

Fredericksburg City Council Minutes 1845

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At a meeting of the Common Council of the Town of Fredericksburg at the Council Chamber on the 27th January, 1845

Present, R B Semple, Mayor

E Conway, J Curtis, C C Wellford, R C Bruce, Peter Goolrick, Wm Allen, George B Waite, A G Lucas—
Common Councilmen

The Mayor stated the object of convening the Council this evening was to consider the propriety of having some repairs to the engine house of the Union Fire Company; whereupon, on motion, of E Conway, it was ordered that the Committee on Public Property be and they are hereby directed to enquire into the propriety of such repairs being made by the Corporation and report thereon to the next meeting of the Council.

Mr E Conway made, to the Council a statement of his examination into the facts in relation to [Page 258] the purchase of the lot from Mrs French in August 1843. Whereupon, on motion of C C Wellford it was, Resolved that the Committee on Public Property be directed to investigate fully the title to the lot purchased of Mrs French in 1843 and to procure copies of deeds (where the originals cannot be found) to all lots belonging to the Corporation in Liberty Town, and report to the next meeting of the Council.

An account of John J Berrey, amounting to \$4.13 was read and on motion laid on the table

On motion, ordered that the Committee on public property inquire into the propriety of selling to Mr George Rowe a part of the lot in Liberty Town owned by the Corporation and adjoining to said Rowe's property.

The Sergeant of the Corporation paid over to the Chamberlain the sum of one hundred and seventy five dollars being the proceeds of sale of two lots belonging to the Corporation, the first called the gravel lot (No. 216) sold to John L Shultice for one hundred dollars, and the other to Joseph Wigglesworth for seventy five dollars, being part of the Old Academy lot adjoining the Gunnery Spring.

On motion the Council adjourned

R B Semple, Mayor

A Goodwin, CC

At a meeting of the Common Council of the Town of Fredericksburg at the Council Chamber 21st February 1845

Present, R B Semple, Mayor

Wm A Jackson, Recorder

George W Waite, Wm Allen, A G Lucas, E Conway, Peter Goolrick, R C Bruce, C C Wellford, J Curtis,
James McGuire—Common Councilmen

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

E D Baptist for putting up back to fire place in Mayor's office two dollars

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D Green's for twine furnished for dog nets by order of the Mayor, one dollar and forty cents.

R Staiar's for hauling gravel, fifty cents

And an Account of John Minor, Surveyor of the Corporation for survey and plat of lots owned by the Corporation in Liberty Town, commonly called Potter's field, amounting to Twenty dollars.

The Committee on Public property thro their Chairman Wm A Jackson made a written report on the several subjects referred to them at the last meeting of the Council, accompanied with a plat of the lots owned by the Corporation in Liberty Town, and also the original Deeds of conveyance to the Corporation for said lots, which report was accepted and ordered to be entered on the minutes of the Council and is in the following words and figures, viz;

The Committee on Public Property to whom was referred the several following subjects, beg leave respectfully to report as follows on each of them, viz;

In relation to lot No. 14, the Committee after an investigation into the title of that lot was satisfactorily convinced that it was purchased by the Mayor and Commonalty of this Corporation from Wm A Knox & wife by deed dated 17th February 1817 (which deed is now produced for inspection) [DB F, page 131] and that by a reference to the sale book of A Buck, this same lot is fully described as being sold by the executors of Seth Barton, dec'd and purchased by Wm A Knox, Therefore the Committee are satisfied that Mrs E M French had no title to said lot No. 14 sold by her to this Corporation; the Committee further report that Thomas B Barton, Esq on behalf of his sister Mrs French, as soon as the matter was explained to him has very promptly refunded the amount of \$250, a check for which is herewith tendered.

The Committee deeming it essentially necessary to have a correct & full survey & map made of the property of the Corporation in Liberty Town (known as Potter's field) engaged Mr Minor to execute the same, the Map is now presented to the Council & they recommend that the charge of \$20 for said survey & map be paid by the Chamberlain to Mr Minor. In relation to the alterations and [Page 260] additions of the Market house, &c to that part occupied by the Union Fire Co, the Committee think it advisable to defer the consideration of the matter for the present.

With regards to the application by Mr George Rowe to purchase a slip of ground adjoining him, he having withdrawn his application, it is therefore dismissed from the consideration of the Committee.

All of which is most respectfully submitted

Wm A Jackson, Chairman, Wm Allen, A G Lucas, E Conway (Committee on Public Property)

The Committee further report that since the survey and map were made, they have had the corners marked by stakes & find that Mr George Rowe is now occupying a whole lot of ground which was purchased of Benj Day & by deed dated 22nd March 1820 & said lot of ground is 80 feet wide by 263 feet long, and 2/3 of an acre. The Committee fully recommend that said lot of ground be taken possession of and enclosed or that the Committee be authorized to treat with Mr Rowe for its sale, if he makes such application

Which is also most respectfully submitted

Wm A Jackson, Chairman, Wm Allen, A G Lucas, E Conway (Committee on Public Property)

On motion, ordered that the Clerk of the Council deposit in the Clerk's office of the Hustings Court for safe keeping the Map and deeds referred to in the foregoing order and that the Check on the Farmer's Bank for \$250 referred to in the foregoing report be placed to the credit of the Corporation by the Chamberlain.

A petition of the Young Men's Society for the use of the room occupied by them in the North wing of the Market House, free from rent, from and after the expiration of the present year (to wit the 4th March 1845) [Page 261] was presented by Mr E Conway, and on motion the prayer of the petitioners was granted by a unanimous vote of the Council it being understood however, that said Society will keep said room in good repair during their occupancy of it.

Present, Thomas F Knox—Common Councilman

A motion was made by Mr E Conway that Wednesday the 5th March, next be fixed by the Council as the day for a Council of Claims, which motion Mr J Curtis moved an indefinite postponement of, and the vote being taken by Ayes and Noes, the motion to postpone prevailed by the following vote, viz;

Ayes, Curtis, Goolrick, Lucas, Bruce, Jackson, Waite 6
Noes, Knox, Conway, Wellford, McGuire, Allen 5

On motion the Council adjourned
R B Semple, Mayor
A Goodwin, CC

At a Council of claims held at the Mayor's office on Wednesday evening the 12th March 1845, pursuant to public notice by the Mayor

Present, R B Semple, Mayor

Wm A Jackson, Recorder

A G Lucas, J McGuire, Thomas F Knox, Jesse Curtis, C C Wellford—Common Councilmen

The Clerk of the Council exhibited to the Board a receipt of the Clerk of the Hustings Court for the plat and deeds of Corporation lots in Liberty Town, directed by an order of Council of the 21st February 1845 to be deposited with the Clerk of the Court for safe keeping.

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

J S Caldwell's	\$25.33
E McDowell's	3.25
Wm M Baggott's	1.25
A G Lucas'	.67
J D Harrow's (2 bills)	\$15.95
D Bradford's	2.50
B Cole's	.75
G Gilman's	.75
W A Jackson's	2.75
J McGuire's	5.67
C C Wellford's	.62

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Ordered that the salaries of the Police Officers for the quarter ending the 3rd Monday of this month be paid by the Chamberlain.

