

Fredericksburg City Council Minutes 1851

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The Council met pursuant to a call by the Recorder at the Council Chamber Monday evening Jan'y 6, 1851

In the absence of the Mayor the Recorder took the Chair and called the Council to order.

Present, Wm Allen, C C Wellford, H Scott, J Minor, John Pritchard, L J Huffman, J B Alexander, James McGuire—Common Councilmen

The Clerk of the Council being absent from sickness, John McGuire was appointed Clerk pro tem

The Recorder stated that the Council had been called together to take into consideration the propriety of memorializing Congress upon the subject of the erection, in the Town of Fredericksburg, of a National Monument in honor of General Hugh Mercer of Revolutionary memory.

Whereupon, Mr John Minor presented and read the following memorial which was unanimously adopted, viz;

Whereas Congress by a resolution dated the 8th April 1777, directed that a monument should be erected in the Town of Fredericksburg, Virginia to the memory of General Hugh Mercer, who fell at the Battle of Princeton [Page 441]

And whereas we are informed that a movement has been made to obtain an appropriation from the present Congress to fulfill the pledge given by the Continental Congress and that steps have been taken to procure a charter from our State Legislature for a Mercer Monument Association for the purpose of appearing before our National Legislature in a more authoritative manner and we approve of the said movement both in our own individual and Corporate capacities, and believing it is particularly desirable at this time that all means should be adopted to recall to recollection the struggles and trials of the Revolution and revive the hallowed association connected with the Patriots & Heroes of our past history and thereby teach the value of our present institutions, therefor be it

Resolved that we the Common Council of the Corporation of Fredericksburg do most heartily approve the objects of the said Mercer Monument Association, and do earnestly recommend it to the special attention of Congress, with the hope that their request may be granted.

Be it further Resolved that we request the Senators and Representatives from Virginia to use their influence to obtain such appropriation as may be deemed necessary in furtherance of the said design.

Be it further resolved that a copy of those resolutions be properly authenticated by the Clerk and forwarded with the Memorial of the said Association to our Representative in Congress.

And then on motion the Council adjourned.

B S Herndon, Recorder

Signed, J McGuire, Clerk pro tem

At a meeting of the Common Council of the Town of Fredericksburg at the Council Chamber on Friday evening the 17th Jan'y 1851

Present, R B Semple, Mayor

Wm Allen, John Minor, Geo W Eve, J Pritchard, J McGuire, J Sanford, L J Huffman, J B Alexander—Common Councilmen

The Council was convened for the purpose of appointing a proxy to represent the Stock of the Corporation at an adjourned meeting of the Stockholders of the Fred'sburg [Page 442] and Valley Plank

Road, to be held at the Town Hall this evening at 7½ o'clock; Whereupon on motion of Mr Geo W Eve it was ordered that three persons be elected proxies to represent the Stock of the Corporation at said Meeting or any other that may be held between this the third Monday in March next, and John S Caldwell, J Sanford, and W S Chesley were duly elected by ballot.

An account of Wm Slaughter amounting to ten dollars for a Map of the Town shewing the limits as proposed to be enlarged was passed and ordered to be paid by the Chamberlain.

The Mayor informed the Council that the Governor had consented to let the Corporation have the use of a Cannon, with the understanding that a suitable and proper cover or shed be provided to protect it from the weather; Whereupon on motion of Mr Allen, the matter of providing a suitable shed or cover for the same was referred to the Committee on Public Property.

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 5 Feb'y 1851
Present, B S Herndon, Recorder
L J Huffman, J Pritchard, Geo W Eve, J McGuire, J Minor, J B Alexander, J Sanford—Common Councilmen

The Recorder state the Council had been called for the purpose of considering a matter touching the interests of the Town, to wit; An application from the Citizens of Falmouth and others, to the Legislature for a charter and an appropriation to construct a canal from Falmouth tapping the Rappahannock Canal at Minor's dam; Whereupon on motion it was ordered that the Recorder and Mr John Minor be and they are hereby appointed a committee to prepare a counter Memorial to said application to be presented to the Legislature.

Mr Geo W Eve, at the instance of Mr John Coakley brought to the notice of the Council the fact that part of the house near the old Market House pump extends [Page 443] upon the said Coakley's premises and that he requests the Council to cause the same to be remove; whereupon on motion the subject was referred to the Committee on Public Property for action thereon.

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 on the 8th Feb'y 1851
Present, W Allen, J Sanford, L J Huffman, J Pritchard, P Hough, J Minor, C C Wellford, Jas McGuire, Geo W Eve, J B Alexander—Common Councilmen, the Mayor and Recorder being absent.

