convened pursuant to notice by the Mayor

Present, Benjamin Clark, Mayor
H H Wallace, Recorder
W A Jackson, J J Berrey, Jesse Curtis, John Buck, James McGuire, T F Knox, A G Lucas—Common Councilmen

The Mayor stated the Council had been convened to consider the subject of the manner in which the Rail Road company should grade the streets across which the said road runs; whereupon after an explanation

of several plans, suggested by the members of the Street Committee, who had had several surveys of the line of the said Road across the streets, it was on motion, Ordered that the Street Committee be and they are hereby authorized to adopt such plan of grading said streets as they may think most proper and that they require said Rail Road Company to have the work done according to such plan as they may devise.

On motion the following account was passed and ordered to be paid by the Chamberlain, viz;
John Minor's for surveying "Potter's fields" \$4.67

An account of Linsey Pullen for summoning an inquest on the body of a Negro child belonging to Mr Peter Goolrick, amounting to three dollars and fifteen cents was rejected on the ground that said acct should be paid by the owner of said child.

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Ordered that the Committee on Public property be and they are hereby authorized to sell the vacant lot belonging to the Corporation & adjoining Sarah G Buck's and John L Shultice's lots provided the same be not sold for a less sum than seventy five dollars.

The Committee appointed at the last meeting of the Council to report upon the boundaries and dimensions of the lots known as "Potters fields" stated that they had had said lots surveyed but were not in possession of sufficient information to report thereon at this meeting. Whereupon it was ordered that they report at the next meeting of the Council.

The consideration of the Memorial of the Union Fire Company presented at the last meeting of the Council was also postponed to the next meeting of the Council.

On motion the Council adjourned
Benj Clark, Mayor
A Goodwin, CC

At a meeting of the Common Council of the Town of Fredericksburg at the Council Chamber on Saturday evening the 17th day of December 1842
Present, Benjamin Clark, Mayor
H H Wallace, Recorder
James McGuire, A G Lucas, J Curtis, John Buck, Thomas F Knox, and C C Wellford—Common Councilmen

The Mayor made a report in writing as to the manner in which the police officers had discharged their duties for the present quarter; Whereupon, on motion, it was ordered that the Chamberlain pay their salaries for the quarter ending on the 3rd Monday of this Month.

An account of Mr Brook for one cord of wood furnished the Mayor's office, amounting to three dollars was ordered to be paid by the Chamberlain.
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Mess'rs J M Whittmore, W C Beale and Hugh Scott on behalf of themselves and other citizens of the Town appeared before the Council to make a representation on the subject of the present condition of the river and to request the Council to memorialize the Legislature, praying that the appointment of Harbour

Master and Ballast Master may be transferred from the Hustings Court to the Council and that the fees arising from said offices may be appropriated by the Council for the improvement of the navigation of the River and further that the Council may be authorized to impose a tax upon each vessel coming into this port, amounting to \$[blank] for the purpose of raising a permanent fund towards said object; and also be authorized to impose a tax on the wharves in said port, lying without the jurisdiction of the Town & not now subject to taxation by the Corporation, to constitute a part of said fund;

Whereupon on motion, it was ordered that Thos F Knox, H H Wallace and C C Wellford be a Committee to draught a petition embracing the foregoing objects and that the Citizens of the Town be requested to unite with the Council in enforcing the same upon the notice of the Legislature.

The following ordinance concerning Rail Road was read and passed entitled.

“An Ordinance concerning Rail Roads in the Town of Fredericksburg, and to regulate the use of cars and other carriages upon the same”

1. Be it ordained by the Mayor and Common Council of the Town of Fredericksburg, that hereafter it shall not be lawful for any Rail Road Company, their officers, agents, or servants or any other person or persons to cause any car, machine or other vehicle used on Rail Roads to be stopped in any Street in the Town of Fredericksburg or to aid, abet or assist in stopping any car, machine, or other vehicle used as aforesaid in any street in the Town of Fredericksburg; and any Company so offending or their officers, agents, or servants, or any other person or persons, shall for every such offense pay a fine of ten dollars.
2. Be it further ordained that hereafter it shall not be lawful for any Rail Road Company or their [Page 207] officers agents or servants or any other person or persons to suffer or cause any car, machine, or other vehicle used on Rail-roads to remain in any street in the Town of Fredericksburg, and any Company so offending or their officers, agents, or servants or any other person or persons, shall for every house such car, machine, or other vehicle shall remain in any one of the streets in the said town, pay a fine of five dollars, and in the same proposition for any shorter period of time any such car, machine, or other vehicle shall remain in any one of the streets aforesaid.
3. And be it further ordained that hereafter it shall not be lawful for any Rail-Road Car, engine, carriage, or other vehicle of any kind to be drawn or propelled by steam, animal power, or otherwise upon any rail road or rail track in any street in the Town of Fredericksburg at a rate greater than four miles per hour and if any person or persons shall draw or propel, or cause to be drawn or propelled or shall aid, abet or assist in drawing, or propelling or in causing to be drawn or propelled by steam or otherwise, any cars, engine, carriage, or other vehicle whatsoever upon any rail-road or rail-track, in any street in the Town of Fredericksburg at a greater rate than four miles per hour, he or they so offending shall be adjudged to pay and shall pay a fine of twenty dollars.
4. Be it further ordained that all obstructions to the free use of the streets, for wagons, drays, carts and other vehicles and for foot passengers, and all obstructions of the water through any of the gutters of the streets which may be occasioned by the laying of any railroad or rail track across any of the streets of the Town of Fredericksburg, shall be abated and removed by the Company owning said railroad or rail track and for every day any such obstruction to the free use of the streets as aforesaid, or to the free passage of the water through the gutters of the streets shall remain said Company [Page 208] shall pay a fine of five dollars.
5. Be it further ordained that hereafter during the passage of any railroad car or train of cars or engine or other vehicle on any railway, through the town of Fredericksburg, it shall be the duty of the conductor or person having the charge thereof to cause timely notice of their passage through the town, to be given by the ringing of a bell, or the blowing of a whistle. And for every failure on the part of said conductor or other person having charge of such cars or train of cars engine or other vehicle as aforesaid, to give such

notice of their passage through the town the Company or persons owning such rail-road shall be liable and shall pay a fine of twenty dollars.

And be it further ordained that all fines accruing for any violation of this ordinance shall be sued for in the name of the Chamberlain of the Corporation for the time being, and shall be recovered with costs before any Justice of the Peace of the Corporation of Fredericksburg, one half of which shall go to the informer and the other half to the use of the Corporation.

On motion it was ordered that the Mayor notify the President or Superintendent of the Richmond, Fredericksburg, and Potomac Rail Road Company that the Council requires said Company to erect or cause to be erected at the point of each street where the track of said Road crosses, sign boards, affixing thereon some caution or notice to the public of said track being used for the passage of Railroad cars propelled by steam or otherwise.

The Committee on Public Property reported to the Council that they had sold the vacant lot at the lower end of the Town (as directed by an order of the last Council) to Mr John L Shultice for the sum of one hundred dollars to be paid in six months; whereupon it was on motion ordered that the Mayor cause the seal of the Corporation to be affixed to a deed of conveyance of said lot [Page 209] to said Shultice being satisfied by said Committee that said Shultice has complied with the terms of the sale.

On motion the Council adjourned

Benj Goodwin, Mayor

Teste

A Goodwin, CC