

Fredericksburg City Council Minutes 1846

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At a meeting of the Common Council of the Town of Fredericksburg at the Mayor's office 26th January 1846

Present R B Semple, Mayor

W A Jackson, Recorder

Wm Allen, H Scott, James McGuire, A G Lucas, E Conway, U H Bradshaw, John Minor—Common Councilmen

The Mayor submitted to the Board a copy of an Act of the Legislature passed 6th January 1846, authorizing the Mayor and Common Council to raise a sum not exceeding \$8,000 for the purpose of effecting the improvement of the Rappahannock River, which being read, it was on motion, Resolved that the Mayor give notice that a poll will be opened at the Mayor's office on the 12th day of February next, to take the sense of the voters qualified to vote for the Common Council of this Corporation on the subscription of \$8,000 to the improvement of the Rappahannock river, the polls to be kept open for two days. The vote on said resolution being taken by Ayes and Noes was as follows, viz; [Page 295]
Ayes, Minor, Conway, Lucas, Jackson, Bradshaw, McGuire, Scott, Allen 8
Noes, none.

The subject of converting the present Town Hall into a Court House and disposing of some portion of the public lot on which the Court House stands and other matters connected therewith being brought to the notice of the Council upon motion it was Resolved that Wm A Jackson, A G Lucas and Hugh Scott be appointed a committee to take the said matter into consideration and report the advantages and disadvantages of said proposed changes. To examine the title of the public lot upon which the Court House and Jail and Clerk's office now stand; to obtain the services of a practical carpenter to suggest changes &c and make an estimate of the expense and all other matters bearing in any way upon said proposed changes to a Council to be hereafter called.

The Mayor having vacated the chair and called the Recorder to preside, it was on motion ordered that U H Bradshaw, James McGuire and Eustace Conway be a committee to consider and report upon the application of the Mayor for compensation for services rendered in compiling the ordinances of the Corporation.

The mayor having resumed the Chair, the council then adjourned.

R B Semple, Mayor

A Goodwin, CC

At a meeting of the Common Council of the Town of Fredericksburg at the Council Chamber 18th February 1846

Present, R B Semple, Mayor

W A Jackson, Recorder

George B Waite, Wm Allen, C C Wellford, J McGuire, Thomas F Knox, J Minor, E Conway, A G Lucas, Hugh Scott and U H Bradshaw—Common Councilmen

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The Mayor stated the Council had been convened for the purpose of acting on the proposed subscription of \$8,000 to A J Marshall and others for the improvement of the Rappahannock River, on which the sense

of the voters of the Corporation had been taken by a poll opened for that purpose on the 12th & 13th of this month which poll exhibited the following vote viz; for the subscription 157, against the subscription 97, majority in favour of the subscription 60

Mr John Minor tendered a letter of resignation of E Conway as a member of the Council, stating that Mr Conway was employed by a number of the Citizens of the Town, as counsel to resist the proposed subscription on the part of the Corporation of \$8,000 and therefore though it proper to resign, if the Council though it inconsistent with his duty as a member of this Board, that he should act as Counsel in the case, which not being the opinion of the Council, his resignation was not received.

Mr Conway then withdrew from the Board for the purpose of presenting the following notice (a copy of which was also serve on A J Marshall & others) viz;

“The undersigned citizens of the Corporation of Fredericksburg and State of Virginia, believing that the law passed by the Legislature of Virginia on the 6th day of January 1846, purporting to authorize the Common Council of the Town of Fredericksburg to subscribe \$8,000 to the improvement of the Rappahannock River by Canal, if acted upon by the Common Council will violate their private rights as citizens of the State of Virginia under the Constitution of Virginia and also as citizens of the Town of Fredericksburg under the Charter of said Corporation and that said law is upon other grounds unconstitutional and void, do hereby give notice of their intention to resist any ordinance or resolution which the Council may enact or pass under the authority of said laws and to resist any taxes which may be levied for the purpose of paying said subscription if made by the Council

Signed by Peter Goolrick and 69 other citizens of the Town

“To the Common Council for the Corporation of Fredericksburg”

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Present, B S Herndon—Common Councilman

The following resolution offer by Wm A Jackson was then adopted, viz;

Resolved by the Mayor and Common Council that the sum of \$8,000 be subscribed for and on behalf of the town of Fredericksburg to effect the improvement of the Rappahannock River from said town to the mouth of Carter’s Run in the County of Fauquier, the said subscription to be payable when the work shall have been completed after the mode and upon the scale prescribed by the Charter of the Rappahannock Company as lately modified. And in order to give effect to the purpose above indicated be it further Resolved that a Committee of three be appointed to prepare a bond or contract to be executed by and between the Corporation of Fredericksburg and the Rappahannock Company and to report the same to a meeting to be held on Saturday evening next at 7 o’clock.

