

Fredericksburg City Council Minutes 1849

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At a meeting of the Common Council of the Town of Fredericksburg at the Council Chamber on the 15th January 1849

Present, R B Semple, Mayor

B S Herndon, Recorder

Thomas F Knox, P Hough, J McGuire, Wm Allen, Hugh Scott, A G Lucas, L J Huffman, Wm Slaughter—Common Councilmen.

The Mayor stated the Council had been convened for the purpose of considering a memorial signed by numerous citizens of the Town, praying the repeal of the Ordinance concerning hogs passed the 26 December 1848, which being read it was on motion ordered that said ordinance be and the same is hereby repealed.

It was then on motion,

Ordered that the Ordinance of the Corporation now in force making it unlawful for hogs to run at large in the streets be and the same is hereby suspended until the first day of October next.

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 Monday evening the 22nd January 1849

Present, R B Semple, Mayor

B S Herndon, Recorder

James McGuire, C C Wellford, Wm Slaughter, H Scott, Thos F Knox, P Hough—Common Councilmen

The Mayor having announced to the Board in a few appropriate remarks the death of Malaleel W [Page 361] Carter one of its members, the following resolutions, on the motion of C C Wellford were adopted Resolved by the Mayor, Recorder and Common Council of the Corporation of Fredericksburg, that in the untimely death of our worthy and esteemed brother M W Carter, we are painfully reminded of the brevity and uncertainty of human life.

Resolved that we deplore his death as a public calamity, as a great loss to our body of which he was an intelligent, efficient and useful member deserving the full confidence of the community which he enjoyed in a high degree; as a loss to society of which he was an active upright and valued citizen, discharging with exemplary diligence all the relative duties of life.

Resolved that we deeply sympathize with his afflicted widow and surviving relative in this distressing dispensation and as a testimony of our respect for his memory we will wear crape on the left arm for one month and that we will attend his funeral at 3 O'clock tomorrow evening and follow his remains to the place of internment.

Resolved that these resolutions be published in the papers of the Town and a copy be forwarded to the widow of the deceased by the Clerk of the Council.

And then the Council adjourned.

R B Semple, Mayor

A Goodwin, CC

At a Council of Claims held at the Council Chamber, Thursday evening 15th March 1849 pursuant to notice.

Present, R B Semple, Mayor

B S Herndon, Recorder

Wm Allen, H Scott, W Slaughter, A G Lucas, James McGuire, C C Wellford, P Hough, Thos F Knox—
Common Councilmen

The Mayor having reported favorably upon the manner in which the Police officers had discharged [Page 362] their duties for the quarter, their salaries were ordered to be paid.

The Mayor rendered an account of fines received by him during the year, amounting to \$10.03 which sum was paid to the Chamberlain for the audit of the Corporation.

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

James D Harrow's for printing &c amounting to	\$5.66
Daniel & West for printing &c amounting to	\$7.00
News Office for printing &c amounting to	\$21.00
R B Semple for Wood for Mayor's office	\$10.38
John Davis for cleaning Mayor's office	\$9.00
L O Roberts for supper for guard	\$5.00
A Richards for glazing in Town Hall	\$2.34
Daniel Bradford for sundries	\$.50
H R Robey for fencing part burial ground	\$12.50
Wm M Baggett for work on bridge across footway	\$1.25
James Rawlings for sundries	\$.88
John H Maddox for sundries	\$3.50
Edw'd McDowell for stationary for Mayor's office	\$10.93
B S Herndon for cash paid for work on Street	\$1.00
John S Caldwell for sundries for jail	\$4.75

A motion to take up the account of Bernard Cole which was laid on the table 26th December last was made and negative; a motion to reconsider said motion having been carried, it was then ordered that said account be referred to the Attorney of the Commonwealth for the Corporation, for decision, the Council and the claimant to be bound by the said decision. Mr Cole being present and assenting to such reference and agreeing to be bound by said decision.

Ordered that the attorney for the Commonwealth be allowed a fee for the services to be rendered in making a decision in above case, the amount of said fee to be passed upon at a future meeting of the Council; Mr Wm Slaughter was requested to attend before the attorney for the Commonwealth and present the Corporation on said matter of reference.

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Hugh Scott, Wm Allen and B S Herndon were appointed a committee to examine the accounts of the collector of Taxes and Rents, and of the Chamberlain of the Corporation and make reports thereon to the Council on Monday Morning next at 9 O'clock.

And then the Council adjourned till Monday morning at 9 O'clock.

R B Semple, Mayor

A Goodwin, CC

At an adjourned meeting of the Common Council at the Council Chamber on Monday the 19th March 1849

Present R B Semple, Mayor

Wm Allen, Thos F Knox, Hugh Scott, Wm Slaughter, James McGuire, Peyton Hough, C C Wellford, A G Lucas—Common Councilmen

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

On the Collector's account "The undersigned a committee appointed by the Council to examine the account of the Collector of taxes of the Corporation for the fiscal year ending this day have performed that duty and report that the account is correctly stated and that it is properly balanced

March 19, 1849

Signed, Hugh Scott, Wm Allen."

