

Fredericksburg City Council Minutes 1843

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At a meeting of the Common Council of the Town of Fredericksburg, March 17th 1843 at the Council Chamber

Present, Benj Clark, Mayor

H H Wallace, Recorder

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

Upon the report in writing of the Mayor as to the manner of discharging their duties, it was Ordered that the Chamberlain pay the Police officers their salaries for the present quarter ending the 3rd Monday in this month.

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

John J Rollow's amounting to	\$4.42
Thomas Curtis' amounting to	\$7.50
S J Blaydes' amounting to	\$2.10
S J Blaydes' amounting to	\$1.75
S Phillips & Sons amounting to	\$6.00
Jane Benson's amounting to	\$1.50
Joseph Sanford's amounting to	\$6.18
John Coakley's amounting to	\$9.50
R C Bruce's amounting to	\$1.75
T F Knox's amounting to	\$2.13
Edward McDowell's amounting to	\$.25
James D Harrow's amounting to	28.50
George Aler's amounting to	\$2.50
Stuart Roton's amounting to	\$2.50
Michael Ame's amounting to	\$5.00
James A English amounting to	\$3.63
Adolph Richards amounting to	\$4.50
John S Caldwell's amounting to	27.81
Brodie S Herndon's amounting to	\$5.00
Eustace Conway's amounting to	10.00

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An account of the Mayor for taxes received for affixing Corporation seal &c was exhibited & passed upon, by which a balance of \$2.89 was shewn to be due the Corporation and ordered to be paid to the Chamberlain and placed to the credit of the Corporation.

On motion it was ordered that J Curtis, H H Wallace, R C Bruce and W A Jackson, be a Committee to settle and report upon the accounts of the Chamberlain and Sergeant of the Corporation, to the meeting of the Council on Monday morning next

On motion, ordered that the Sergeant of the Corporation have credit in his account for four dollars remitted Lemuel Thompson's Estate, being taxes on a Cariole for the years 1841 and 1842, said Cariole not having been used in said time.

On motion the Council adjourned till Monday morning next at 9 o'clock.

Benj Clark, Mayor

A Goodwin, CC

Monday morning 20th March 1843, The Council met pursuant to order of adjournment on the 18th Instant.

Present, Benj Clark, Mayor

H H Wallace, Recorder

Wm A Jackson, R C Bruce, J J Berrey, John Buck, Jas McGuire, J Curtis—Common Councilmen

An account of F H Bell for lock &c amounting to one dollar was passed and ordered to be paid by the Chamberlain

The Committee appointed at the last meeting of the Council to examine and settle the accounts of the Chamberlain and Sergeant of the Corporation made the following reports which were read, approved, and ordered to be recorded, viz;

On the Chamberlain's account "In pursuance of an order of the Common Council of the Town of Fredericksburg of the 18th Instant, the undersigned appointed a Committee to settle and report upon the account of Arthur [Page 211] Goodwin, Chamberlain, respectfully report that we have examined and settled said account and find the same correctly stated, the charges therein being supported by proper vouchers, and that there is a balance due the Chamberlain of forty seven dollars and eighty three cents.

Given under our hands this 20th March 1843

(Signed) H H Wallace, Jesse Curtis, W A Jackson, R C Bruce"

On the Sergeant's account, viz;

"In pursuance of an order of the Common Council we the undersigned Committee appointed for the purpose have examined the above account of the Sergeant & have found all the items properly stated and the account correctly balanced.

Given under our hands this 20th March 1843

(Signed) H H Wallace, Jesse Curtis, W A Jackson, R C Bruce"

The Sergeant of the Corporation returned the following lists of insolvents, viz;

Of whites amounting to one hundred and fifty two dollars & fourteen cents

Of free colored one hundred and thirty six dollars and eighty eight cents

Which were approved and ordered to be filed

The following lists of deferred Taxes and Rents were returned by the Sergeant of the Corporation, viz;

Of taxes amounting to one hundred and forty one dollars and sixty one cents

Of Rents, one hundred and sixty five dollars and one cent

This being the day appointed by law for the Election of twelve men to serve as Common Councilmen until the third Monday in March 1844, 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 [Page 212] 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 228

Jesse Curtis 219

William Allen	218
C C Wellford	215
W A Jackson	215
Robert C Bruce	134
S J Blaydes	131
Thomas F Knox	130
James McGuire	127
J J Berrey	118
Peter Goolrick	114
Brodie S Herndon	114
A G Lucas	111

The first named twelve of whom are declared duly elected to serve as Common Councilmen until the 3rd Monday in March 1844 and until others are elected in their stead.