A motion was made to reconsider the vote on said Resolutions which was carried and the vote on the same being taken by Ayes and Noes resulted as follows viz;

Ayes, Herndon, Minor, Knox, Waite, Lucas, Bradshaw, Jackson, Wellford, Scott, McGuire and Allen

11

Noes none

Wm A Jackson, Thomas F Knox & George B Waite were appointed a committee under the foregoing resolutions & on motion the Mayor was added to the Committee.

Mr Jesse Curtis appeared before the Council on behalf of Mr Richard Bozel requesting the Council to refund to said Bozel the amount he has paid at different times to the Chamberlain for licenses under the

cake and fruit ordinance. Mr Curtis stating that said Bozel was in very needy circumstances and with a sick family and a motion being made to refund said sums it was rejected.

Present E Conway, Common Councilman

The Mayor having retired the Recorder took the Chair

The Committee to whom was referred the subject of compensating the Mayor for services rendered in compiling the Ordinances of the Corporation made a report recommending the sum of fifty dollars to be allowed for said services and a motion being made to postpone said report for the future action [Page 298] of the Council it was carried

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

At a meeting of the Common Council of the Town of Fredericksburg at the Council Chamber 21st
February 1846

Present, R B Semple, Mayor

W A Jackson, Recorder

Wm Allen, Geo G Waite, Thomas F Knox, U H Bradshaw, J Minor, E Conway, A G Lucas—Common Councilmen

The Committee to whom was referred the subject of preparing a bond or contract to be executed by the Corporation for the subscription of \$8,000 to the improvement of the Rappahannock River, submitted to the Council a bond in the following words and figures, viz;

“The Mayor and Commonalty of the Town of Fredericksburg for and on behalf of said Town, promise to pay to the Rappahannock Company the sum of Eight Thousand Dollars so soon as the said Rappahannock Company shall complete the improvement of the Rappahannock River from the said Town to the mouth of Carter’s Run in the County of Fauquier in conformity to the mode and upon the scale prescribed by an Act of the General Assembly of Virginia entitled “an act amending the Charter of the Rappahannock Company passed January 20th 1845 and the said improvement shall be examined approved and accepted by the Board of Public Works pursuant to the provisions of said Act or by such authority as may be hereafter appointed by the General Assembly to examine, approve and accept the same on the part of the State. In testimony whereof the Mayor and Commonalty of the Town of Fredericksburg have caused the seal of said Corporation to be affixed hereto this 21st day of February 1846” which being read a motion was made by A G Lucas to postpone action upon the bond until a further meeting of the Council [Page 299] be had and the vote being taken by Ayes and Noes resulting as follows viz;

Ayes, A G Lucas 1

Noes, Thos F Knox, J Minor, Geo B Waite, U H Bradshaw, Wm A Jackson, William Allen 6

So the motion to postpone failed and the vote being then taken on the adoption of said bond it passed in the affirmative by the following vote, viz;

Ayes, Knox, Minor, Waite, Bradshaw, Jackson, Allen 6

Noes, A G Lucas 1

(Mr E Conway declining to vote on either motion for the reason that he was employed as Counsel to resist said subscription). Whereupon it was ordered that the Mayor execute said bond by signing his name and

causing the seal of the Corporation to be affixed thereto, and that he deliver said bond to the Rappahannock Company.

The Mayor having called the Recorder to the Chair, addressed the Council at some length on the subject of the report of the Committee recommending an allowance of fifty dollars for his services in compiling the Ordinances of the Corporation and the changes of now in said compilation; and then the Report of the Committee being called up, it was on motion, ordered that the sum of fifty dollars be paid by the Chamberlain to the Mayor for said services

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

At a meeting of the Common Council of the Town of Fredericksburg at the Council Chamber 2nd March 1846

Present, Wm A Jackson, Recorder
J Minor, G B Waite, B S Herndon, J McGuire, Hugh Scott, U H Bradshaw, Wm Allen, C C Wellford,
Thomas F Knox, Common Councilmen

The Recorder stated he had convened the Council for the purpose of taking some measures for the relief of the poor who are represented to be in [Page 300] great need of wood &c during the present very inclement weather. Whereupon, on motion it was ordered that the Overseers of the Poor be and they are hereby authorized to distribute to the poor of the Town such amount of wood and other necessaries as they may deem expedient for their relief and to draw on the Chamberlain of the Corporation for any sum expended by them in this way; and it is further ordered that it be entered on the minutes of the Council as a record of the weather that it has been snowing for the last 66 hours and snow still falling.