The Council we organized by called Wm Allen to the Chair, and in the absence of the Clerk from indisposition, J S Caldwell was appointed Clerk, pro tem.

Mr Sanford informed the Council that they had been convened for the purpose of getting the Council to express an opinion whether the Corporation proxies had expressed the sentiment of the people of the Town when they voted against approving the report of the President and Directors of the Plank Road Company at a meeting of the Stockholders of said Company held on the 24th Ult it having been represented to the Board of Public Works by the proxy of the State that they had truly reflected the opinion of the people in that vote; Whereupon Mr Huffman moved that the report of the President and Directors of the Fredericksburg and Valley Plank Road Company made to the Stockholders at the meeting of said Company on the 24th Ult be adopted, which motion was carried in the affirmative.

On motion it was ordered that the Clerk transmit a copy of the proceedings of the Council to the President of the Fredericksburg & Valley Plank Road, now in the City of Richmond.

On motion, the Council adjourned
Wm Allen, Chr
Signed, J S Caldwell, Clerk pro tem
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At a meeting of the Common Council of the Town of Fredericksburg at the Council Chamber, Feb'y 11 1851

Present, R B Semple, Mayor
W Allen, J Sanford, G W Eve, P Hough, L J Huffman, J B Alexander, J Pritchard, J McGuire—
Councilmen

The Mayor stated he had convened the Council for the purpose of considering more at length what measures it might be necessary to take in regard to the application now before the Legislature for authority to construct a branch of the Rappahannock Canal to Falmouth.

A Memorial and remonstrance was presented and read by the Mayor, setting forth our objections to the scheme, and protesting against the grant of authority asked for.

The Memorial was unanimously adopted and a committee of three appointed to perfect and forward the same to our delegate in said Committee to consist of W Allen, John Minor, and Geo W Eve; and on Motion the Mayor was added to the Committee.

The following preamble and resolution was offered by John Minor and adopted, viz;
Whereas it has been represented to this Board that Doctor B R Wellford is going to Richmond, therefore, Resolved that it be communicated to him by the Mayor that this Council will hold it good service if he would use such influence as he may possess in opposition to the memorial lately presented by Falmouth for a Charter and appropriation to divert the water of our River from the Canal of the Rappahannock Company to the great injury of this Town as well as of the said Company.

Ordered that hereafter a tax of three dollars for each day shall be levied on all exhibitions within the limits of this Town where pay is required (other than scientific & literary lectures) to be collected by the Collector of the Taxes as other taxes are collected.

The following accounts were presented and ordered to be paid by the Chamberlain, viz;
Jesse White, amounting to \$1.50

J B Alexander's for taxes improperly assessed \$7.00

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An account of Ficklen & Brower for Coal for the Jail amounting to 3.75 was ordered to lie on the table.

It was, on motion, ordered that the ordinance regulating the measurement of wood be amended in this, that a cord of wood shall be 4 feet 4 inches high well packed, instead as a present, and to require that all wood brought to this market by water shall be measured.

And then the Council adjourned

R B Semple, Mayor

Signed, Jas McGuire, Clerk pro tem

At a meeting of the Common Council of the Town of Fredericksburg at the Council Chamber 24 Feb'y 1851

Present, R B Semple, Mayor

W Allen, J B Alexander, J Sanford, J McGuire, J Pritchard, L J Huffman, P Hough, C C Wellford, J

Minor, H Scott, Geo W Eve—Councilmen

The Mayor stated the Council had been convened at the instance of the Collector of Taxes for the purpose of obtaining instructions in relation to the execution of the order of the Council of the 11th Inst imposing a tax on all exhibitions where pay is required, other than scientific and literary lectures, and the Collection being present informed the Council that in attempting to execute said order in the case of Monsieur Adison for recent exhibitions in the Citizens Hall, the proprietors of said Hall objected to the power of the Council to impose such tax and that by agreement with said proprietors the matter had been referred to the Council for their consideration.

Whereupon after due consideration, said order of the 11th Inst was rescinded so far as exhibitions in any licensed Hall and Musical concert are concerned.

The following ordinance taxing the proprietors or occupiers of public rooms used for exhibitions was passed;

Be it ordained by the Mayor and Common Council of the Town of Fredericksburg, that a tax of \$40 per year be and the same is hereby imposed upon the proprietors or occupiers of any public room fitted for public exhibitions, who permit the same to be used for such purposes; and any proprietor or occupier of such public [Page 446] room or rooms who shall permit any exhibition in said room or rooms without paying the tax and obtaining a license shall pay a fine of \$20, and be liable also for the tax, which tax shall be recoverable forthwith.