On motion, the Council adjourned

Benj Clark, Mayor

A Goodwin, CC

March 21st 1843, Wm Allen, Wm A Jackson, C C Wellford, B S Herndon, J McGuire, J Curtis, R C Bruce, Thomas F Knox, P Goolrick and S J Blaydes, 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.

A letter from J J Berrey declining to act as a member of the Common Council on account of his ineligibility (he being a Justice of the Peace for the County) was read and A G Lucas was elected to serve in his stead & the messenger of the Council sent to notify him of his appointment.

A G Lucas appeared was qualified and took his seat at the Board

An account of A Goodwin for cash paid for wood &c &c amounting to one dollar and sixty two cents was ordered to be paid.

H H Wallace, a member elect was qualified and took his seat.

The Salary of the Mayor for the present year was fixed at four hundred dollars by the following vote, viz; Ayes Goolrick, McGuire, Knox, Wallace, Wellford, Herndon, Allen, and Jackson 8
Noes [Page 213] Blaydes, Lucas, Curtis, and Bruce 4

The Council then proceeded to the election of a Mayor when Benjamin Clark was re-elected 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 William A Jackson was elected and took the several oaths of office before the Mayor.

On motion, made and seconded, the salaries of the following officers were fixed at the following sums for the present year, viz;

Clerk of the Council	\$50
Chamberlain of the Corporation	\$150
Commissioner of the Revenue	\$60

Clerk of the Market \$100
By Ayes, Goolrick, Knox, Jackson, Wellford, Allen, Wallace, Herndon 7
Noes, Blaydes, Lucas, Curtis, McGuire, Bruce 5

Bellman \$50
(a motion to dispense with the office being, negative)

Jailor \$50

Police officer \$100

Assistant Police officers (each) \$100

By the following vote, viz;

Ayes, Goolrick, Knox, Jackson, Herndon, Allen, Wallace, 6

Noes, Blaydes, Lucas, Curtis, McGuire, Wellford, Bruce 6

There being a tie, the Mayor gave the casting vote in the affirmative

On motion the usual commission of 5 pr cent on Rents and 10 pr cent on Taxes, as compensation to the Collector was fixed by the following vote, viz;

Ayes, Blaydes, Curtis, Goolrick, Knox, Jackson, Wellford, Herndon, Allen, Wallace 9

Noes, Lucas, McGuire, Bruce 3

The following persons were then elected officers of the Corporation for the present year, viz;

Arthur Goodwin, Clerk of the Council and Chamberlain of the Corporation

John Metcalfe, Commissioner of the Revenue

John S Caldwell, Collector of Taxes and Rents

M D Anderson, Clerk of the Market

Jesse White, Bellman

John Minor, Surveyor and Geographer of the Corporation

John S Caldwell, Police officer.

The following Resolution was passed, viz;

Resolved that so far as the resolutions in relation to the police passed 23rd March 1841 combines the two [Page 214] offices of Constable and assistants to the Police officer, that they be and are hereby rescinded.

The Ayes and Noes on said Resolution being

Ayes, Lucas, Curtis, Goolrick, McGuire, Knox, Jackson, Herndon, Bruce & Wallace 9

Noes, Blaydes, Wellford, Allen 3

Daniel Bradford and Lindsey Pullen were then elected assistant Police Officers and M D Anderson, Measurer of Coal, Grain, &c &c

The appointment of Inspector & Measurer of Wood, Lumber &c &c at the Basin, Wharves and Depot was postponed.

Arthur Goodwin, John S Caldwell, Daniel Bradford, L Pullen and M D Anderson, severally were qualified before the Mayor

The following standing Committees were appointed by the Mayor, viz;

On Public Property, H H Wallace, Wm Allen, W A Jackson, C C Wellford

On Streets, R C Bruce, J Curtis, S J Blaydes, James McGuire

On Pumps, A G Lucas, Peter Goolrick, Thos F Knox & B S Herndon

On motion it was ordered that the tax on Cart and Dray Licenses issued between the 1st day of April and the 1st of November next shall be five dollars each for the years ending the 1st April 1844, on all issued after the 1st day of November next and before the 1st day of April 1844, shall be three dollars and fifty cents each; and on Wagons shall be as follows, viz;

On all issued between the two first named periods as above eight dollars and on all issued between the two last named periods as above viz; between the 1st of November next and the 1st of April 1844, five dollars each.