An account of John H Maddox for candles amounting to one dollar and fifty cents was passed and ordered to be paid; also of J B Alexander for hauling sand on the Street amounting to fifty cents, and an account of Wm DeBaptist for hauling gravel in March 1845, amounting to four dollars and six cents.

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

At a Council of claims held at the Mayor's office Friday evening 13th March 1846 pursuant to notice by the Mayor.

Present, R B Semple, Mayor
W A Jackson, Recorder
Wm Allen, C C Wellford, A G Lucas, H Scott, James McGuire, U H Bradshaw, John Minor, B S Herndon—Common Councilmen

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

An Acct of S J Blaydes for a lock	\$1.50
An Acct of J D Harrow for printing blanks for Mayor	\$7.00
An Acct of B Cole for bridge over footway &c	\$3.60
An Acct of M Ames for hinges for office window	\$.62

An Acct of A Richard for glass in Mayor's office \$.33
An Acct of Edward McDowell for Stationary &c for Mayor's office \$12.81

Present, E Conway—Common Councilman
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An account of Wm M Baggett for benches for the Town Hall amounting to forty dollars was passed and ordered to be paid by the Chamberlain; Also an account of R T Browne for whitewashing for one dollar; and an account of the Mayor for wood &c furnished the Mayor's office for ten dollars and thirty four cents.

The Mayor presented an account for fines and tax for affixing Corporation Seal, received by him for the past year, amounting to eight dollars and twenty five cents which was ordered to be paid over to the Chamberlain of the Corporation & passed to the credit of the Corporation in the Chamberlain's account.

The Mayor having reported favorably as to the manner in which the police officers have discharged their duties for the present quarter, it was on motion ordered that their salaries be paid by the Chamberlain.

C C Wellford, Wm A Jackson and Wm Allen were appointed a committee to examine and settle the accounts of the Sergeant and Chamberlain of the Corporation and make report thereon to the Council on Monday morning next at 9 o'clock.

Present, Geo B Waite—Common Councilman

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
Monday morning 16th March 1846

Present, R B Semple, Mayor

W A Jackson, Recorder

Geo B Waite, Hugh Scott, J McGuire, E Conway, C C Wellford, U H Bradshaw, A G Lucas—Common Councilmen

The Committee to who was referred the [Page 302] examination of the accounts of the Sergeant and Chamberlain of the Corporation made the following reports, viz;

On the Sergeant's acct "We the undersigned a committee appointed by the Common Council of Fredericksburg to examine the account of the Sergeant of the Corporation of Fredericksburg, as collector of Taxes & Rents of the Corporation have performed that duty and report that the account is properly stated and that the same is correctly balanced.

Given under our hands this 14th day of March 1846

C C Wellford, W A Jackson, Wm Allen—Committee"

On the Chamberlain acct

"The undersigned appointed a Committee to examine and settle the account of A Goodwin, Chamberlain of the Corporation, for the fiscal year ending this day, respectfully report that they have examined said

account and find the same correctly stated, the debits being supported by proper vouchers, and that there is a balance in the hands of the Chamberlain of one hundred and fifty five dollars and forty one cents. Given under our hands this 14th day of March 1846
C C Wellford, W A Jackson, Wm Allen—Committee”

Which reports being read and approved, were ordered to be entered on the minutes of the Council and said accounts to be filed.

The Sergeant of the Corporation returned lists of deferred taxes and rents for the year as follows, viz;
Of Taxes amounting to one hundred and forty two dollars and nineteen cents,
Of Rents, amounting to Eighteen dollars and thirty three cents.

The Sergeant also returned lists of insolvents as follows, viz;
Of whites amounting to one hundred and thirty five dollars and seven cents;
Of free colored persons amounting to seventy six dollars and twenty five cents

An account of J M Campbell for printing blanks &c for the Mayor’s office, amounting to five dollars was passed and ordered to be paid, also an account [Page 303] of J McGuire for work done on the Streets for sixty nine cents; and an account of A G Lucas for glass for Town Hall amounting to sixty cents.