Be it further ordained that said tax shall be paid to the Chamberlain of the Corporation who shall give his receipt therefor and the license be issued by the Mayor to the party paying the same.

This ordinance shall be in force from its passage.

A memorial of the Fredericksburg Guards praying pecuniary aid for the purpose of keeping up said company, and also the use of the Town Hall for the purpose of drilling, therein, was presented by Captain Wm S Barton and being read by him was on motion of Mr Allen laid on the table until after the 3rd Monday of March next.

The Mayor, H Scott and J Sanford were appointed a Committee to go to Richmond for the purpose of asking the aid of the State towards the opening of the south branch of the Rappahannock River.

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 4
March 1851

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

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

Applications from W L Shepherd and Mrs Richard Maury to be refunded certain taxes paid by them for
the present year were submitted to the Council and on motion were laid on the table.

Ordered that the Chamberlain of the Corporation be directed in all application to take out licenses to sell
cake & [?] in the Streets from this date, to charge at the rate of \$10 per year until the 1st April next, at
which time said [Page 447] license shall expire.

The Mayor reported to the Board the result of the visit of the Committee to Richmond to obtain the aid of
the State towards the opening of the Rapidan River, stating the obstacle in the way of obtaining the aid of
the State in the shape of a subscription of \$100,000 of the stock of the Rappahannock Canal Company
towards said improvement to be the holding by Colo Pickett Withers of certain bonds given by
individuals conditioned for the completion of said improvement by a certain time; and suggested that said
obstacle may be removed by the payment of a consideration to said Withers to surrender said bonds to the
obligors.

Whereupon H Scott and Jas McGuire were appointed a committee to confer with Colo Withers and
ascertain what he would be willing to take for the surrender of said bonds to the obligors, in the event that
the State should subscribe the aforesaid \$100,000 of the stock of the Rappahannock Canal Company
towards the improvement of the Rapidan River; and to report to the Council together with any other
information they may obtain pertinent to the matter referred to them.

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
Thursday the 6th March 1851

Present, R B Semple, Mayor

W Allen, L J Huffman, J McGuire, J Pritchard, H Scott, J B Alexander, G W Eve, John Minor—Common
Councilmen

The Committee appointed at the last meeting of the Council reported that they had conferred with Colo
Withers on the subject matter referred to them and Colo Withers being present would himself submit to
the Board a proposition on the subject.

Colo Withers, then arose and stated that he would surrender the bonds held by him for the consideration of the sum of two thousand dollars to be paid by the Corporation and the Rappahannock Canal Company; whereupon the [Page 448] following resolution to wit;

Resolved that the Corporation will pay to Colo Pickett Withers the sum of \$1000 for the surrender to the obligors of certain bonds held by him (amounting to about \$40,000 and given for the improvement of the Rapidan River) provided a subscription of \$100,000 in cash or its equivalent on the part of the State, towards the opening of said river can be, or shall be obtained at the present session of the Legislature; was offered and the vote being taken by ayes and noes resulted in the following, viz;

Ayes, John Minor, J B Alexander, L J Huffman, H Scott, James McGuire 5

Noes, W Allen, J Pritchard, G W Eve 3

So the resolution was adopted.

Mr James McGuire was then appointed a delegate to go to Richmond and attend to the prosecution of said subscription on the part of the State.

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 8 March 1851

Present, R B Semple, Mayor

B S Herndon, Recorder

John Pritchard, W Allen, P Hough, Geo W Eve, H Scott, J McGuire, John B Alexander, L J Huffman—
Common Councilmen

The Mayor stated the Council had been convened to hear the report of Mr James McGuire, the delegate to Richmond to invoke the aid of the State towards the opening of the Rapidan river.

Mr McGuire then made a verbal report of the results of his efforts towards effecting the object of his mission and stated that Mr John Baker, one of the proprietors of and representing the Rappahannock Canal Company was present and wished to submit a proposition to the Council on said subject.

Whereupon the following resolution and Memorial was offered by Mr Hugh Scott at the instance and request of Mr Baker, who pledged himself that the said Memorandum should be signed by the other proprietors of said canal, and should be binding on said Company in the [?] of the adoption of said Resolution of the Council.