Wm A Jackson, Jesse Curtis, Thos F Knox and A G Lucas were appointed a committee to examine and settle the accounts of the Chamberlain and Sergeant of the Corporation, and make report thereon on Monday morning next at 9 o'clock

On motion the Council adjourned till Monday morning next at 9 o'clock
R B Semple, Mayor
A Goodwin, CC

At an adjourned Meeting of the Common Council of the Town of Fredericksburg at the Council Chamber on Monday morning the 17th March 1845

Present R B Semple, Mayor

Wm A Jackson, Recorder

J Curtis, P Goolrick, E Conway, A G Lucas, Geo B Waite, Jas McGuire, Thomas F Knox—Common Councilmen

The Chamberlain of the Corporation exhibited to the Board an account of R B Semple, Mayor, shewing the payment by him of the sum of six dollars and seventy five cents, being balance due for monies received for seal tax and tax on Dog collars, during the past year which was approved the said sum of six dollars and seventy five cents having been passed to the credit of the Corporation by the Chamberlain in his account for the Current year.

The Committee appointed to settle the accounts of the Chamberlain and Sergeant of the Corporation made the following reports, which were read, approved and ordered to be entered on the minutes, viz;

On the Chamberlain's acct "The undersigned appointed a committee to examine and settle the account of A Goodwin, Chamberlain of the Corporation of Fredericksburg, for the fiscal year ending this day, respectfully report that they have performed that duty and find the debits in said account supported by proper vouchers and that the said [Page 263] account is correctly stated and that there is a balance in the hands of the Chamberlain of seven hundred and eighty seven dollars and ninety center as exhibited by above account (see account filed)

Given under our hands this 15th day of March 1845

W A Jackson, Thos F Knox, A G Lucas, J Curtis—Committee"

On the Sergeant's account "We the undersigned a committee appointed by the Common Council of Fredericksburg to examine the account of the Sergeant for the year ending this day have executed that duty and certify that the foregoing account is correctly stated, the payments or credits supported by proper vouchers and that the same is justly balanced.

Given under our hands this 15th day of March 1845

W A Jackson, Thos F Knox, A G Lucas, J Curtis—Committee"

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

Of whites amounting to \$160.34

Of Blacks amounting to \$115.20

The Sergeant of the Corporation also returned the following list of deferred taxes and rents, viz;

Of Taxes \$192.44

Of Rents \$178.83

Ordered that the sum of fifteen dollars being balance due by Lucy Duncan for rent for 1842 be and the same is hereby remitted on account of her extreme poverty.

This being the day appointed by law for the election of twelve men to serve as Common Councilmen until the third Monday in March 1846 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 [Page 264] to wit;

Eustace Conway	243
Wm A Jackson	242
Albert G Lucas	238
James McGuire	210
George B Waite	208
Robert C Bruce	208
Thos F Knox	200
Brodie S Herndon	162
William Allen	159
John Minor	156
Hugh Scott	155
Charles C Wellford	107
U H Bradshaw	98

The first named twelve of whom are declared duly elected to serve as Common Councilmen until the 3rd Monday in March 1846, and until others are elected in their stead

And then the Council adjourned
R B Semple, Mayor
A Goodwin, CC

Tuesday evening 18th March 1845, George B Waite, C C Wellford, J McGuire, Wm A Jackson, R C Bruce, Thos F Knox, Hugh Scott, A G Lucas, E Conway and John Minor, 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 the salary of the Mayor for the ensuing year was fixed as the sum of four hundred dollars

The Council then proceeded to the election of a Mayor when R B Semple was unanimously re-elected and took the several oaths of office before William Redd, a justice of the Peace for the Corporation of Fredericksburg.

The Council then went into the election of a Recorder when Wm A Jackson was re-elected and took the several oaths of office before the Mayor.

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

Clerk of the Council	\$50
Chamberlain of the Corporation	\$100
Commissioner of the Revenue	\$60
Clerk of the Market	\$100
Jailor	\$50

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On motion the usual commission of 10 pr cent of Taxes and 5 pr cent on Rents was fixed upon as compensation to the Collector of Taxes and Rents

The fixing of the Salaries of the Police Officers was postponed and the following resolution on the subject offered by Mr E Conway was adopted, viz;

Resolved that a committee be appointed to report to the next meeting of the Council whether any and if any what changes may be made in the present police regulations of the Town to promote the greater efficiency of the Police and that said committee be requested to report all matters which they may deem expedient.

E Conway, C C Wellford, Wm A Jackson and A G Lucas were appointed the Committee to carry into execution the foregoing resolution.

The Council then elected A Goodwin Clerk of the Council, and Chamberlain of the Corporation
John Metcalfe, Commissioner of the Revenue,
John S Caldwell, Collector of Rents and Taxes,
John Minor, Surveyor of the Corporation
M D Anderson, Measurer of Coal, grain &c &c
Wm M Baggott, Inspector & Measurer of Plank, lumber &c &c;
Robert W Adams, Measurer of wood for the Corporation

The election of a Clerk of the Market was postponed till the next meeting of the Council

On motion ordered the occupation of the tenement on the court house lot free of rent be allowed to the Bellman of the Corporation as compensation for his services as Bellman for the present year.

And then the Council re-elected Jesse White, Bellman of the Corporation for the present year.

Arthur Goodwin, John S Caldwell, John Minor, and M D Anderson were then severally sworn into their respective offices before the Mayor.

The following standing Committees were appointed by the Mayor
On Public Property, W A Jackson, A G Lucas, Wm Allen, R C Bruce
On Streets, James McGuire, John Minor, B S Herndon, Hugh Scott
On Pumps Thomas F Knox, E Conway, C C Wellford, George B Waite
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On motion ordered that the tax on Cart, dray and Wagon licenses be the same as last year, viz;
Five dollars on all cart & dray licenses issued between the 1st April next and the first November next, on all issued between the first of November next and the 1st of April 1846, three dollars and fifty cents; on all wagon licenses issued between the two first named periods Eight dollars, and between the two last name periods five dollars each.

On motion, ordered that the printing of the of the Corporation for the present year, including that for the Mayor's office be let out to the lowest bidder by the Clerk of the Council, who shall report to the next meeting of the Council the bids made for the same

On motion the Council adjourned
R B Semple, Mayor

A Goodwin, CC

At a meeting of the Common Council of the Town of Fredericksburg at the Council Chamber, Friday evening the 4th April 1845

Present, Robert B Semple, Mayor

Wm A Jackson, Recorder

Geo B Waite, E Conway, A G Lucas, R C Bruce, J McGuire, Thomas F Knox, H Scott, J Minor—
Common Councilmen

Wm Allen and B S Herndon, members elect of the Common Council appeared were qualified and took their seats at the Board.