On the Chamberlain's account, "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 examined said account and find the credits in said account properly entered and the debits supported by proper vouchers and find a balance in the hands of the Chamberlain of Four hundred and seventy-five [Page 364] dollars and five cents as per annexed account

Giver under our hands this 19th day of March 1849

(Signed) Hugh Scott, Wm Allen

The Collector of Taxes returned insolvent lists as follows, viz;

Insolvent Whites amounting to	\$227.22
Insolvent Blacks amounting to	\$137.00
List of Deferred Taxes of	\$308.62
Deferred Rents of	\$18.33

This being the day fixed by law for the election of twelve men to serve as Common Councilmen for the Town of Fredericksburg until the third Monday in March in the year 1850 and until others are elected in their stead, the freeholders and housekeepers 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;

Brodie S Herndon	219
Hugh Scott	218
James McGuire	212
William Allen	190
John B Alexander	175
Geo W Eve	141
Charles C Wellford	126
Landon J Huffman	124
John Minor	122

Peyton Hough	114
William Slaughter	113
Granville Gilman	111
John Pritchard	103

The first named twelve of whom were declared duly elected as Common Councilmen to serve until the third Monday in March 1850, and until others are elected in their stead.

And then the Council adjourned

(Signed)

R B Semple, Mayor

John S Caldwell, CC pro tem

Tuesday Evening, March 20th 1849

This evening William Allen, Hugh Scott, Charles C Wellford, James McGuire, William Slaughter, Peyton Hough, George W Eve, Granville Gilman, John B Alexander, John Minor, and Brodie S Herndon members elect of the Common Council for the Town [Page 365] of Fredericksburg met at the Council Chamber and severally took the oath of office before the Mayor.

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

The Council then proceeded to the election of a Mayor for the ensuing twelve months when Robert B Semple was unanimously re-elected and took the oath of office and the several oaths of a Justice of the Peace before Peter Goolrick, a Justice of the Peace for the Corporation of Fredericksburg.

The Council then proceeded to the election of a Recorder when Brodie S Herndon was duly elected and took the oath of office and also the several oaths of a Justice of the Peace before the Mayor.

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

Clerk of the Council	\$50
Chamberlain of the Corporation	\$100
Commissioner of the Revenue	\$60
Jailor	\$50
Clerk of the Market	\$100
Police officer (each)	\$125

The compensation to the Collector of Taxes and Rents for the current year was fixed at 10 per cent for collecting taxes and 5 per cent for collecting rents

On motion it was resolved that the Bellman have the use of, the dwelling house on the Court house lot, for ringing the Court House bell every night at 9 O'clock or at such other hour as the Council may hereafter direct.

The Ayes and Noes were taken on the foregoing resolution which resulted as follows, viz;

Ayes, B S Herndon, John Minor, John B Alexander, Geo W Eve, P Hough, C C Wellford, G Gillman, James McGuire and William Allen	9
Noes, Wm Slaughter, Hugh Scott	2

The Council then proceeded to the election of officers of the Corporation for the current year when [Page 366] the following persons were elected, viz;

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

John Metcalfe, Commissioner of the Revenue

Daniel Bradford, Clerk of the Market

John S Caldwell, Collector of Rents and Taxes

Jesse White, Bellman

B Cole and John Timberlake, police officers

John Minor, Surveyor

Matthew D Anderson, Measurer of Coal, Grain &c &c

Robert W Hart, Inspector and Measurer of Lumber, Wood, &c &c

John Minor, Daniel Bradford, Robert W Hart, Bernard Cole and John Timberlake were severally sworn into office.

On motion it was resolved that the Standing committees be the same as last year so far as the old members are concerned and that the vacancies in the committees be filled by the Mayor, which was accordingly done and the several committees are as follows.

On Pumps, William Allen, John Minor, Granville Gillman, George W Eve

On Streets, Hugh Scott, B S Herndon, Wm Slaughter, John B Alexander

On Public Property, C C Wellford, James McGuire, L J Huffman, Peyton Hough

The Clerk of the Council was authorized to contract with the publishers of the newspapers printed in the Town for the publication of the Ordinances &c during the present year.

The Tax for the present year on drays, Carts, & Wagons was fixed at the rates of last year.

The drayage from the Basin to the wharves was fixed at thirty five cents and from the Basin to any part of Commerce Street at fifteen cents.

On motion it was ordered that the Chamberlain pay Bernard Cole and John Timberlake five dollars each for services rendered in obtaining signatures to a petition asking the Legislature to impose a tax on Auctioneers.

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The following resolution was presented and passed.

Resolved that the Commissioner of the Revenue be and he is hereby directed to call upon every person subject to taxation or having property subject to taxation in his or her possession within the limits of the Town as established by the several acts of the Legislature of Virginia

Ordered that the Clerk of the Council furnish the Commissioner of the Revenue with a copy of the foregoing Resolution. (Copy of this resolution hand to J Metcalfe Comm'r Revenue, 23 Mar 1849)

On motion the Council adjourned.

R B Semple, Mayor

(signed) John S Caldwell, CC pro tem

At a meeting of the Common Council of the Town of Fredericksburg at the Council Chamber on Friday the 23rd March 1849

Present B S Herndon, Recorder

G Gillman, Wm Allen, Wm Slaughter, Geo W Eve, J B Alexander, James McGuire, John Minor, Hugh Scott—Common Councilmen

Arthur Goodwin, elected Clerk of the Council and Chamberlain appeared and took the oaths of office before the Recorder.