“Resolved that Major Oscar M Crutchfield, the delegate from [Page 449] this County be requested to advocate the bill now depending before the Virginia Legislature for the relief of the Rappahannock Company provided he can procure an amendment thereto to the following effect, to wit;

That the stock to be held by the State in the Rappahannock Company by authority of the pending law, shall be transferred to the Corporation of Fredericksburg, for the purpose of being applied to the improvement of the Rapidan River or failing in this then the following amendments, viz;

That the stock to be held by the State in the Rappahannock Company by authority of the pending law shall be transferred to a Company to be incorporated and to be styled “the Rapidan Company” to improve the Rapidan River”

Memorandum

We bind ourselves to use all legal means to transfer and secure to the Rapid Ann Company for the purpose of improving the Rapid Ann, the gross tolls derived by the Rappahannock Company from

tonnage ascending from Fredericksburg or descending to Fredericksburg and passing over the works of the Rappahannock Company which shall come from the Rapid Ann River or which shall be destined to pass up said River; this arrangement is to commence when boats begin to convey tonnage from the Rapid Anne River to Fredericksburg and is to continue for ten years thereafter.

It is the purpose of this agreement to secure the gross tolls of the trade of the Rapid Ann, for the above period to the Rapid Ann Company, but said gross tolls are to be deducted from the proceeds of the tolls on the Rappahannock River before dividends are declared else the Rapid Ann Company would receive the said gross tolls under this arrangement and also divide on the same subject as Stockholders of the Rappahannock Company.

We make this agreement in consideration that the Corporate authorities aid us in the application now depending before the Legislature
(signed) A J Marshall, Jno Baker

And the vote on the adoption of the resolution being taken by ayes and noes resulted in the following, viz;
Ayes, Pritchard, Eve, Hough, Herndon, Scott 5
Noes, Huffman, Alexander, McGuire, Allen 4
So the resolution was passed and a copy thereof was ordered to be transmitted to Mayor Crutchfield by the Clerk of [Page 450] the Council.

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

At a Council of claims held at the Mayor's office on the 13 March 1851
Present, R B Semple, Mayor
P Hough, W Allen, Geo W Eve, J Pritchard, J McGuire, J B Alexander, J Minor, H Scott—Common Councilmen

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

Jesse White's for blank warrants	\$3
R B Semple's for wood	\$9.75
John Davis'	\$9
J J Rollow & Co	\$20
D Bradford's	\$1
Ball & Scotts	\$1
J S Caldwell's	\$1.20
J D Harrows	\$.75
E McDowell's	\$7.25
Wm Allen's	\$11.74
J A English	\$.50
Waite & Sener's	\$12.14
W S Chesley	\$2.40
James McGuire's	\$8.25
J Sanford's	\$14.50
J J Chews	\$20.81
J S Caldwell's	\$21
W S Barton's	\$8.50

H Scott	\$21
R B Semple's	\$24
L D Robert's	\$2.25
B Coles	\$8.47

The following accounts heretofore laid on the table were taken up, and the following ordered to be paid, viz;

Ficklen & Brown's	\$3.75
Mrs R H Maury's	\$2.25

Mr L Shepherd's for refunding amount of taxes paid by him amounting to eight dollars was rejected

Ordered that the Sergeant of the Corporation have [Page 451] credit in his account by \$2.28 for over assessment on house and lot in the name of the estate of Geo Chapman, dec'd on his tax book.

Ordered that the salaries of the Police Officers for the present quarter be paid, the Mayor having reported favorably

H Scott, P Hough and J B Alexander were appointed a committee to state and settle the accounts of the Collector of Taxes and the Chamberlain of the Corporation and report thereon to the Council on Monday Morning, next

On application by the Hustings Court and the Grand Jury of the Corporation for that object, it was ordered that a poll be opened on Monday next to take the sense of the voters of the Corporation on the subject of building a new Court House.

On motion, the Council then adjourned

R B Semple, Mayor

A Goodwin, CC

At an adjourned meeting of the Common Council of the Town of Fredericksburg at the Council Chamber on Monday Morning the 17th March 1851

Present R B Semple, Mayor

J Sanford, J Pritchard, J B Alexander, P Hough, G W Eve, H Scott, J McGuire, Wm Allen—Common Councilmen

The Committee appointed to examine and settle the account of the Chamberlain and Collector made the following reports which were approved and ordered to be entered upon the minutes, viz;

On Collector's Acct, "The undersigned a committee appointed to examine the account of the Collector of Taxes for the year ending this 17 day of March 1851, report that they have performed that duty and that the account is properly stated and correctly balanced.

Given under our hands this 17th day of March 1851.

(signed) Hugh Scott, Peyton Hough, J B Alexander"

On the Chamberlain's account, "The undersigned committee appointed to examine and settle the account of the Chamberlain of the Corporation respectfully report that they have performed that duty and find the credits in said account to be correct, the debits supported by proper vouchers, and that there is a balance of \$1369.83 in the hands of the Chamberlain.