The official bond of A Goodwin, Chamberlain of the Corporation with Reuben 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 Clerk of Council presented to the Board the sealed bids of the Editors of the *Va Herald* and *Democratic Recorder* for the printing of the Corporation for the present year which being opened in the presence of the Council it was on motion ordered that the printing of the Corporation be divided between said Editors , at the lowest bid, viz; advertising [Page 267] gratis (unless it greatly exceeds the ordinary amount / printing blanks for the Mayor's office at one dollar per quire for first quire, half price for each succeeding one.

A proposition of George Rowe to purchase the lot of the Corporation in his enclosure adjoining Potter's Field at the same rate that he purchased the adjoining lot from Robert Ellis' trustees was submitted to the Board and the vote being taken by Ayes and Noes, was as follows,

Ayes, Minor, Conway, McGuire, Knox & Allen 5

Noes, Scott, Herndon, Waite, Bruce, Jackson, Lucas 6

And then on motion it was ordered that the Committee on public property be and they are hereby directed to enquire into the propriety of selling that portion of Potter's Field now under the enclosure of Mr Rowe, to said Rowe and report to the next meeting of the Council.

The following resolution submitted by Mr Jackson was adopted, viz;

Resolved that the committee on Streets be instructed to enquire into the expediency of a regular and systematic improvement of the footways and crossings of the streets of this town and if found expedient to report to a meeting of the Council at an early day, a plan for the same, the most suitable material, and probable cost of each crossing; also to recommend what yearly appropriation they may deem necessary to effect this all important object, so that it may be progressive and not too burdensome on the Corporation; and also the number of footways or crossings that shall be put down each year, and how selected, and to report on any other matter connected with the subject that they may deem proper and necessary.

The Committee appointed at the last meeting of the Council to take into consideration the police regulations of the Corporation submitted the following report and resolutions, which were read and adopted by the following vote viz;

Ayes, Minor, Conway, Herndon, Bruce, Jackson, Lucas, Knox and Allen 8

Noes, Scott, Waite and McGuire 3

Report

The undersigned, a committee to whom was referred the duty of considering and reporting to the Common Council “whether any and if any, what changes might be made in the present police [Page 268] of the Town to promote the greater efficiency of the “Police” have had the subject under consideration and respectfully report, that the necessity of a well regulated Police to the good order and safety of every community is appreciated by all. That the absence of such a Police in this Corporation has been the fruitful cause of dissatisfaction and complaint on the part of citizens against the Council. It has been the main object of your committee in their enquiries to ascertain the true cause of this deficiency and to propose a remedy. They regret to say that the result of this enquiry has satisfied them that while in some degree this evil may be referred to the imperfection of the present Corporation Laws, in a much greater degree it is chargeable to the failure of incumbents to discharge the duties prescribed by existing laws. Your Committee do not regard it as part of their present duty to suggest changes in the ordinances of the Corporation; that there is a necessity for some change which may place in a condensed and digested form those ordinances which are now in existence as the laws of the Corporation, is manifest from the fact that there are scarcely any of the Council who know what ordinances are in existence and what have been repealed; but what changes or modifications should be made would require more time than the Committee can give to the subject, they have therefore confined their enquiry to the regulation of the Police Officers and they recommend the adoption of the following resolutions.

1. Resolved that in future there be appointed only two police officers in and for the Corporation of Fredericksburg, that these shall be removable in the manner hereinafter indicated or at the pleasure of the Council.
2. Resolved that the salaries of the said police officers shall remain as heretofore, one hundred dollars each to be paid upon the following conditions and not otherwise viz; that it shall be the duty of the Mayor to make a quarterly report in writing, in the manner in which each of the said officers shall have discharged the duties pertaining to the incumbent or incumbents, her or they shall be entitled to receive the salary, from the Chamberlain at the aforesaid rate; if the report shall be unfavorable to the incumbent or [Page 269] incumbents he or they shall by virtue thereof be removed and shall not be authorized longer to act as police officer n and for said Corporation and in this last event the said officer or officers thus offending shall not be entitled to the salary aforesaid, and the Chamberlain is instructed to withhold the same.

Your committee have recommended that in future only two police officers be appointed by the Council. They mean two active and efficient men who are capable and willing to devote themselves to the duties of the officer, they believe two such men can better discharge the duties than a dozen of a different sort, they are decidedly opposed to the appointment of more than two, with or without salary, they have retained the salaries as an inducement to active and competent men to accept the appointment and for the same reason they are opposed to dividing the prerequisites of the office, the salary and fees are not more than sufficient to compensate men who will faithfully discharge the duties and such only. Your committee also think it is a matter of at least questionable propriety to appoint police officers and make them dependent on their fees alone, to be dependent upon the profits of criminal offences may stimulate to produce crime. The Corporation has never complained of the salaries allowed to police officers and there would no objection to increasing them, if in that way could be secured a faithful discharge of police duty. You committee have further recommended that the salaries of the police officer shall not be paid until the Mayor shall make a report of the manner in which the duties have been discharged. The do not mean their report to be a mere form, but a report upon his official responsibility full and particular. They are advised that there is now some rule or resolution requiring this, but they are as well advised that it has been disregarded alike

by the Mayor and the Council. They therefore earnestly urge that the Mayor shall observe this recommendation and that the Council shall in no instance depart from the rule, adopted.

Your Committee further recommends that the Mayor who must be to some extent responsible for his police officers because they are amenable to his authority and if the suggestion [Page 270] of your committee be adopted will be liable to removal by his report shall in all cases immediately after the election of the police officers read to them the ordinance passed October 20th 1827, which prescribes their ordinary duties and shall also minutely instruct them in the duties which he shall require them to perform and shall hold them to the strictest accountability in all particulars.

Your committee indulge the confident belief that if these suggestions be carried out by the Mayor and Council and no departure from them shall deprive them of the efficacy, they will secure us the benefits which necessarily flow from wise laws executed by faithful agents.

All which is respectfully submitted.

On motion it was ordered that J Minor, B S Herndon, and R C Bruce be a committee to enquire into and report to the Council what services beyond his ordinary duties as Sergeant of the Corporation & Collector of Taxes & Rents, Mr Caldwell performs and also report what compensation should be allowed for such services.

The Council then proceeded to the election of two police officers when John S G Timberlake and Bernard Cole were elected police officers for the present year.

The Council then went into the election of the Clerk of the Market when M D Anderson was re-elected.

On motion, ordered that the salaries of the late police officer be paid by the Chamberlain from the expiration of the last fiscal year up to this date.

M D Anderson, John Timberlake and Bernard Cole appeared and were sworn into office by the Mayor.

On motion ordered that the Mayor prepare a digest of the present ordinances of the Corporation and report thereon at his earliest conveniences.

An account of F H Bell for seventy five cents was passed and ordered to be paid.