The official bond of Arthur Goodwin, Chamberlain with Reuben T Thom and John Coakley as securities in the penalty of five thousand dollars was submitted to the Board, read, approved and ordered to be filed by the Mayor. Also the bond of John S Caldwell, as Collector of Taxes & Rents in the penalty of five thousand dollars with Samuel Phillips and A K Phillips as securities.

On motion it was ordered that permission be granted Wm M Cannon to erect a shed or platform before his paint shop near E Lucas' stable, provided said shed or platform be so constructed as not to be an obstruction or inconvenience to persons passing on the footway.

Resolved that George W Eve, John [Page 368] Minor and Wm Slaughter be a committee to enquire into and report to the next meeting of the Council such additional subjects of taxation for the present year as may in their opinion be deemed necessary; also to enquire into and report the best method of laying an ad valorem tax on Slaves.

On motion the Recorder was added to said Committee

On motion the Council adjourned

B S Herndon, Recorder

A Goodwin, CC

At a meeting of the Common Council of the Town of Fredericksburg at the Council Chamber May 2nd 1849

Present R B Semple, Mayor

Geo W Eve, P Hough, L J Huffman, G Gillman, W Slaughter, Wm Allen, H Scott and Jas McGuire—Common Councilmen.

The Mayor stated that he had called a meeting of the Council for the purpose of asking attention to the present condition of the Streets which he represented to be in a very filthy state; whereupon a motion was made and carried that the Mayor request (thro' the Newspapers of the Town) the citizens to sweep the Streets before their doors on the second Saturday in each month, in order that carts, provided for the purpose may remove any filth or dirt on the Streets.

The Mayor is instructed by the Council to withhold his services from all persons residing contiguous to, but without the limits of the Corporation in all cases, unless the convenience or welfare of the citizens of the Corporation require such services.

On motion the Council adjourned

R B Semple, Mayor

H Scott, CC pro tem

At a meeting of the Common Council of the Town of Fredericksburg at the Council Chamber 15th May 1849

Present, R B Semple, Mayor

Wm Allen, P Hough, G Gillman, James McGuire, John B Alexander, Geo W Eve, J L Huffman—
Common Councilmen

Mr Wm Slaughter having accepted the appointment of a Justice of the Peace for the Corporation of Fredericksburg tendered his resignation as a member of the Council which was accepted and the Council proceeded to supply the vacancy when John Pritchard was unanimously elected and being present was qualified before the Mayor and took his seat at the Board.

L J Huffman, member elect appeared and was qualified before the Mayor

Present, Hugh Scott, C C Wellford—Common Councilmen

The Mayor called to the notice of the Board the proceedings of a Town meeting held on the [blank] day of [blank] 1849 in relation to the opening of the Rapidan River, at which Resolution were passed requesting the Council to petition the Legislature for the passage of an Act chartering a Company for the purpose of improving the navigation of said River; and at the same time praying the passage of an Act authorizing a vote of the Citizens of the Town to be taken on the question of a subscription on the part of the Corporation to the Capital or joint stock of said Company of a sum not exceeding fifty thousand dollars, which matter having been debated, a motion to postpone the consideration of the subject was made by Geo W Eve and failed, whereupon it was on motion, ordered that the proceedings of said meeting be responded to, by an application to the Legislature, on the part of the Council, of the passage of acts in accordance with the objects had in view by said meeting.

Ordered that the Mayor notify the citizens that hereafter carts will be provided for the removal of all filth deposited in the Streets before their respective doors or premises on every Saturday; and that they be requested to give attention to the cleansing of their lots and the Streets before [Page 370] their respective premises.

An account of E Francis for repairing the fence near the Male Charity School in March 1847, amounting to one dollars and fifty cents was passed and ordered to be paid by the Chamberlain.

The Committee appointed 23rd March 1849 to consider and report upon additional subject of taxation made a report recommending no alteration for the present in the subjects of taxation, but suggesting an application to the Legislature for an extension of the authority of the Corporation in embracing other subjects of taxation than its present Charter confers.

Mr Geo W Eve also made a written report recommending the ad valorem principle, sustaining the same by an argument in favor of his views, the consideration of which reports were on motion postponed until the next meeting of the Council

Present, John Minor—Common Councilman

Mr John Pritchard was placed upon the Street Committee in the place of Wm Slaughter, resigned.

And then on motion the Council adjourned till Tuesday next at 8 O'clock PM
R B Semple, Mayor
A Goodwin, CC

At an adjourned meeting of the Common Council of the Town of Fredericksburg on the 22 May 1849.