On motion it was ordered that the Chamberlain of the Corporation prepare and have published in the Newspapers of the Town a condensed statement of the Receipts and expenses of the Corporation for the past year and also the proceedings of this Council, so far as the same relates to the appropriation of money for the payment of salaries &c &c with a list of the Ayes and Noes where taken on any vote for fixing salaries of officers

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And then 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 Wednesday evening the 12th of April 1843

Present, Benjamin Clark, Mayor

Wm A Jackson, Recorder

Wm Allen, J Curtis, P Goolrick, B S Herndon, James McGuire, H H Wallace, Thomas F Knox—
Common Councilmen

The Mayor called the attention of the Council to the sale (advertised to take place tomorrow) of the Academy Property belonging to the estate of the late Robert Ellis, by the Trustees of said Ellis, in the enclosure of which property is embraced an avenue of thirty feet, leading to the Gunnery Spring, belonging to the Corporation. Whereupon on motion it was ordered that the Mayor or some member of the Council appointed by him, attend said sale for the purpose of protecting the rights in the premises.

On motion it was ordered that the Sergeant of the Corporation take the necessary legal steps to enforce the rights of the Corporation to the house and lot on William Street occupied by Richard Williams the lease for which it is believed has expired, and also that the Chamberlain of the Corporation pay to the Agent of the Mutual Insurance Society the quotas of insurance now in arrears on said property.

On motion it was ordered that the Sergeant of the Corporation effect insurance on the houses occupied by Francis H Bell and Charles B Waite, on the most favorable terms that can be had.

An account of B Cole for services rendered as Police officer in the first part of the year 1842, for \$22.22, was on motion laid on the table for [Page 216] action at the next meeting of the Council

On motion the Council adjourned to Friday evening next at 7 o'clock

Benj Clark, Mayor,

Teste

A Goodwin, CC

At an adjourned meeting of the Common Council of the Town of Fredericksburg Friday evening 14th
April 1843

Present, Benjamin Clark, Mayor

W A Jackson, Recorder

Wm Allen, S J Blaydes, J McGuire, R C Bruce, H H Wallace, J Curtis, P Goolrick, A G Lucas, Thos F
Knox, Brodie S Herndon—Common Councilmen

A letter from Colo Hugh Mercer in relation to the passage of an ordinance concerning hogs going at large
was read and on motion laid on the table.

A letter from Mr Franklin King, praying the use of the Town Hall for two evenings in the week for the
purpose of holding a juvenile singing school was read and the privilege was granted him.

On motion it was ordered that the Mayor be authorized to appoint a sufficient guard to patrol the Town
during the coming holidays and that he be authorized also to fix the compensation to said guards for their
services.

On motion it was ordered that the Committee on Public Property be and they are hereby authorized to
have the Market House enclosed in front in such manner as they may deem sufficient, and also, if
necessary to have gutters put up and such other repairs done to the town hall and the Clerk's office as are
necessary.

Absent Brodie S Herndon

An account of Bernard Cole for services rendered as Police Officer from the 21st March 1842 to 9th June
1842 which was laid on the table at the last meeting of the Council being called up, after consideration of
the same and a declaration by the Mayor this in his report of [Page 217] manner in which the Police
Officers had discharged their duties at the expiration of the quarter in June 1842 that he did not in said
report consider said Cole as a Police Officer, nor report upon any service rendered by him, a motion was
made & seconded to pay the same, which being taken by Ayes and Noes, resulted as follows, viz;

Ayes, Blaydes, Allen 2

Noes, Curtis, Goolrick, Bruce, Knox, Jackson, Lucas, McGuire and Wallace 8

The account was rejected.

On motion the Council adjourned.

Benj Clark, Mayor

Teste,

A Goodwin, CC

At a meeting of the Common Council of the Town of Fredericksburg at the Council Chamber on Tuesday
evening the 23rd May 1843.