The Council then adjourned

R B Semple, Mayor

A Goodwin, CC

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At a meeting of the Common Council of the Town of Fredericksburg at the Council Chamber 15th April 1845

Present, R B Semple, Mayor

J McGuire, Wm Allen, R C Bruce, A G Lucas, B S Herndon, E Conway, G B Waite, John Minor—
Common Councilmen

The Mayor stated that the Council had been convened to consider the subject of furnishing the Union Fire Company with a new Engine House, whereupon on motion it was,

Resolved that it is considered by the Council expedient to erect an engine house for the convenience of the Union Fire Company and that the Committee on Public Property be instructed to report to the Council immediately a suitable location for the said house, and all other matters by them deemed pertinent thereto

Present, Hugh Scott—Councilman

A series of Resolutions in relation to prohibiting slaves and free Negroes from going at large in the Streets at night was offered by Mr A G Lucas, and on motion it was ordered that the Clerk of the Council draught an ordinance in conformity with said resolutions and submit the same to the next meeting of the Council.

On motion the Council adjourned

R B Semple, Mayor

A Goodwin, CC

At a meeting of the Common Council of the Town of Fredericksburg at the Council Chamber 17th April 1845

Present R B Semple, Mayor

W A Jackson, Recorder

B S Herndon, Thos F Knox, Wm Allen, H Scott, A G Lucas, E Conway, G B Waite and R C Bruce—
Common Councilmen

A letter from Samuel Phillips praying the removal of the fence across the public walk above his house was read; whereupon the following resolution offered by Mr Conway, viz;

“Resolved that the Council do not deem it expedient to take any action upon the letter of Capt S Phillips nor do they believe that the public convenience requires the removal of the railings before the doors of the several private [Page 272] residences in the Corporation where permission has been obtained to put them up together with the letter of Captain Phillips was on motion of Mr Jackson laid on the table by the following vote, viz;

Ayes, Herndon, Scott, Knox, Lucas, Jackson, Bruce 6

Noes, Conway, Waite, Allen 3

Present, John Minor—Councilman

The following ordinance was read, passed

“An ordinance for the preservation of the quiet and good order of the Town,

1. Be it ordained by the Mayor and Common Council of the Town of Fredericksburg that hereafter if any slave be found in the streets of the Town, or absent from the lot or premises of his or her master or owner, after half an hour from the ringing of the Town Bell at nine o'clock at night, without a pass or some token shewing that said slave is on business for his or her master or owner, it shall be and is hereby made the duty of the police officers to arrest said slave and carry him or her before the Mayor of the Town, or some other justice of the peace, who shall order said slave to received not less than five nor more than thirty lashes at the public whipping post, provided, always that the inflection of the lashes may be remitted at the discretion of the justice of the peace before whom such slave may be taken, upon the payment by the master or owner of said slave of a fine not exceeding two dollars and the costs of arrest.
2. Be it further ordained that hereafter if any free Negro or Mulatto be found in the streets of the Town or absent from his or her lot or tenement after the hour named in the preceding section² of this ordinance unless upon business of urgent necessity (to be judged of by the justice of the peace before whom such

free Negro or Mulatto may be taken) it shall be the duty of the police officers to arrest said free Negro or Mulatto and carry him or her before the Mayor of the Town or some other justice of the peace who shall order said free Negro or mulatto to receive not less than five nor more than thirty lashes at the public whipping post; provided always that the infliction of the lashes may be remitted at the discretion of the justice of the peace before whom such free Negro or Mulatto may be taken upon the payment by him or [Page 273] her of a fine not exceeding two dollars and the cost of arrest.

3. Be it further ordained that all costs for arrest and whippings growing out of a violation of this ordinance shall be paid, if a slave be the offender, by the master or owner of said slave, and if a free Negro or Mulatto be the offender by said Negro or Mulatto and shall be recoverable by warrant before any justice of the peace for the town aforesaid. And all fines received for violations of this ordinance shall be paid over by the justice of the peace receiving them as follows, viz; one-half to the Chamberlain for the use of the Corporation, and the other half to the officer making the arrest.

This ordinance shall be in force from and after the 30th day of April 1845.

The Committee on public property made the following report in relation to the building of an engine house for the Union Fire Company which was adopted, viz;

The Committee on Public Property met on last afternoon and took into consideration the resolution of the Council which is in the following words, "Resolved that it is considered expedient by the Council to erect an engine house for the convenience of the Union Fire Company, and that the Committee on Public Property be instructed to report to the Council immediately a suitable location for said house, and all other matters deemed by them pertinent thereto." The committee after due deliberation and weighing all the considerations connected with the subject have decided to recommend to the Council that an engine house be built for the Union Fire Company upon the Court House lot, between the Court House and the Clerk's office, provided the expense does not exceed \$500, and if the Council decide to build they recommend that plans shall be drawn out to meet as nearly as possible the wishes of the fire company, and that the building shall be let to the lowest bidder by the Committee on Public property for which sealed proposals shall be received, all of which is respectfully submitted.

Wm A Jackson, Wm Allen, R C Bruce, A G Lucas—Committee on Public Property.

And on motion it was ordered that the Committee on [Page 274] public property be and they are hereby instructed to carry into execution the recommendation contained in said report.

Ordered that the Mayor be instructed to have a suitable bookcase put up in the Mayor's office, with good substantial locks &c and that the Chamberlain pay the expense of such case out of the funds of the Corporation.

On motion the Council adjourned

R B Semple, Mayor

A Goodwin, CC

At a meeting of the Common Council of the Town of Fredericksburg at the Council Chamber 30th May 1845

Present, R B Semple, Mayor

Thomas F Knox, George B Waite, Hugh Scott, C C Wellford, James McGuire, A G Lucas, Wm Allen, John Minor, B S Herndon—Common Councilmen

A petition of sundry citizens praying for a pump at the corner of Caroline & Pitt Streets was presented to the Council by the Mayor, which being read it was on motion ordered that the Committee on pumps inquire into the propriety of constructing a pump at the corner of said streets, and also what would be the probable expense of constructing an artesian well at said corner and make report thereon at an early day.

An account of Jacob Gore for hauling dirt on the streets amounting to fifty cents was passed and ordered to be paid.

A letter from Samuel Phillips on the subject of the removal of the fence across the footway above his house directed to the Mayor was presented to the Board, read and on motion was laid on the table.

Ordered that the Mayor be and he is hereby authorized to have the tables in the Mayor's office newly covered with cloth and draw on the Chamberlain for the expense of said covering.

On motion the Council adjourned

R B Semple, 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 5th 1845

Present, R B Semple, Mayor

W A Jackson, Recorder

Wm Allen, Thomas F Knox, R C Bruce, E Conway, B S Herndon, C C Wellford, A G Lucas, Geo B Waite—Common Councilmen

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

A Richards for putting lights in the Town Hall, amounting to four dollars and sixty two cents

J H Maddox's for candles amounting to thirty eight cents

A request of Mentor Towles to have a bridge or causeway constructed across the run at the lower end of town just opposite his house was on motion referred to the Committee on Streets.

The Committee on public property to whom was referred the subject of erecting an engine house for the Union Fire Company made the following report, which was adopted.

The Committee on public property to whom was referred the subject of erecting a new engine house for the Union Fire Company beg respectfully to report to the Council, that they proceeded to carry the Council's resolution into effect by having a suitable drawing made of the building and advertised for proposals, but that no bid was received lower than \$760 and not being authorized to contract at that price, they had some further consultation and received a proposition from the Chairman & Committee of the Union Fire Company (which is herewith exhibited) to erect such a building as the public property Committee recommended for the sum of \$650, which proposition the undersigned Committee approve of and would respectfully recommend to the Council to accept.