Upon a statement of facts by J S Caldwell, Sergeant of the Corporation in relation to the leasehold interest held by him in the house now occupied by Richard Williams, and for reasons appearing to the Council, it was on motion, ordered that the Chamberlain of the Corporation pay to said Caldwell the sum of one hundred and twenty three dollars, being amount of purchase money for said interest paid by said Caldwell, say \$30, and the balance say \$93 being amount paid by said Caldwell for rents of said property in his settlement with the Corporation and for which he now holds the note of said Richard Williams, upon condition however, that the said Caldwell shall convey to the Corporation the interest held by him in said lease, and shall hold the note of said Williams to be collected for the use of the Corporation and to be accounted for by him to the Corporation when collected.

This being the day fixed by law for the election of twelve men to serve as Common Councilmen for the Corporation of Fredericksburg, until the 3rd Monday in March 1847 and until others are elected in their stead, and the freeholders and housekeepers being notified of such election, met at the Council Chamber and deposited their ballots, and upon counting the same it was found that the largest number of votes were given for the following persons to wit;

James McGuire	211
B S Herndon	211
Hugh Scott	196
E Conway	196
G B Waite	187
Thos F Knox	179
C C Wellford	170
Wm Allen	165
A G Lucas	154
J Curtis	146
U H Bradshaw	87
J W Lucas	82

Edwin Carter 76

The first twelve of whom were declared duly elected to serve as Common Councilmen of the Corporation of Fredericksburg until the 3rd Monday of March 1847 and until others are elected in their stead.

And then the Council adjourned.

R B Semple, Mayor

A Goodwin, CC

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Mayor's office 17th March 1846

Wm Allen, U H Bradshaw, J W Lucas, G B Waite, Hugh Scott, A G Lucas, B S Herndon, Thomas F Knox, James McGuire, C C Wellford and J Curtis, members elect of the Common Council of the Town of Fredericksburg met at the Mayor's Office and were sworn into office by the Mayor.

On motion the Salary of the Mayor for the present year was fixed at the sum of four hundred dollars.

The Council proceeded to the election of a Mayor when Robert B Semple, Esq was unanimously re-elected and took the several oaths of office before Beverley R Wellford, a justice of the peace for the Corporation of Fredericksburg.

Brodie S Herndon was then elected Recorder of the Corporation for the present year and was sworn into office by the Mayor.

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

Clerk of the Council	\$50
Chamberlain of the Corporation	\$100
Commissioner of the Revenue	\$60
Clerk of the Market	\$100
Jailor	\$50
Police officers (each)	\$100

A motion was made by Mr Bradshaw to fix the Compensation to the Collector of Taxes and Rents at 5 per centum on all collections, and the vote being taken by Ayes & Noes resulted as follows, viz;

Ayes, H Scott, U H Bradshaw, A G Lucas 3

Noes, J W Lucas, J McGuire, J Curtis, B S Herndon, C C Wellford, Thomas F Knox, G B Waite, Wm Allen 8

And then the commission was fixed at 10 pr cent on Taxes and 5 pr cent on Rents.

On motion ordered that the Bellman of the Corporation be allowed the use of the house and lot on the Court House Square rent free in compensation for his services for the present year.

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The Council then proceeded to the election of officers when Arthur Goodwin was elected Clerk of the Council and Chamberlain of the Corporation; John Metcalfe, Commissioner of the Revenue, M D Anderson, Clerk of the Market; J S Caldwell, Collector of Taxes and Rents; Bernard Cole and J S G Timberlake, police officers; John Minor, Surveyor of the Corporation, Jesse White, Bellman; L Pullen,

Measurer of Coal, Grain &c &c; Wm M Baggott, Inspector and Measurer of lumber, Plank &c &c; and Robert W Adams, Measurer of Wood for the Corporation.

A Goodwin, B Cole, J S G Timberlake, Wm M Baggott & M D Anderson were then severally sworn into office by the Mayor.

The following standing committees were appointed by the Mayor.

On Pumps, Thomas F Knox, Geo B Waite, A G Lucas, Jesse Curtis

On Streets, James McGuire, Hugh Scott, B S Herndon, James W Lucas

On Public Property, Wm Allen, E Conway, U H Bradshaw, C C Wellford

On motion ordered that the tax on Cart, Dray and Wagon license be fixed at the same rate as last year.