Present, Wm A Jackson, Recorder

S J Blaydes, J Curtis, Wm Allen, A G Lucas, P Goolrick, Thos F Knox and James McGuire—Common
Councilmen

A letter from Howson H Wallace resigning his seat as a member of the Common Council in consequence of his being appointed a Justice of the Peace of the Corporation was read by the Recorder, when on motion, his resignation was accepted.

The Council then proceeded to fill the vacancy in their body occasioned by the resignation of H H Wallace, when George B Waite was unanimously elected.

George B Waite appeared, was qualified and took his seat at the Board

The Recorder stated that a lot of ground on [blank] Street and adjoining the lot conveyed to Robert Ellis on the [blank] day of [blank] by Benjamin Clark as executor of Joseph Christy, dec'd, is advertised to be sold tomorrow and that the present pass way to the Gunnery Spring is through and over said lot, and as the Corporation holds a strip of land at the back of the Town [Page 218] extending from the lot aforesaid to [blank] Street, of thirty three feet wide being part of the original Academy tract of land, it would be expedient to exchange the said strip of land for the lot of land so advertised and which is claimed by John McPherson as Trustee of Mrs Eliza Clark; Whereupon on motion it was ordered that the Mayor of the Town of Fredericksburg upon the trustee of the said Mrs Eliza Clark conveying to the Corporation of Fredericksburg the lot of ground advertised as aforesaid, he and he is hereby authorized to convey the strip of land aforesaid to the said Trustee and affix the Corporation seal to said deed, provided that the said trustee or some other person for him shall pay the expense of writing the deeds of conveyance and recording the same.

The account of Lindsey Pullen of \$3.45 for summoning an inquest to view the body of a black child including the cost of a warrant expended in an attempt to recover the same from Peter Goolrick the owner of the said child was ordered to be paid.

The a/c of Benj Clark of five dollars for services as coroner of the inquest on the Child aforesaid was passed and ordered to be paid by the Chamberlain.

On motion it was ordered that the Mayor be and he is hereby authorized to appoint a sufficient guard to patrole the town during the coming holiday and to draw on the Chamberlain for their services who is hereby authorized to pay the same.

Then the Council adjourned
Wm A Jackson, Recorder
Teste,
Jno S Caldwell, Clerk pro tem
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At a meeting of the Common Council of the Town of Fredericksburg at the Council Chamber June 12th
1843
Present, Benjamin Clark, Mayor
Wm Allen, S J Blaydes, James McGuire, G B Waite, A G Lucas, J Curtis, P Goolrick—Common
Councilmen

The official bond of A Goodwin, Chamberlain with R T Thom and John Coakley as securities in the sum of five thousand dollars, was submitted to the Board, read, approved and ordered to be filed by the Mayor.

The Mayor made a report in writing of the manner in which the Police officers had discharged their duties for the present quarter ending on Monday next, whereupon, on motion, it was ordered that the Chamberlain pay said officers their salaries for the quarter, when the same is due.

Present, Thos F Knox—Common Councilman

George B Waite was appointed a member of the Committee on Public Property in the place of Howson H Wallace, resigned.

On motion, resolved that the order of Council of the 14th April 1843 in relation to the repairs to be made to the Market House, Town Hall and Clerk's Office, be so amended as to authorize the Committee on Public Property to have such repairs done to all the public property as they may deem necessary for the preservation of the same; also to have such repairs to the walls of the Engine house, on the Public Square as they may think proper, and gutters put upon the same if necessary.

On motion ordered that the Committee on Public Property inquire into and report at the next meeting of the Council upon the propriety of granting the prayer of the Memorial of the Union Fire Company in relation to the enlargement of their engine house, presented to the Council in May last.

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 June 27th 1843

Present Benj Clark, Mayor
W A Jackson, Recorder
Wm Allen, G B Waite, A G Lucas, S B Blaydes, J Curtis, P Goolrick, B S Herndon, R C Bruce—
Common Councilmen

The official bond of John S Caldwell as Collector of Taxes & Rents with Samuel Phillips & A K Phillips securities thereto, in the sum of five thousand dollars was submitted to the Board, approved and ordered to be filed by the Mayor.