Wm A Jackson, Wm Allen, A G Lucas, R C Bruce—Common on Public Property

Fred'g, June 5, 1845

And on motion it was ordered that the Committee be and they are hereby authorized to make a contract for said Engine house not exceeding the sum of six hundred and fifty dollars and for which amount they are authorized to [Page 276] to draw on the Chamberlain of the Corporation.

On motion, ordered that the Mayor be and he is hereby directed to notify Doctor Raleigh T Browne that he cannot occupy the south wing of the Town Hall (now occupied by him) at the present rent after the expiration of the present year.

On motion the Council adjourned till tomorrow evening 6 o'clock
R B Semple, Mayor
A Goodwin, CC

At an adjourned meeting of the Common Council of the Town of Fredericksburg at the Council Chamber
6th June 1845

Present, R B Semple, Mayor

W A Jackson, Recorder

Wm Allen, Hugh Scott, Geo B Waite, Thos F Knox, Charles C Wellford, A G Lucas—Common Councilmen.

The Committee on Pumps to whom was referred the petition of sundry citizens praying for a pump at the corner of Caroline & Pitt made a report in writing recommending the boring for water or constructing an artesian well, in some convenient spot in Pitt Street, between Caroline and Sophia Streets, which being read and considered, the vote was taken on the adoption of the report and it was negative.

On motion, made and seconded it was ordered that the Committee on Pumps to bore for water in the Market space on the terms contained in the foregoing report of said Committee.

On motion it was ordered that the Pump Committee be and they are hereby authorized to have a pump put up at or near the corner of Caroline and Pitt streets or to defer doing so, as they may deem most expedient until the experiment of boring for water in the market space is made the vote on the adoption of the order being as follows, viz;

Ayes, Knox, Scott, Jackson, Wellford, Waite, Allen 6

Noes, Lucas 1

On motion the Council adjourned

R B Semple, Mayor

A Goodwin, CC

[Page 277]

At a meeting of the Common Council of the Town of Fredericksburg at the Council Chamber June 13th
1845

Present Robert B Semple, Mayor

Wm A Jackson, Recorder

Wm Allen, Thomas F Knox, George B Waite, R C Bruce, C C Wellford, A G Lucas, James McGuire—Common Councilmen

The Mayor stated the object of convening the Council was to consider a proposition in relation to the use of Mr Thomas F Knox's Spring, commonly called "Christy's Spring" by the citizens of the Town, which being submitted by Mr Knox, upon the following terms, viz;

In that for the sum of twenty five dollars, per annum, Mr Knox will let the Spring become a public one, binding himself to keep up a line of fence from the road to the Spring. The vote was taken on acceding to the proposition of Mr Knox and it was negative.

Present, John Minor—Councilman

The Mayor made a report in writing as to the manner in which the Police Officers have discharged their duties for the present quarter, which being favourable, it was on motion, ordered that the Chamberlain pay said officers their salaries for the quarter ending the third Monday in this month.

An account of Mr John Minor for running a line in front of the location for a new Engine House amounting to two dollars, being submitted to the Board the same was on motion referred to the Committee on Public Property

On motion the Council adjourned

R B Semple, Mayor

A Goodwin, CC

[Page 278]

At a meeting of the Common Council of the Town of Fredericksburg at the Council Chamber June 23rd 1845

Present, R B Semple, Mayor

Thomas F Knox, E Conway, G B Waite, J McGuire, A G Lucas, C C Wellford, B S Herndon, R C Bruce—Common Councilmen

The Council was convened by the Mayor at the instance of Doctor Wm S Scott, who appeared before the Board and requested the Council to change the location of boring for water from the Market space (which he is under contract for with the Pump Committee) to some other location, which being considered by the Council a motion was made by B S Herndon, that the contract with Doctor Scott for boring an artesian well be abandoned (Doctor Scott consenting thereto) and the vote being taken by Ayes & Noes, as follows, viz;

Ayes, Knox, Conway, Herndon, Bruce 4

Noes, Waite, McGuire, Lucas, Wellford 4

There being a tie the Mayor gave the casting vote in the affirmative, the motion was carried.

On motion of E Conway the foregoing vote was reconsidered and the motion of Doctor Herndon was then laid on the table.

On motion the Council adjourned till tomorrow evening at 5 o'clock

R B Semple, Mayor

A Goodwin, CC

At an adjourned meeting of the Common Council of the Town of Fredericksburg 24th June 1845

Present, R B Semple, Mayor

Wm Allen, E Conway, A G Lucas, G B Waite, J McGuire, C C Wellford, R C Bruce, John Minor, B S Herndon—Common Councilmen

The official bond of John C Caldwell as collector of taxes and rents for the Corporation in the sum of Five thousand dollars with Samuel Phillips and A K Phillips as securities was submitted to the Board [Page 179] approved and ordered to be filed by the Mayor.

The Chamberlain of the Corporation having submitted his estimates of the receipts and expenditures of the Corporation for the current year, based upon the returned of the Commissioner of the Revenue and Collector of Rents, the following tax bill was passed;

Be it ordered that the taxes on persons and property for the present year be as follows, viz;

Real Estate 3½ pr cent on the annual value thereof

On each white male above the age of 16 years \$1.25

On each slave above the age of 12 years \$1.25

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

On each free female Negro or Mulatto above the age of 16 years \$.75

On each horse \$1.00

On every carriage, Cariole, Gig, Phaeton, or pleasure carriage of any description of the value of \$100 or under (each) \$1.00

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

On motion ordered that the Committee on public property be and they are hereby instructed to procure a standard half bushel measure for the Corporation.

The motion of Doctor Herndon which was laid on the table at the last meeting of the Council being called up and duly considered the following resolution, viz “Resolved that Doctor Scott be released from his contract with the Corporation in regard to boring for an Artesian well, so far as he is required to bore the same in the public square and that he be permitted to bore at some other point to be selected by the Committee on pumps,” being offered as an amendment to said motion by E Conway, was passed by the following vote, viz;

Ayes, E Minor, G B Waite, E Conway, A G Lucas, C C Wellford, R C Bruce, James McGuire 7

Noes, B S Herndon, William Allen 2

On motion ordered that the pump committee be and they are hereby instructed to select a location at or near the Corner of Caroline and Pitt Streets for boring for water under their contract with Doctor Scott.