Present, R B Semple, Mayor

B S Herndon, Recorder

P Hough, W Allen, G Gillman, J Pritchard, G W Eve, L J Huffman, J McGuire, J B Alexander, J Minor,
Hugh Scott—Common Councilmen

The report of the Committee in relation to the increase of subjects of taxation having been called up, a motion was made to adopt the report of the Majority of the Committee which was lost by the following vote, viz;

Ayes, J Minor, B S Herndon, J McGuire, W Allen 4

Noes, L J Huffman, H Scott, J B Alexander, Geo W Eve, P Hough, J Pritchard, G Gillman 7

The report of the minority of this Committee being then under consideration [Page 371] and a motion by Mr Eve to amend the report by striking out the words "Books and Maps" having failed, a vote was taken on the adoption of the same and result at follows, viz;

Ayes, Eve, Pritchard, Gillman 3

Noes, Minor, Huffman, Scott, Alexander, Hough, Herndon, McGuire, Allen 8

A motion to discharge the committee from further consideration of said subject was then carried and the following were appointed a new committee to consider said subject and report thereon without delay, viz;
H Scott, L J Huffman, J McGuire, Geo W Eve

A motion was made by Mr Eve that a petition signed by many citizens praying the adoption of the *ad valorem* principle in the assessment of taxes, be the basis of action for said committee and being put to the vote was rejected.

Mr Eve then asked permission to withdraw the petition present by him, which was grant and the same was withdrawn.

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 the 29 May 1849.

Present, R B Semple, Mayor

B S Herndon, Recorder

P Hough, G Gillman, Wm Allen, H Scott, Jas McGuire, L J Huffman, Geo W Eve, C C Wellford, John Pritchard, J B Alexander—Common Councilmen

A memorial to the Legislature embodying the substance of the order of the Council of the 15th current in relation to the improvement of the Rapidan River was presented to the Board, read, adopted and ordered to be transmitted to the Legislature now in session.

The Committee appointed at the last meeting of the Council made a report recommending the continuance of the present subjects of taxation and in addition thereto the following, viz;

“Goods, wares and merchandise”

“Household [Page 372] and kitchen furniture” also “articles of every other description kept for sale”

“hogs and dogs” and the vote ordered to be taken on each item in said report separately, before taking the vote at the suggestion of several members that the legal advice of the attorney for the Commonwealth might be of service in their deliberation, a motion was made and carried that he be requested to attend and having appeared and given his opinion on sundry questions arising in the discussion of the several items, the Council proceeded to vote and each item in the report was adopted, with the exception of that of “dogs” which not being deemed property in the opinion of the Commonwealth Attorney were therefore not subject to taxation under the Charter of the Corporation. The vote on adopting the item of “Goods Ware & merchandise” being taken by Ayes and Notes was as follows, viz;

Ayes, Alexander, Huffman, Eve, Pritchard, Hough, Scott & Gillman 7

Noes, Herndon, Wellford, McGuire, Allen 4

It was then ordered that the Attorney for the Commonwealth be requested to draught an ordinance prescribing the mode in which the Commissioner of the Revenue shall take lists of the articles enumerated in the foregoing report.

The following ordinance prescribing certain sanitary regulations and for other purposes was presented by H Scott, read and passed.

1. Be it ordained by the Mayor and Common Council of the Town of Fredericksburg that the sum of three hundred collars be and it is hereby appropriated for the following sanitary purposes, to wit; To the hiring as many scavengers, horses, and carts as may be deemed necessary by a committee hereafter named for the purpose of cleansing the public streets, bye-ways, lanes and other places where any filth or nuisance may exist, and for conveying the same beyond the limits of the Corporation and where it cannot be prejudicial to health or comfort.
2. That it shall be the duty of the Police officers of this Corporation to visit and inspect at least once in every week every lot within the limits of this Corporation and whenever any nuisance shall be found upon any lot, the occupier if one, if not, the owner shall be required to remove the same and at the cost and charges of the party [Page 273] offending including a fee of fifty cents to the officer in every case to be recovered upon warrant before any justice of the peace for the Corporation aforesaid.
3. That it shall be the duty of the said Police Officers to visit and inspect the suburbs of the Town once a week at least, and should nuisances of any kind be there discovered, shall notify the occupier if any, if not, the owner of such lot on which the nuisance exists and request him or her to remove the same forthwith, and upon refusal to give information to the Mayor or some other Justice of the Peace that the offender may be proceeded with according to Law.
4. That the Sergeant of the Corporation be requested to make application to all persons residing near the suburbs of the town but out of the limits of the Corporation for a fair and just contribution towards the expense of removing impurities and abating the nuisances which exist there.
5. That the Mayor, Recorder, Hugh Scott, J B Alexander and John Pritchard Esquire, be appointed a committee with power to make contracts, hire scavengers, and if need be superintendents, horses and carts to purchase lime or other disinfecting agents, to rent a house for a hospital and provide what is necessary and proper to render the same a place of refuge and comfort to the destitute, whether a stranger or resident, and to take all other means that may be deemed proper to ward off the Cholera and to afford aid and comfort to those unable to sustain the expense; and it is ordered that the drafts on the Chamberlain by

the Committee or any two of them shall be sufficient authority for the payment within the limit of the appropriation aforesaid.

6. That the Police Officer who shall faithfully discharge the duties hereby enjoined shall upon the certificate of the Committee appointed by the 5th section of this ordinance be allowed in addition to their salary the sum of six dollars each weekly and shall also have 20 per cent upon the sales of hogs and recoveries of fined required by this ordinance.