Present, J McGuire—Common Councilman

An account of Rob Ellis' estate against the Corporation for sundry work & hauling gravel on the streets, amounting to forty seven dollars and fifty cents was ordered to be paid by the Chamberlain of the Corporation, with the understanding, however, that any taxes due by the Estate of said Ellis to the Corporation shall be first liquidated.

Present, Thomas F Knox—Common Councilman

The Commissioner of the Revenue having returned a list of taxable property & persons and the Chamberlain his estimates of the receipts and expenditures of the Corporation for the current year, it was, on motion ordered that the Taxes on Persons and property for the present year be as follows, viz;

On Real Estate 4 per cent on the annual value thereof

On each White male above the age of 16 years \$1.50

On each slave above the age of 12 years \$1.50

On each free male Negro or Mulatto above the age of 16 years \$1.50

On each free female Negro or Mulatto above the age of 16 years \$1.00

On each horse \$1.50

On every carriage, cariole, gig, Phaeton or pleasure carriage of any description of the value of \$100 or under (each) \$2.00

For each above the value of \$100, 2 per cent on the value thereof.

Ordered that the Chamberlain of the Corporation pay to the Editor of the *Arena*, *Recorder*, and *Herald*, the amount of their bills for printing the statement [Page 221] of the receipt and expenditures of the Corporation, per order of Council in March last.

On motion ordered that the wife of Armistead Miller, a free colored man, be exempt from the payment of Corporation taxes on account of her age and infirmity.

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 21st August 1843

Present, Benjamin Clark, Mayor

W A Jackson, Recorder

S J Blaydes, J Curtis, P Goolrick, Thomas F Knox, George B Waite, James McGuire, C C Wellford, A G Lucas, B S Herndon, R C Bruce—Common Councilmen

The Mayor stated that he had convened the Council at the instance of T B Barton, Esq in relation to a lot of ground claimed by Mrs French (his sister) which has been enclosed & used by the Corporation as a burial ground, being part of the grounds called "Potters Field". Mr Barton appeared before the Council and presented a paper in behalf of Mrs French claiming compensation for the said lot, and asking that the Corporation would allow her the same sum that the adjoining lot purchased by the Corporation from Mr Buck was bought for, viz; \$250, which being read it was on motion ordered that the Chamberlain of the Corporation pay to Mrs Eliza M T French the sum of Two hundred and fifty dollars, for said lot of land upon her executing a full and sufficient deed for the same to the Mayor and Commonalty of the Town of Fredericksburg.

On motion ordered that the Sergeant of the Corporation be and he is hereby directed to rent to [Page 222] Jesse White the dwelling house on the Court House lot now occupied by Lucy Duncan, a free woman of color as soon as the term of said tenant expires, the rent to be paid by said Jesse White being the salary allowed him for services rendered by him as Bellman of the Corporation viz; \$50 per annum.

Mr William T Williams made an application to lease the vacant lot of ground between the corner house on Caroline & Commerce Streets now owned by Mr Dillard and the Market house pump, fronting 10 or 12 feet on Commerce or William Street at the rate of ten dollars per annum for 15 years, which being considered it was on motion ordered that the Mayor of the Corporation be and he is hereby directed to lease said vacant lot of ground, to said Williams at \$10 per annum for 15 years, giving to said Williams the privilege at the expiration of said term of 15 years of taking away any house or building he may erect or cause to be erected on said lot.

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 the 3rd of November 1843, called by the Mayor
Present, Benjamin Clark, Mayor
W A Jackson, Recorder
J Curtis, P Goolrick, C C Wellford, Robert C Bruce, B S Herndon, Thos F Knox and James McGuire—
Common Councilmen

The following accounts were passed and ordered to be paid by the Chamberlain viz;
An account of D Bradford for summoning an inquest on the body of Mary Mahoney's child & for disinterring the body of said child amounting to \$6.80
Buddy Taylor's for one dollar for burying and taking up said Child
Benj Clark's, coroner, for holding an inquest on same \$5.00
And Doctor [Page 223] B S Herndon for a post mortem examination of the body of said child, ten dollars
And an account of Thomas Curtis for furnished refreshments to town patrol two nights in August last nine dollars

A petition of Jos Sanford, Thos R Rootes and others complaining of the encampment of wagoners in the Streets in their vicinity as a nuisance and praying the interposition of the Council to remove the same was read, and the consideration of the same postponed to the next meeting of the Council

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