On motion the Council adjourned

R B Semple, Mayor

A Goodwin, CC

[Page 280]

At a meeting of the Common Council of the Town of Fredericksburg at the Council Chamber August 1st 1845

Present, William A Jackson, Recorder

J Minor, B S Herndon, Hugh Scott, G B Waite, C C Wellford, R C Bruce, James McGuire, A G Lucas,

Wm Allen, Thos F Knox—Common Councilmen

The Recorder stated that he had convened the Council for the purpose of presenting the proceedings of a meeting of the citizens of the Town on the 25 & 29th Ult in relation to the grievances practiced towards the Citizens of the Town by the Richmond, Fredericksburg, & Potomac Rail Road Company, communicated to him by the Chairman of said meeting Doctor John H Wallace, which being read (for a copy of said proceedings see the Newspapers of the Town in which they have been published) it was, on motion, ordered that the Mayor be and he is hereby directed to forward a copy of said proceedings to the President and Directors of said Richmond, Fredericksburg and Potomac Rail Road Company in conformity with the resolutions adopted by said meeting of the Citizens.

On motion, ordered that the ordinance in relation to hogs going at large in the Streets of the Town be and the same is hereby suspended until the 1st day of October next.

A motion was made by J Minor that the Committee on Pumps be instructed to make a further experiment of boring for water at any point they may deem most expedient, which being put to the vote was lost.

A letter from Jesse White praying that he may have a more convenient outlet to the lot on the public property now occupied by him, and in relation to the exposure, to his family of person's whipped at the public whipping post, was read and on motion referred to the Committee on public property.

On motion of C C Wellford it was,
Resolved that the Committee on public property report to the next meeting of the Council the expediency of either filling up the hole in the Market Space or [Page 281] converting it into a pump for the purpose of cleansing the Market House. If the former plan be adopted then to decide whether it would be better to introduce the hydrant water for that purpose, or close as far a may be necessary the arches of the Market House with rails and gates.

On motion the Council adjourned
Wm A Jackson, Recorder
A Goodwin, CC

At a meeting of the Common Council of the Town of Fredericksburg at the Council Chamber 21st day of August 1845
Present, R B Semple, Mayor
W A Jackson, Recorder
Wm Allen, Hugh Scott, Thomas F Knox, J McGuire, R C Bruce, George B Waite, A G Lucas—Common Councilmen

The Mayor stated that he had convened the Council to consider several subjects but more particularly to lay before them the reply of the President & Directors of the Richmond, Fredericksburg & Potomac Rail Road Company to the proceedings of the citizens of the town, communicated through him under an order of the Council of the 1st Inst

The said reply having been read it was, on motion, ordered that the Mayor call a meeting of the Citizens of the Town and lay the same before said meeting in conformity with the resolution contained in the proceedings of the meeting of the citizens on the 29th Ultimo.

The Mayor having communicated to the Board that he had prepared a list of the ordinances of the Corporation in compliance with a former order of the Council & that he had made enquiry of what would be the expense of publishing the same which he ascertained would be \$35 for 200 copies [Page 282] provided the number of pages does not exceed 48, and so in proportion as per estimate furnished by Mr Harrow, it was on motion ordered that the Mayor be and he is hereby directed to contract with Mr Harrow for printing 200 copies at the above rate.

An account of Doctor Wm S Scott, amounting to \$55.43 for boring and digging for water was presented to the Board and the same was referred to the Pump Committee who are authorized to pass upon the same.

Mr Jackson of the Committee on Public Property made a verbal report stating that said committee had acted on the several subjects referred to them at the last meeting of the Council with the exception of the subject of introducing the hydrant water into the Market Square, or closing the arches of the Market House, upon which the Committee were not prepared to report.

On motion the Council adjourned
R B Semple, Mayor
A Goodwin, CC

At a meeting of the Common Council of the Town of Fredericksburg at the Council Chamber on the 4th day of September 1845
Present, Wm A Jackson, Recorder
William Allen, James McGuire, John Minor, Hugh Scott, Thomas F Knox, Robert C Bruce, A G Lucas—
Common Councilmen

The Recorder stated that the meeting had been called in consequence of a tie vote by the Street Committee in relation to the distance the curb stone should be placed in front of the house owned by the estate of P Alexander dec'd and occupied by Montgomery Slaughter, the pavement now being repaired by Mr Slaughter, whereupon,

On motion, it was Resolved that Mr Montgomery Slaughter fix the first curb stone next to Mrs Ellis' house, even with the curb before Mrs Ellis' house [Page 283] and put the others in a straight line so that at the distance of twelve feet from the upper corner of the first curb stone, the footway shall be the same width that it is now.

An account of Bernard Cole amounting to eighty five cents for cleaning a gutter was passed and ordered to be paid by the Chamberlain.

On motion the Council adjourned,
Wm A Jackson, Recorder
Teste,
J S Caldwell, Clerk pro tem

At a meeting of the Common Council of the Town of Fredericksburg at the Council Chamber September 17th 1845
Present, R B Semple, Mayor
W A Jackson, Recorder

Wm Allen, H Scott, J Minor, Geo B Waite, A G Lucas, James McGuire, C C Wellford, Thomas F Knox—Common Councilmen

The Mayor called the attention of the Council to several ordinances on various subjects which he wished to have the opinion of the Council as to their publication among the ordinances now in progress of publication, whereupon on motion it was ordered that the ordinance of the 9th August 1832, in relation to Geese going at large in the Streets be and the same is hereby considered in force and on motion it was ordered that all ordinances in relation to dogs be and the same are hereby repealed.

The Mayor made a written report on the subject of the manner in which the Police officers have discharged their duties for the present quarter which being satisfactory, it was on motion ordered that the Chamberlain pay their salaries for the quarter ending this day.

On motion ordered that the Street Committee be and they are hereby directed to take [Page 284] into consideration the propriety of preventing wagons from camping in the streets of the town and further to enquire into the propriety of the Corporation furnishing a lot for wagons to encamp in, and report at the next meeting of the Council.

On motion the Council adjourned.

R B Semple, Mayor

A Goodwin, CC

At a meeting of the Common Council of the Town of Fredericksburg at the Council Chamber, September 24th 1845

Present, R B Semple, Mayor

W A Jackson, Recorder

H Scott, E Conway, J McGuire, Wm Allen, A G Lucas, Thos F Knox—Common Councilmen

The Mayor stated that he had convened the Council to consider several matters in relation to the publication of the ordinances which he has been instructed to have published, more particularly to have the opinion of the Council whether the ordinance “regulating the Market &c &c” passed June 23 1829 is repealed by the ordinance passed the 1st August 1838, for the better regulation of the Market. Whereupon it was on Motion, Resolved that it is the opinion of the Council that the ordinance of the 1st August 1838 did not repeal the ordinance of June 23, 1829, except in so far as its provisions are in conflict with said ordinance and the Mayor is instructed to have published the amendments made by the ordinance of 1838, in connection with the general ordinance regulating the Market &c &c passed June 23, 1829, as part of the existing ordinances of the Corporation.

On motion, it was ordered that the resolution of the council of the 4th May 1830 in relation to the disqualification to discharge their duty by drunkenness of any officer of the Corporation and also the resolutions of the Council of the 22nd March 1831 in relation to dividing the Town [Page 285] into wards corresponding with the number of constables be not included by the Mayor in the Publication of the Ordinances of the Corporation, the same being now considered as not in force.