7. That the said Committee make application in the name of the Mayor and Common Council to the medical practitioners in this Corporation requesting them [Page 374] to form a Board of Health, to give to the Committee under the 5th section advice as to the plans to pursue to attain the object designated by this ordinance, and if in their opinion it is proper, that they will from time to time in the public papers issue admonition and advice to the public touching regimen, diet, clothing, or such other matters as they deem advisable.

8. That no person hereafter shall erect or keep a hog pen or keep a hog within any house within the limits of this Corporation and any person so offending, if a free person shall forfeit and pay to the Corporation the sum of \$1 for every day such hog pen or hog shall be kept and shall, moreover be liable to have the said nuisance abated by a police officer, and shall pay the costs thereof to be recovered by warrant before a Justice of the Peace of this Corporation; and the owner of any slave who shall permit or being informed by a police officer that his slave has a hog-pen and the same shall not be abated within the period aforesaid, shall pay the penalties aforesaid, recoverable as aforesaid; and the slave so offending shall upon conviction of the said offense be punished with stripes at the public whipping post not exceeding thirty nine for every said offense.

9. That no slave, free Negro or Mulatto shall raise or keep hogs within this Corporation and any free Negro or Mulatto offending against this ordinance shall be liable to a fine of five dollars for each and every hog so kept by him or her, and shall forfeit all hogs so kept; and any slave so offending shall be punished with not less than ten or more than thirty nine lashes and shall forfeit to the Corporation all hogs found in his or her possession.

10. It shall not be lawful for any dog or animal of the dog kind to run at large in the streets of the Town aforesaid; all dogs so found running at large shall be killed by the Police Officers or such other person or persons appointed by the Mayor for that purpose and the same shall be removed and buried without the limits of the town foresaid, and said Police Officers or such other person appointed by the Mayor as aforesaid shall [Page 375] receive for such services a fee of fifty cents for each and every dog so killed, removed and buried.

11. That it shall be the duty of the several Police Officers of this Corporation immediately to take charge of all the hogs in the 9th section of this ordinance mentioned and which shall hereafter be found in the possession of any slave, free Negro or Mulatto, the hogs to be sold under the direction of the Mayor, and the proceeds of such sales and all fines recovered under this ordinance shall be paid over to the Chamberlain for the use of the Corporation.

12. Nothing in this ordinance contained shall prevent any butcher or butchers of the Town aforesaid from keeping hogs in his or their lots adjoining the Slaughter houses of said butcher or butchers; for the purpose of consuming the offal from said slaughter houses, provided said hogs exceed not five in number at any one time, and provided also said hogs be kept in open and spacious lots, and not in pens or stys. This ordinance shall be in force from and after the 10th June 1849.

A motion to rescind the order of the Council of the 2nd current instructing “The Mayor to withhold his services from all persons residing contiguous to, but without the limits of the Corporation, in all cases unless the welfare or convenience of the citizens of the Corporation require such services,” was made by Mr Eve and rejected.

On motion 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 on the 31st May 1849.

Present, R B Semple, Mayor
Geo W Eve, Wm Allen, H Scott, G Gillman, J Pritchard, James McGuire, L J Huffman, P Hough, C C Wellford, [Page 376] J B Alexander—Common Councilmen

An ordinance prepared by the Commonwealth attorney under the order of the Council at its last meeting was submitted to the Board and after sundry amendments was passed in the following words and figures to wit;

Be it ordained by the Mayor and Common Council of the Town of Fredericksburg

1a That in addition to persons and property heretofore subjected to taxation; that all goods, wares and merchandise and all articles, whether of domestic or foreign growth or manufacture, kept for sale; all household and kitchen furniture, and all hogs owned by white persons (whether the same be subject to the fines under the ordinance of the 29 Inst or are running at large within the limits of this Corporation, shall be subject to taxation.

2a That all persons owning property above described shall render true statements of the value thereof to the Commissioner of the revenue when they shall be required by him and all persons refusing or neglecting so to do, or who shall under false or fraudulent statements of the value thereof shall be subject to the same proceedings by the Commissioner of the Revenue to ascertain the true value thereof and to the same fines and penalties to be recovered in the same manner and before the same tribunals upon the same proceedings by the Commissioner of the Revenue as is prescribed by the bye-laws and ordinances of this Corporation in relation to other taxable property.

3a As a means of ascertaining the value of goods, ware and merchandise in the possession of any retail, wholesale, or commission merchant, the Commissioner of the Revenue may at the request of such person, assume as the value thereof that such person has then in his possession goods, wares and merchandise to the value of one-third of the amount of such person's actual sales of the preceding year.

4a Any person who may agree with the Commissioner of the Revenue as to the value of all of his or her property hereby made taxable (except goods, wares, and merchandise) shall be exempted from the necessity of rendering statements [Page 377] of the value thereof as is required by the second section of this ordinance.

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

On motion 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 on the 4th of June 1849.

Present, R B Semple, Mayor
B S Herndon, Recorder
Geo W Eve, L J Huffman, J Pritchard, J B Alexander, James McGuire, Hugh Scott—Common Councilmen

On motion it was ordered that the street Committee be and they are hereby directed to notify Winter Bray that unless he opens and continues to keep open the drain or ditch before the gateway or entrance into the Hazel Hill property so that the water may at all times have a free passage from the streets into and through said drain or ditch, that the gate and railing belonging to said bray and which extends at the point across a public street will be removed forthwith, under the superintendence of said Committee.