On motion ordered that the Clerk of the Council be and he is hereby authorized to contract for the printing during the year, with the publishers of the Town Papers.

An account of P Symon for interpreting a ticket written in Dutch, at the election on yesterday amounting to five dollars was presented for payment, and on motion laid on the table till the 3rd Monday in March 1847 by the following vote, viz;

Ayes, J W Lucas, Hugh Scott, J Curtis, U H Bradshaw, A G Lucas, Geo Waite 6

Noes, J McGuire, B S Herndon, C C Wellford and Thomas F Knox 4

William Allen declining to vote on the question

On motion it was ordered that the sum of fifty dollars be fixed as rent of the office now occupied [Page 306] by Doctor Raleigh T Browne, and that the Committee on Public Property be and they are hereby directed to ask said sum for it.

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 16th April 1846

Present, R B Semple, Mayor

B S Herndon, Recorder

Wm Allen, J Curtis, Geo B Waite, Hugh Scott, U H Bradshaw, James McGuire, A G Lucas—Common Councilmen

The Mayor stated that he had convened the Council to consider several matters and among others an application that a sett of surveying instruments be furnished by the Council to the Corporation Surveyor, which subject was on motion laid on the table for the present

The Mayor also brought to the notice of the Council the character of the railing before the house of Mrs Vass, which matter was on motion referred to the Street Committee for their action.

Mr E Conway, a member elect appeared, was qualified and took his seat at the Board and then asked leave to retire, having an engagement on hand stating at the time that if the subject of the purchase of

surveying instruments for the use of the surveyor of the Corporation be brought up again, that the purchase would meet his sanction as a member of the Council, and said subject being again brought up, a motion was made to postpone it until a further meeting of the Council which having failed it was then on motion, ordered that the Committee on Public Property be and they are hereby instructed to purchase a sett of instruments for the use of the surveyor of the Corporation.

On motion, it was ordered that the Mayor be authorized to purchase for the use of his office [Page 307] Robinsons Practice in 3 volumes, and the new edition of Tate's Digest, and to draw on the Chamberlain for the amount of such purchase.

The following ordinance was passed in the following words and figures, viz;
An ordinance repealing in part the ordinances passed 5th June 1844 entitled "An ordinance concerning sales of manufactured articles in the Streets &c of the Town of Fredericksburg."

Sect. 1 Be it ordained by the Mayor and Common Council of the Town of Fredericksburg, that the ordinance passed 5th Jun 1844, be and the same is hereby so far repealed as that each and every Baker and Manufacturer of any articles named in said ordinance who are citizens of this town, shall be permitted to have one salesman or carrier, who shall be allowed to sell in the Streets &c of the Town aforesaid, without a license, any article or articles named in said ordinance, which shall be made or manufactured by said Baker or manufacturer.

Sect 2. Be it further ordained that each and every person who shall sell such articles in the streets under the provisions of this ordinance and all others who shall take out a License under the ordinance of the 5th June 1844 shall have a card or ticket, signed by the Mayor of the Town, attached to his or her basket, or the basket of his or her salesman or carrier; and all persons vending such articles without such card or ticket attached to his or her basket as foresaid shall be liable to the same fines and penalties as if they had no license or authority to sell.

Sec 3. This ordinance shall be in force from and after its passage.

A motion was made and carried that the Clerk of the Council prepare an ordinance imposing a fine on all persons guilty of noisy or riotous conduct in the streets and that he submit the same to the Council at its next meeting.

On motion, it was Resolved that hereafter, a list of all persons returned insolvent by the Collector of Taxes in his annual settlement and whose taxes shall remain [Page 308] unpaid on the 1st July in each and every year thereafter, shall on that day be posted at the front door of the Court House of the Town, and that a list of all those returned by him in March last whose taxes shall not have been paid by the 1st July next, shall on that day be posted at the door of said Court House.

Ordered that the foregoing resolution be published in the newspapers of the town for four successive weeks.

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 May 1846

Present, R B Semple, Mayor

B S Herndon, Recorder

E Conway, J W Lucas, U H Bradshaw, Wm Allen, J Curtis, J McGuire, G B Waite, Hugh Scott—
Common Councilmen

The Mayor having called the attention of the Council to the existence of a nuisance in a stagnant pond of water near the Rail Road depot, on the lot of David Chapman's heirs, the following resolution was adopted by the Council, viz;

Resolved that a notice under the 4th section of the ordinance concerning nuisances be given to all persons owning lots within the limits of the Corporation upon which there is any sunken place containing stagnant water.