On motion it was ordered that the expenses incurred in paying funeral honors to the memory of General Andrew Jackson, by the procession on the 5th July last be paid by the Corporation; the vote being taken by Ayes & Noes, was as follows viz;

Ayes, J McGuire, E Conway, Thomas F Knox, Wm A Jackson, William Allen 5
Noes, A G Lucas, Hugh Scott 2

An account of Jesse White for tolling the Bell &c on the occasion of the procession in honor of General Jackson's memory and also for ringing the bell on several occasions of public meetings, amounting in all to two dollars and fifty cents was passed and ordered to be paid by the Chamberlain

The Committee on Streets made a report recommending that no action at present be had in relation to the prohibiting wagoners from encamping in the Streets of the Town, which report was read and approved.

On motion, the Council adjourned
R B Semple, Mayor
A Goodwin, CC

At a meeting of the Common Council of the Town of Fredericksburg at the Council Chamber 26th
November 1845
Present, R B Semple, Mayor
Wm Allen, Geo B Waite, E Conway, James McGuire, C C Wellford, A G Lucas, Hugh Scott—Common Councilmen

The following accounts were passed and ordered to be paid by the Chamberlain, viz;
An account of James D Harrow for printing 200 copies of the ordinances of the Corporation amounting to fifty eight dollars and thirty three cents, and an account of the expenses of a Committee of the citizens of the Town who were appointed by a town [Page 286] meeting to go to Richmond to confer with the President and Directors of the Richmond, Fredericksburg and Potomac Rail Road Company on the subject of a reduction of the rate of fare &c &c on said road, amounting to eleven dollars and seventy five cents

Present, B S Herndon, John Minor—Common Councilmen, W A Jackson, Recorder

An account of Thomas Curtis for refreshments for guard in March last, amounting to four dollars was passed and ordered to be paid.

Present, Thomas F Knox—Common Councilman

A motion was made and seconded that the copies of the ordinances of the Corporation recently printed by an order of the Council be distributed to such of the Citizens as may call for them without cost, which motion being amended by Mr Minor, moving that they be paid for by such as may call for them, at the price of twenty five cents per copy was passed as amended.

A motion being made that 25 copies of said ordinances be bound for the use of the members of the Council and the officers of the Corporation & the vote being taken by Ayes & Noes, was as follows, viz;
Ayes, J Minor, B S Herndon, Geo B Waite, A G Lucas, Wm A Jackson, Thos F Knox, C C Wellford, E Conway 8
Noes, H Scott, J McGuire, Wm Allen 3
So the motion was passed.

A paper signed by many citizens and voters of the Town in relation to the improvement of the Rappahannock River, requesting and instructing the Council to appropriate the sum of eight thousand dollars on the part of the Corporation and to effect said object, to petition the Legislature for the necessary powers to subscribe said sum was submitted to the Council and being read, a motion was made by Wm A Jackson to adopt said paper, and after some discussion, said motion being withdrawn, the following resolution offered by E Conway viz; "Resolved that the application of A J Marshall & others [Page 287] for a subscription upon the part of the Corporation of Fredericksburg of \$8,000 to aid in constructing the proposed improvement of the River from this place to Carter's Run in Fauquier County and the petition of the citizens in relation thereto, be referred to a Committee of the Council with instructions to report to a Common Council to be held on the 29th Inst was read and passed.

E Conway, C C Wellford, Geo B Waite, Hugh Scott and A G Lucas were appointed the committee under the foregoing resolution.

Ordered that the Mayor notify the citizens thro one of the Newspapers of the Town that copies of the ordinances of the Corporation can be procured at the Mayor's office at the price of twenty five cents per copy.

On motion, ordered that the Mayor notify the Citizens of the Town by proclamation that the subject of the proposed subscription to the improvement of the River will be reported upon by a Committee on Saturday night next.

On motion the Council adjourned till Saturday evening next at ½ past 6 o'clock.

R B Semple, Mayor

A Goodwin, CC

At an adjourned meeting of the Common Council of the Town of Fredericksburg at the Town Hall on Saturday evening 29th November 1845

Present, R B Semple, Mayor

W A Jackson, Recorder

Wm Allen, Hugh Scott, J McGuire, E Conway, Geo B Waite, A G Lucas, C C Wellford, B S Herndon, Thomas F Knox—Common Councilmen

Mr C C Wellford on the part of the majority of the Committee appointed at the last meeting of the Council made a report in the following words viz;

The undersigned, a majority of the Committee appointed by order of the Common Council of the Town of [Page 288] Fredericksburg to enquire and report the expediency of accepting a proposition made by A J Marshall for certain improvements in the navigation of the Rappahannock River, respectfully report that from a petition or from instructions presented to them from freeholders and voters of said town they have concluded the said Council are instructed to vote for the improvement but inasmuch as it has been represented that there is a counter petition in progress and that some who have signed in favor of instruction are now opposed to the scheme and that the matter will be more minutely understood in presence of the voters on Saturday evening next they therefore decline recommending any definite action until a public expression of opinion in said meeting shall be elicited.

(signed) C C Wellford, Hugh Scott, Geo B Waite.

And Mr E Conway on the part of the minority of said Committee also made a report in the following words, viz; “The undersigned as members of the Committee to whom was referred the application of A J Marshall and the petition of the Citizens in relation thereto would beg leave respectfully to report, that the Committee met pursuant to notice and the petition of the citizens and property holders was presented before them, from which it would appear that a majority of Citizens & property holders had requested the Council to make the subscription of \$8,000 to the proposed improvement. There were statements made to the Committee concerning many citizens who had signed the aforesaid petition & who had now retracted or were disposed to retract, but your committee had no counter petition presented before them. The report of the majority of the Committee sets forth fully the conclusion to which they came. The petition of the citizens will be before the Council and they are as competent to form an opinion as to whether it embodies the deliberate opinion [Page 289] of a majority of the citizens and property holders as the undersigned. They therefore refrain from any comment or remark upon it. The unsigned would remark that their principal object in asking that the subject should be postponed was that they might examine fully into the question of power, in other words, ought the Legislature to confer upon the Council the power to tax private property for any other than the purposes expressed in our Charter? This question the undersigned regarded as standing at the threshold of all enquires respecting the expediency or policy of the measure. The deliberate opinion to which they have come is, that the Legislature ought not to confer such power, and as a corollary we ought not to ask it. If would take too much time to discuss this question fully, It would, your committee thinks, place the minority their right and prosperity at the will and caprice of a majority without limit, whereas in all organized communities, so far as the undersigned are informed the power of a majority is limited to the purposes for which any association is formed. Your committeemen will simply remark in regard to the expediency or policy of this improvement they are not prepared to express an opinion which would be entitled to respect but if the promises of its friends and advocates are to be realized they would suppose it would be sufficiently magnetic in its attraction without the subscription of \$8,000. If they are not to be realized then the subscription in the present embarrassed condition of our finances is an imprudent one, particularly too, where already we have expended \$10,500 in this improvement & have surrendered with consideration to A J Marshall & others our interest in it. Your committeemen with these crude suggestions would respectfully report the whole matter for the consideration of the Council
(signed) E Conway, A G Lucas

Which reports being read a motion was made and [Page 290] carried that any citizens present might make any remarks on the subject if desired by them, when Mr George W Eve addressed the Council in opposition to the scheme.