On motion 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 on Monday the 25th of June 1849.

Present, R B Semple, Mayor

B S Herndon, Recorder

James McGuire, John Pritchard, Geo W Eve, J L Huffman [Page 378] P Hough, G Gillman, J Minor, C C Wellford, J B Alexander—Common Councilmen

The Mayor having reported in writing as to the manner in which the Police Officers had discharged their duties for the quarter ending the 3rd Monday of the month, and said report being satisfactory so far as John G Timberlake was concerned, it was ordered that his salary be paid by the Chamberlain, and the same being unfavorable as to the proper discharge of his duties by Bernard Cole, one of the Police officers action was suspended upon that portion of the report until a committee to be appointed for the purpose, examine into and report upon the charges of dereliction of duty contained therein.

C C Wellford and John Minor were appointed a committee to enquire into and investigate the charges against B Cole contained in the quarterly report of the Mayor and report thereon to the Council.

The Chamberlain having submitted estimates of the receipts and expenditures of the Corporation for the current year; the first based upon the returns of taxable property by the Commissioner of the Revenue, and the rents of the property of the Corporation, the following tax bill was passed viz;

Be it ordained by the Mayor and Common Council of the Town of Fredericksburg that the taxes for the present year be as follows, viz;

On real estate 3½ per cent on the annual value thereof

On each white male above the age of 16 years \$1.00

On each slave above the age of 16 years \$1.00

On each slave between the age of 12 & 16 years \$.75

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

On each horse \$1.25

On every carriage, Cariole, Gig, Phaeton, or pleasure carriage of any description of the value of \$100 or under \$1.75

And for each one above the value of \$100, 2 per cent on the value thereof

On goods, wares and merchandise, 20 cents in every \$100 of assessed value

On every hog, shoat, or pig 50 cents each

Ordered that the hog tax be collectable by the Police Officers under regulations hereafter to be prescribed by the Council.

And then 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 on the 12th September 1849.

Present, R B Semple, Mayor
G Gilman, J McGuire, H Scott, J Pritchard, Geo W Eve, Wm Allen, L J Huffman, J B Alexander—
Common Councilmen

The Mayor stated that in making the last quarterly report in relation to the performance of their duties by the Police officers he had been misinformed on the subject of the charges contained therein against Bernard Cole and that the same were withdrawn; whereupon the payment of Cole's salary by the Chamberlain upon being informed by the Mayor of such withdrawal of the charges in said report was sanctioned.

The Mayor having reported favorably as to the discharge of their duties by the Police Officers for the quarter ending on Monday next, their salaries were ordered to be paid by the Chamberlain.

The following preamble and Resolution offered by Geo W Eve was adopted.

Whereas the body being informed that the Hustings Court of the Corporation did at its July Term pass an order for the building of a new Court house and assessed a tax of \$2 per tythe, which has since been abated to \$1; and further that the said Court has obtained from the County Court of Spotsylvania an order purporting to be a session of the Court House and Jail and the lots on which they now stand to the said Hustings Court on conditions &c; and whereas this body believing that the right of property in said Court house, Jail, and lots on which the said buildings are located is in the Corporation of Fredericksburg; and with all due deference to the opinion of the Court as to their power to levy for the purpose of building a new Court House, yet doubting their authority to do so, therefore

Resolved that James McGuire and Geo W Eve, Esquire, be a committee to wait upon the Court [Page 380] at its session tomorrow and respectfully request the Court to suspend further proceedings in the levy aforesaid for the purpose of erecting a new Court house until the October Term of the Court that the Council may have time to investigate the title to said property and also the authority of the court to levy upon the citizens of the town a tax for the purpose aforesaid.

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 16th October 1849.

Present, R B Semple, Mayor
Geo W Eve, Wm Allen, J McGuire, G Gillman, H Scott, J Minor, J Pritchard, J B Alexander—Common Councilmen.

The following regulations prescribing the mode of collecting the annual tax upon hogs, pigs & shoats were adopted.

Ordered that the tax upon Hogs, shoats and pigs assessed for the present year, as also all assessments upon the same in any future year shall be collectable by the Police Officers of this Town for the time being under the following regulations, viz;

1. That said tax shall be due from the time of its assessment and shall be collectable in ten days thereafter, as all other taxes laid by the Council and the Police Officers shall in each and every year, give public notice thereof by hand bill, or advertisement in some one of the newspapers printed in the Town.
2. That all hogs, shoats and pigs found running at large in the streets, upon which the tax assessed thereon shall not have been paid by the owner or owners, shall be liable to be seized and sold for the payment of the tax; and it is hereby made the duty of the Police Officers to take up all such and sell them at public auction at the time when and in the Street where taken.