An ordinance to punish disorderly and riotous conduct in the streets of the Town was passed in the following words, viz;

Be it resolved by the Mayor and Common Council of the Town of Fredericksburg, that hereafter if any person, bond or free, shall be guilty of noisy, disorderly, or riotous conduct in the streets of the Town to the annoyance or disquiet of any citizen or citizens thereof, upon complaint thereof to the Mayor, or any justice of the peace for the Town aforesaid it shall be and is hereby made the [Page 309] duty of the Mayor or justice of the peace before whom such complaint shall be made to cause such person or persons to be arrested and upon proof that he, she or they were guilty of noisy, disorderly, or riotous conduct the Mayor or justice of the peace before whom such conviction shall take place shall in his discretion impose a fine of not less than one, nor more than five dollars; and if such offender be a minor or slave, the fine aforesaid shall be paid by the parent or guardian of such minor, or the owner or employer of such slave. Be it further ordained that when any fine shall be imposed under the provisions of this ordinance on any free person, it shall be the duty of the Mayor or Justice imposing it, if the fine be not immediately paid to issue an execution for the same, with costs, in the name of the Chamberlain, for the use of the Corporation of Fredericksburg; and if a slave be convicted of any offense under this ordinance and his or her owner or employer shall not pay the fine imposed, then such slave shall be punished by stripes at the discretion of the Mayor, or justice before whom such conviction shall take place, provided always, said stripes shall not exceed fifteen in number.

[side note] If the offender be a free Negro or slave order of the party so offending to be punished with stripes not exceeding

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

Doctor Herndon stated to the Board that Mess'rs Herndon & Scott asked permission of the Council to erect a paling in front of their factory, whereupon, on motion, it was resolved that permission be granted them on consultation with the Street Committee.

On motion the Council adjourned.

Signed

R B Semple, Mayor

H Scott, Clk pro tem

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At a meeting of the Common Council of the Town of Fredericksburg at the Council Chamber 26th May 1846.

Present, R B Semple, Mayor

Geo B Waite, E Conway, J McGuire, Wm Allen, Thomas F Knox, J W Lucas, A G Lucas—Common Councilmen

The Mayor state he had convened the Council at the instance of Mr John L Knight upon whom notice had been served as one of the persons upon whose lot, near the Rail Road Depot, there was a pool of stagnant water; And Mr Knight having appeared before the council and explained the manner in which said water is thrown back upon his lot, it was on motion,

Resolved that the Committee on Streets be instructed to abate the nuisance at the lower end of the town near the Rail Road depot and to report to the Council, the expenses incurred and what portion of said expense should be borne by the several lot owners and what by 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 10th June 1846.

Present, R B Semple, Mayor

B S Herndon, Recorder

Wm Allen, Hugh Scott, E Conway, J McGuire, J Curtis, Geo B Waite, James W Lucas, A G Lucas, U H Bradshaw, Thomas F Knox—Common Councilmen

The official bond of A Goodwin, Chamberlain 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.

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The Chamberlain having submitted his estimate of the receipts and expenditures of the fiscal year ending the 3rd Monday on March 1847, based upon the returns of the Commissioner of the Revenue, and Collector of the Rents of the Corporation, a motion was made and seconded that in addition to the assessment of taxes for the ordinary expenses of the Corporation for the present year the sum of two thousand dollars be raised for the purpose of discharging the Corporation debt to that extent, with the view however that said sum of two thousand dollars be ultimately applied to the subscription to the Rappahannock Canal Company on the part of the Corporation; which motion being rejected, it was then on motion,

Ordered that the taxes for the present year be as follows, viz;

On Real Estate, 4 pr 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 \$.75

On each horse \$1.25

On every carriage, Cariole, gig, Phaeton or pleasure carriage of any description of the value of \$100 or under \$1.50

And for each one above the value of \$100, 1½ per cent on the value thereof

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

The Mayor having submitted a report in writing as to the manner in which the Police Officers have discharged their duties for the present quarter, which being satisfactory, it was ordered that the Chamberlain pay their salaries for the present quarter.

Upon a representation of Mr Edwin Carter to the Council it was ordered that the Chamberlain of the Corporation refund to said Carter the sum of two dollars [Page 312] being a fine imposed upon him for his servant being found at large without a proper pass, after the hour prescribed by the Ordinance passed 17th April 1845.