Present, John Minor—Councilman

Mr John L Mayre, at the instance of several members of the Council, then addressed the Council in favour of the proposed subscription at some length. The subject being further discussed by Mr E Conway, a motion made by Mr Allen that the consideration of the said reports be postponed for 10 days and that papers be left at the Mayor’s office for the signatures of the citizens of the town, for or against said proposed subscription on the part of the Corporation, and the vote being taken by Ayes and Noes was as following, viz;

Ayes, Herndon, Allen, Conway, McGuire, Lucas 5

Noes, Waite, Knox, Wellford, Scott, Jackson 5

There being a tie the Mayor gave the casting vote in the negative so the motion was lost (Mr John Minor was absent before the vote on the above motion was taken)

Mr C C Wellford then made a motion that the papers of subscription already signed be left at the Mayor's office for 10 days and that the Mayor notify the Citizens thro the Newspapers of the Town that all persons who have signed may retract if they desire to do so, and also calling on all who are in favour to sign said paper, and further notify the citizens that a paper for the signatures of all who are opposed to said subscription will be open at the Mayor's office for the same period of time, which was carried, said motion being amended in this, that any person who signifies his or her approbation or disapprobation of said subscription by letter to the Mayor, shall be considered as subscribing for or against said measure.

A letter from Mr E Conway, tendering his resignation as a member of the Council was read by the Mayor and the vote being taken, his resignation was not accepted.

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On motion the Council then adjourned to meet next Thursday night week

R B Semple, Mayor

A Goodwin, CC

At an adjourned meeting of the Common Council of the Town of Fredericksburg at the Council Chamber on Thursday night 11th December 1845

Present, R B Semple, Mayor

W A Jackson, Recorder

Geo B Waite, Hugh Scott, C C Wellford, Wm Allen, James McGuire, John Minor, Thos F Knox—
Common Councilmen

Mr R C Bruce tendered his resignation as a member of the Council which was accepted and the Council having proceeded to fill the vacancy, Mr U H Bradshaw was unanimously elected who being notified by the Messenger of the Council appeared, was qualified and took his seat at the Board.

Present, A G Lucas—Common Councilman

The subject of the consideration of the subscription on the part of the Corporation of \$8,000 to A J Marshall & others for the improvement of the Rappahannock River being taken up, a motion was made and carried that any citizen present might address the Council when Mr Wm Redd made some remarks, and the subject being further discussed a motion was made to postpone the consideration of the subject till Monday next which was put to the vote and lost.

Present, B S Herndon—Common Councilman

Mr Wm A Jackson, then made a motion that the paper heretofore presented to the Council asking said appropriation on the part of the Corporation be adopted and the following memorial read by the Mayor in connecting there with; to which motion the following amendment being offered to wit :that said Memorial be so amended that the said appropriation on the part of the Corporation shall not be made by the Common [Page 292] Council until the question be submitted to the voters of the Town by having a poll opened for the purpose of ascertaining the opinion of the majority of said voters, which majority shall govern (due and timely notice to the voters of the Corporation that said poll will be opened being first given) and the vote being taken on same amendment to the memorial it was carried and then the vote on the adoption of the memorial as amended being taken by ayes & noes was as follows, viz;

Ayes, Hugh Scott, G B Waite, B S Herndon, T F Knox, W A Jackson, W H Bradshaw, C C Wellford,
James McGuire, Wm Allen, John Minor 10
Noes, A G Lucas 1

So the memorial as amended was adopted. Said memorial being in the following words, to wit.
The Memorial and Petition of the Mayor and Common Council of the Town of Fredericksburg on behalf of the Citizens of said Town and under their direct instructions, respectfully represent to your honorable body that the Rappahannock Company incorporated for the improvement of the Rappahannock River have not the means to complete this valuable purpose, that the citizens of Fredericksburg have been invited to cooperate with the farmers of Fauquier, Culpeper and Rappahannock, in aid of said Company to effect a good navigation from Fredericksburg to the Mouth of Carter's Run in Fauquier County. That in this enterprise the quota of subscription assignment to the Citizens of Fredericksburg has been fifteen thousand dollars, and the citizens of Fredericksburg have by a general assent considered this allotment fair and reasonable. Of this \$15,000 the sum of \$7,000 has been subscribed by individual citizens of the Town, leaving a deficit of \$8,000 yet to be made up. It is proposed to make up this deficiency by a subscription of \$8,000 to be made by the Corporation of Fredericksburg. Your memorialists will state that the improvement of the Rappahannock River has long been an object of anxious desire with the citizens of Fredericksburg. In proof of this the Corporation in the year [blank] subscribed and paid the sum of \$[blank] and individual citizens subscribed a much larger amount in aid of an attempt [Page 293] which was then made by the Rappahannock Company to effect this much valued navigation.

That effort from various causes proved an entire failure and all the money vested was unavailing and lost. This loss and disappointment whilst it deters the citizens from renewing their efforts to improve the river upon the former plan of a joint stock association has not abated their earnest wish for the improvement they are perfectly willing to pay their money for the most valued object after it may have been accomplished. With this view the citizens of Fredericksburg with unusual unanimity have instructed your memorialists to petition your honorable body on their behalf and in their names to authorize the authorities of their Town to make a subscription to the Rappahannock Company of \$8,000. The said subscription to be paid on condition that the said company complete the improvement of the navigation from the basin in Fredericksburg to the mouth of Carter's Run in Fauquier County in conformity with the Act passed January 20th 1845, entitled and act amending the charter of the Rappahannock Company. Your memorialists will state that this proposal has been maturely considered by the Citizens of Fredericksburg. The fullest opportunity has been afforded to the citizens to express their wishes on the question. The subject has been discussed through the newspapers of the town, and the people have been invited by repeated proclamations of the Mayor to express their sentiments on the measure. The certificate of the Mayor here to be appended sets forth in detail the steps taken to ascertain the wishes of the people on this question. The result has been that your memorialists have been instructed by a very large majority in Fredericksburg to ask of the Legislature the power to issue Corporation scrip to the amount of \$8,000 for the said purpose referred to, will exhibit the grounds of this statement. Your memorialists therefore pray that all necessary legislation may be awarded them to effectuate the wishes of the people and property holders of Fredericksburg [Page 294] in this behalf.
Your Petitioners will ever pray &c &c

The Mayor made a report in writing to the manner in which the Police Officers had discharged their duties for the present quarter, which being satisfactory to the Council it was on motion ordered that the Chamberlain pay their salaries for the quarter.

The following resolution was read and passed viz;

Resolved that the Mayor be authorized to amend the contract heretofore made transferring the stock held by the Corporation of Fredericksburg in the Rappahannock Company to A J Marshall so as to absolve said Marshall from the improvement of the Hazle River.

Mr U H Bradshaw was put on the Committee on Public Property in the place of R C Bruce resigned.

On motion the Council adjourned

R B Semple, Mayor

A Goodwin, CC