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3. That the Police Officers shall have a commission of 25 per cent on all taxes collected by them under this order and in all cases of seizure and sale a further commission of 25 per cent on the amount of said sale; the surplus thereof after deducting the tax and commission to be paid over to the owner of the hogs, shoats or pigs so sold.
 4. That all taxes collected by virtue of this order shall be paid over to the Chamberlain for the use of the Corporation and it shall be the duty of the Police Officers to pay over the same quarterly, and at the time of such payment shall render to the Chamberlain a list of all persons who shall have paid said taxes, which list shall be submitted to the Council at their next meeting after it shall have been made.
- Granville Gilman voted in the negative on the foregoing regulations and his vote recorded by the permission of the Council.

On motion the following resolution was passed.

Resolved that so much of the Ordinance passed the 29th May 1849 as declares “that no person shall hereafter erect or keep a hog-pen or keep a hog within any house with the limits of this Corporation be and the same is hereby suspended until the 1st January 1850.

The following ordinance was read and passed.

An ordinance amendatory to an “ordinance passed June 23rd 1829, to prevent the straining or breaking of horses and to prevent persons riding on the footways”

Be it ordained by the Mayor and Common Council of the Town of Fredericksburg, that the first section of that ordinance be so amended as that no drayman, cartman, wagoner, or other person shall drive any horse or horses (when attached to any dray, cart or wagon) within the limits of the Town aforesaid faster than a walk; every free person offending herein, shall forfeit and pay to the Mayor and Commonalty of the Town of Fredericksburg one dollar for every offense; and if a slave offend herein and be convicted before a justice of the peace, he shall receive ten lashes on his bare back, but the punishment may be commuted by his owner or employer paying one dollar and costs, to the use of the Corporation.

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An account of Wm Beazley for running the boundary lines of the Town under an order of the Council, and making a plat thereof, amounting to seven dollars and ninety eight cents was passed and ordered to be paid to the Mayor for the use of said Beazley.

The Mayor presented the Board a claim of George T Chew, based upon an order of the Hustings Court, of the 27 May 1839, in the following words, viz;

“The Court doth order that the Chamberlain of this Corporation do pay to George F Chew, the sum of ten dollars for his services in taking down the evidence upon the trial of slaves, Phil Harrison, Henry, John and Nelson severally charged with felony

A Copy,

Teste

J J Chew, C C H F

Which claim was ordered to be laid on the table.

The following resolution offered by Mr Geo W Eve was read and rejected.

Resolved that the Committee on public property be and they are hereby directed to examine into the condition of the Court House and report to the Council at the next meeting what repairs and improvements thereon may in their opinion be deemed necessary.

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 Friday the 9th November 1849.

Present, R B Semple, Mayor

G Gilman, W Allen, P Hough, L J Huffman, J B Alexander, J McGuire, J Minor, C C Wellford—
Common Councilmen

The Mayor stated the Council had been convened at the instance of the Sergeant of the Corporation who being present informed the Council that in compliance with the wishes of several of the Citizens upon whom he had called for the levy of twenty five cents per head recently made by the Hustings Court to defray the expenses incurred by the Commissioners appointed by the Court to build a new Court House he had suspended action under said levy with the view of [Page 383] presenting the bills for expenses incurred by said Commissioners to this body for the purpose of ascertaining whether said bills should be paid out of the funds of the Corporation and thereby supersede the necessity of said levy; Whereupon a motion was made to pay said bills and the vote being taken by Ayes and Noes resulted as follows, viz;

Ayes, Alexander, Huffman, Gilman, Wellford 4

Noes, Minor, McGuire, Hough, Allen 4

There being a tie the Mayor gave the casting vote in the affirmative and the motion was carried. It was then ordered that the Chamberlain do pay the following bills, viz;

J Renwick Jr, Architect pr \$90.

T B Barton’s 5.

George F Chew’s 10.

Amounting in all to \$105.

A memorandum of a bill of Wm M Baggett for \$25. Not being sustained by evidence that the same was erected under the authority of said Commissioners, not being passed upon.

On motion 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 on Friday evening the 30th November 1849.

Present, R B Semple, Mayor

B S Herndon, Recorder

John Minor, Geo W Eve, J Pritchard, P Hough, J McGuire, William Allen, G Gilman, Hugh Scott, L J Huffman, J B Alexander—Common Councilmen

A resolution directing the Committee on Public Property to examine into the condition of the Court House to take the opinion of competent mechanics as to repairs necessary to the same and report to the Council the probable cost thereof was submitted by Mr Eve and rejected by the following vote, viz;

Ayes, Eve, Gilman, Hough, McGuire, Allen 5

Noes, Huffman, Alexander, Minor, Pritchard, Herndon, Scott 6

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The Mayor stated that having received official notice from the holder of the Bond of the Corporation to the Rappahannock Company for \$8000 that the said Bond was due, he had convened the Council for the purpose of taking such action in the matter as might in their opinion be deemed necessary towards the fulfillment of the obligation of the Corporation; Whereupon, after due consideration it was on motion of Mr Allen, Resolved that the Mayor of the Corporation be and he is hereby directed to make application on Tomorrow to the Directors of the two Banks in this Town, as to individuals who may be disposed to lend the amount to the Corporation and ascertain the probability of obtaining a temporary loan of \$3000 towards the partial discharge of the said bond and report to the Council tomorrow evening at 6 O'clock.