The following accounts were passed and ordered to be paid, viz;
R B Semple's coroner for holding an inquest on the body of Edwin Daingerfield, five dollars;
B Cole & J S G Timberlake's constables, for summoning inquest &c five dollars and twenty cents;
An account of John Davis for whitewashing the Mayor's office \$1.25.

M W Bailey was appointed Measurer of Wood for the Corporation at the Depot of the Rail Road Co

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 15th Aug 1846.

Present, R B Semple, Mayor
Wm Allen, Hugh Scott, Thomas F Knox, Geo B Waite, A G Lucas, J Curtis and C C Wellford—Common Councilmen

The Mayor stated he had convened the Council for the purpose of taking some measures to prevent dogs from going loose or at large in the Streets, information having been lodged with him that several dogs were bitten by a mad dog during the last night. Whereupon on motion the following ordinance was adopted, viz;

Be it ordained by the Mayor and Common Council of the Town of Fredericksburg, that from and after the 18th day of August it shall not be lawful for the owner or owners of any animal of the dog kind to suffer the same to run at large within the limits of the Town aforesaid. And it is made the duty of the Police Officers of the Town and they are hereby required to destroy all animals of the dog kind, found going at large within the limits of the town, from and after the above date in any way, except by shooting, and for every dog so destroyed the police officers shall receive the [Page 313] sum of one dollar to be paid out of the funds of the Corporation upon satisfactory evidence being exhibited before the Mayor that the body of the dog has been removed beyond the limits of the town.

Be it further ordained that the Mayor of the town be, and he is hereby authorized from time to time, whenever he may deem it expedient to suspend the operation of this ordinance for a given period by issuing his proclamation to that effect.

The vote on the passage of the foregoing ordinance being taken by Ayes & Noes, was as follows; viz

Ayes, H Scott, J Curtis, Geo B Waite, C C Wellford, Thos F Knox, Wm Allen 6
Noes, A G Lucas 1

And then the Council adjourned.

R B Semple, Mayor

A Goodwin, CC

At a meeting of the Common Council of the Town of Fredericksburg at the Mayor's office Tuesday evening the 1st September 1846.

Present, R B Semple, Mayor

B S Herndon, Recorder

Wm Allen, James McGuire, James W Lucas, A G Lucas, Jesse Curtis, E Conway, Thomas F Knox, Hugh Scott—Common Councilmen

The Mayor stated he had convened the Council at the instance of Mr A J Marshall for the purpose of taking into consideration the subject of a change of the conditions of the transfer of the Stock of the Corporation in the Rappahannock Canal Company, heretofore transferred by the Corporation, viz, by an order of the Council of the 23rd October 1844; Whereupon on motion it was Resolved that the contract made by the Common Council with A J Marshall & others of the 23rd October 1844 on the subject of the Canal be rescinded and the Mayor is hereby instructed to transfer the Stock held by this Corporation in the Rappahannock Canal Company [Page 314] (60 Shares) to said A J Marshall upon the same terms & conditions that the assignment of stock held by private individuals has been made, and that the Mayor also be and he is hereby instructed to take from said Marshall a bond with security preserving all the conditions of the said contract of the 23rd October 1844, except that which reserves to the Council control of the said Stock.

The Ayes and Noes being taken on the passage of the foregoing resolution were as follows, viz;

Ayes, J W Lucas, E Conway, H Scott, T F Knox, A G Lucas, B S Herndon 6

Noes, J Curtis, W Allen, J McGuire 3

Matthew D Anderson was elected Measurer of Coal &c &c in the place of L Pullen deceased.

And then 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 18th 1846.

Present, R B Semple, Mayor

James W Lucas, E Conway, U H Bradshaw, T F Knox, A G Lucas, J Curtis, Wm Allen, Hugh Scott—Common Councilmen

In the absence of the Clerk of the Council occasioned by sickness, Hugh Scott Esq was appointed Clerk pro tem

A Petition was presented to the Council by J M Whittemore & F Slaughter a committee of the Union Fire Company as follows, viz

“To the Common Council of the Town of Fredericksburg

The undersigned committee on the part of the Union Fire Company were appointed to wait on your honorable body and request your to take into consideration the propriety of passing some ordinance for the safety of the firemen respecting the storage of gunpowder in Warehouses and stores within the limits of the Corporation which to the knowledge of [Page 315] the undersigned is kept in large quantities in buildings on the public streets at the great peril of the surrounding property and the lives of firemen. Respectfully submitted by Wm Whittemore, F Slaughter, Committee.