On motion it was resolved that James McGuire, H Scott and Geo W Eve be a committee to enquire into and report to the Council at an early day, such measures in their opinion after due enquiry and investigation may be deemed necessary to be taken towards raising the funds for the entire discharge of the Bond of the Corporation to the Rappahannock Company, for eight thousand dollars and also all other matters pertinent to the subject of enquiry contained in this resolution

Absent L J Huffman, Common Councilman

Ordered that hereafter in the measurement of wood by the public measurer, 128 feet be deemed and taken to be a cord.

Ordered that the Committee on public property be and they are hereby directed to purchase a dozen and a half suitable chairs for the Council Chamber.

On motion the Council adjourned till tomorrow evening at 6 o'clock

R B Semple, Mayor

A Goodwin, CC

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At an adjourned meeting of the Common Council of the Town of Fredericksburg at the Council Chamber on Saturday evening the 1st December 1849.

Present, R B Semple, Mayor

B S Herndon, Recorder

Wm Allen, James McGuire, J Minor, C C Wellford, Geo W Eve, Hugh Scott, L J Huffman, G Gilman, John Pritchard—Common Councilmen

The Mayor having made a verbal report of his action under the order of the Board of yesterday's date shewing the probability of the Corporation being able to effect a temporary loan of \$3000, from the two Banks and the Act of Assembly of the 20th January 1845, referred to in the Bond of the Corporation to the Rappahannock Company having been read at length to the Board as also the report of the Board of Public Works of the State approving and accepting the work of said Company; it was then on motion, ordered that application be made by the Mayor in the name and behalf of the Corporation to the Farmers Bank and Bank of Virginia in this place on their next discount days respectively for a temporary loan of \$3000, that is to say of \$1500 from each Bank, or the whole amount from either Bank should the other decline and in the event of said loan being effected, the Mayor and Recorder are hereby authorized in their official capacity to execute and sign as payee and endorser a note or notes (as the case may be) at 60 days according to the custom and usages of said Banks, the Council hereby pledging the faith and audit of the Corporation for the payment of the principal and interest of said loan and it is further ordered should occasion require a continuance of said loan for a longer period than 60 days that the Mayor and Recorder of the Corporation for the time being shall execute and sign other note or notes in continuance or renewal of said debt either in whole or in part according to the custom and usages of said Banks.

During the funding of the foregoing proposition R B Semple, Mayor and John Minor Common Councilman withdrew on leave, the Recorder taking the chair upon the withdrawal of the Mayor.

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On motion the Council then adjourned to Friday evening next at 6½ o'clock.

B S Herndon, Recorder

A Goodwin, CC

At an adjourned meeting of the Common Council of the Town of Fredericksburg at the Council Chamber on Friday evening the 7th December 1849.

Present, R B Semple, Mayor

B S Herndon, Recorder

P Hough, James McGuire, Geo W Eve, Wm Allen, John Pritchard, C C Wellford, J B Alexander—
Common Councilmen

The Mayor reported to the Board that in obedience to the order of the last meeting, he had made application to the Farmers Bank for a temporary loan of \$1500 which was declined by said Bank; and also that he had requested the President of the Board of Directors of the Bank of Virginia and one of the Directors of said Bank to present an application to the Board at their meeting this day for a loan of \$3000, which application upon enquiry of the cashier of said Bank, he understands was not submitted by the parties promising to present it to the Directors of said Bank

Present, John Minor, Common Councilman

A motion made by Geo W Eve to suspend action for the present on the matter of raising funds to meet the payment of the \$8000 bond to the Rappahannock Company and that application be made to the Legislature for the passage of an Act authorizing the issue of scrip for the whole amount of the Corporation debt, was put to the vote and rejected.

On motion of John Minor it was

Resolved that the property of the Corporation be pledged for the payment of the existing debt of the Corporation and that scrip be issued and offered for sale for the sum of \$8,000 under the authority of an Act of the General Assembly passed January 6th 1846, authorizing a [Page 387] subscription on the part of the Mayor and Common Council of the Town of Fredericksburg for the purpose of effecting the improvement of the Rappahannock River from said Town to the Mouth of Carter's Run in Fauquier County; and that application be made without delay to the Legislature for authority to issue scrip for the sum on \$22,000 being the remainder of the Corporation debt and when obtained that scrip be issued for the same and the proceeds thereof applied to the discharge of the debts due from the Corporation to the Banks.

Resolved that the Mayor, Recorder, James McGuire, C C Wellford, John Minor and the Chamberlain of the Corporation be and they are hereby appointed a Committee to prepare a scheme for the purpose of carrying out the foregoing resolution and report the same to the Council.

An account of Jesse White for lighting up the Court House for the accommodation of a meeting of the citizens amounting to fifty cents was passed and ordered to be paid.

The Mayor made a written report in relation to the manner in which the Police officers had discharged their duties for the quarter to end the third Monday in this month, which being satisfactory, their salaries were ordered to be paid by the Chamberlain.

On motion ordered that the 2nd section of the ordinance entitled "an ordinance to prevent the discharge of fire arms or crackers and to prevent boys from playing or flying kites in the streets" be suspended from the 20th of this month to the 2nd January 1850, so far as the firing or setting off of crackers alone are concerned.

On motion the Council then adjourned.

R B Semple, Mayor

A Goodwin, CC

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