Which petition was referred to a committee of three, viz, Thomas F Knox, A G Lucas and H Scott who were directed to examine into the matter thereof and report to the next meeting of the Council.

The Mayor submitted a written report of the manner in which the Police Officers have discharged their duties for the present quarter, whereupon it was ordered that their salaries be paid.

The matter of allowing Dr Wm Browne compensation for vaccinating the poor of the Town was brought to the attention of the Council and on motion it was laid on the table.

The Ordinance concerning dogs was amended so as to authorize the Police officers to shoot all dogs found going at large in the Streets of the Town, as well as to destroy them in other ways.

And then the Council adjourned
R B Semple, Mayor
Signed, H Scott, Clerk pro tem

At a meeting of the Common Council of the Town of Fredericksburg at the Council Chamber Thursday evening 19th November 1846.

Present, R B Semple, Mayor
B S Herndon, Recorder

George B Waite, U H Bradshaw, Wm Allen, James McGuire, C C Wellford, A G Lucas—Common Councilmen

The Mayor stated he had convened the Council for the purpose of presenting a petition of A C Gowell, agent of Professor Samuel B Morse and his associates for the privilege of erecting [Page 316] and maintaining a line of posts through the limits of the town for the support of the wires of Morris Electric Magnetic Telegraph which it is contemplated said Morse and his associates will establish from Washington City to Richmond &c, which petition being read it was on motion, Resolved that said Morse and his associates have permission to erect a line of posts for the support of the wires of said telegraph along any of the Streets of this town under the direction of the Common Council thereof, provided such posts shall not obstruct the travel through the Street or streets which may be selected for the purpose, and provided further that the said Morse and his associates establish an office within the limits of the Town for the transmission of intelligence.

An account of Robert B Semple, Coroner, for holding an inquest upon the body of an unknown man found drowned at Donaldsons' Wharf amounting to five dollars was passed and ordered to be paid by the Chamberlain also an account of B Cole and J Timberlake, constables, for summoning an inquest upon said body and for a coffin &c amounting to nine dollars and twelve cents.

And then 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 23rd
November 1846 called by the Mayor.

Present, R B Semple, Mayor

James McGuire, George B Waite, Wm Allen, U H Bradshaw, Thomas F Knox, Hugh Scott, E Conway, A
G Lucas—Common Councilmen.

The Mayor laid before the Board a letter from Amos Kendall Esq accepting the permission contained in the Resolution passed by the Council on the 19th Inst in relation to Morse's Telegraph [Page 317] with this qualification viz "that the citizens of Fredericksburg shall aid Professor Morse and his associates in making such arrangements as to prevent the station required for their accommodation being a charge on them." Whereupon a motion, it was ordered that the Clerk of the Council inform Mr Kendall that, without amending the former resolution, the Council does not expect that the station to be established here shall be kept up at an expense to Professor Morse & his associates, but they believe it will be fully supported by the citizens & should it be ascertained that such will not be the case, they will not expect the station to be continued; it was further ordered that the Clerk communicate the fact, informally to Mr Kendall as an indication of public sentiment towards the support of the station, that one of our principal hotelkeepers has tendered an office in his hotel free of charge.

The Clerk was also directed by the Council to make enquiry of Mr Kendall of the probable expense of keeping up a station at this place.

And then 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
Wednesday the 16th December 1846.

Present, R B Semple, Mayor

George B Waite, A G Lucas, J McGuire, Eustace Conway, Hugh Scott, U H Bradshaw, Thomas F
Knox—Common Councilmen

The Mayor submitted a report in writing in relation to the manner in which the Police Officers have discharged their duties for the past quarter, which being satisfactory, it was ordered that the Chamberlain pay their salaries for the same.

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On motion it was ordered that the Mayor be requested to draught a Memorial petitioning the Congress of the United States to make this place a port of entry and to cause said petition to be circulated among the Citizens of the Town of their signatures.

On motion, it was ordered that the Mayor be requested to draught a petition to the Legislature praying an amendment to the Charter of the Corporation making it a qualification on the part of the voters for the members of the Common Council of this town that each voter shall have paid the taxes with which he

shall have been assessed the year previous to each annual election; and that he cause said petition to be circulated for the signatures of the Citizens thereto.

On motion the Council adjourned

R B Semple, Mayor

A Goodwin, CC