They beg leave also to report that said account exhibits [Page 452] as a credit to the Corporation the proceeds of a note for \$800 at 120 days being, the amount authorized by an order of the Council of the 9th July 1850 to be raised by the Chamberlain, to meet the first installment to the Fredericksburg and Valley Plank Road and that said note at its maturity appears as a debit in said accts that during the year as appears by said account, \$4000, has been paid to J S Armstrong, the holder of the Bond of the Corporation to the Rappahannock Company and \$2000 to the Fredericksburg and Valley Plank Road on account of the subscription of the Corporation to said improvements. They further report that the scrip book of the Corporation has been exhibited to them by the Chamberlain and shows the issue to this date of \$7,100 of the bonds of the Corporation of which amount \$5,000 has been issued to the Hazle River Navigation Company on account of the subscription of the Corporation to said improvement and \$2,100 sold, which last sum appears to the audit of the Corporation in the Chamberlain's account of the \$5,000 issued to the Hazel River Navigation Company, \$3,000 dated the 2nd Dec last; They are informed by the Chamberlain is still in his hands, no person authorized to receive the same having called for it; they are further informed by the Chamberlain that he is not aware of the existence of any outstanding claim against the Corporation for the fiscal year terminating this day, except the interest due on the 1st February last on the \$5000 stock issued to the Hazel River Navigation Company which would have been promptly paid, but no call has been made upon him for it. All of which is respectfully submitted
Signed, Hugh Scott, Peyton Hough, John B Alexander
Fredericksburg, March 17, 1851

Said accounts were then ordered to be placed on file by the Clerk.

The Committee also reported that the Deferred taxes & Rents of last year had been settled by the Collector in his settlement this year with the exception of \$18.33 due by Ann Smock for ground rent; nothing having been received on the Insolvent lists, and it was ordered that the Collector have credit for the amounts account for by him, in the account of the Chamberlain for said subjects as directed to be kept by and order of the Council of the 24th April 1850

The Collector returned the following lists of deferred taxes and rents for the present year, viz;

Taxes

Jan Helmstatter on house & lot	\$9.40
Mary W Pearsons on house & lot	\$18
Louisiana Rothrock on house & lot	\$9
P Spilman on house & lot	\$3.84
Margaret Magrath on house & lot	\$8.40
Ann Smock on house & lot	\$4.50
W K Smith on house & lot	\$12.30
W K Smith on personal property	\$15.25
John McPherson on houses & lots	\$13.50
Amounting in all to	\$94.19

Of Rents

Anne Smock	\$18.33
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He also returned the following lists of insolvents and removals, viz;

Insolvent whites amounting to	\$194.11
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Removals	\$67.98
Insolvent Blacks	\$74

The Committee also made a further report on the subject of the insolvent lists, which on motion was laid on the table for the present.

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

<i>Freds'burg News</i> office	\$22.50
S G Daniels	\$1.25

And the following for taxes improperly charged upon affidavit being made by the parties to that effect, viz;

James D Harrow, for tax on 1 white 1850	\$2.25
Geo B Scott for 1 horse, 1848 \$1.50, slaves & horse 1849 \$2.25, Slaves '50 \$2.25 [total]	\$6.50

On motion it was Resolved that all non-residents who are free holders of the town shall be allowed to vote for Councilmen and all persons resident in Town above 21 years of age who have been assessed with and have paid their taxes for the preceding year, even if they shall not be house keepers, shall be allowed to vote.

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 3rd Monday in March 1852 and until other are elected in their stead, the voters 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;

Jos Sanford	235
Thos F Knox	203
Wm Allen	201
H Scott	200
J J Berrey	169
F Slaughter	155
John Minor	151
C C Wellford	150
L J Huffman	139
D H Gordon	133
B S Herndon	129
J Pritchard	126
Thos A Ball	115

The first named twelve of whom were declared duly elected as Common Councilmen to serve until the 3rd Monday in March 1852 and until others are elected in their stead.

A poll was opened under the order of the Council of the 13th Inst to take the sense of the voters on the question of building a new Court House and resulted as follows, viz;

For it	170
Against it	112
Majority	58

And then the Council adjourned

R B Semple, Mayor
A Goodwin, CC
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Council Chamber 18 March 1851

Wm Allen, J Sanford, D H Gordon, J Pritchard, C C Wellford, Thos F Knox, H Scott, F Slaughter, J Minor & B S Herndon, members elect of the Common Council of the Town of Fredericksburg met at the Council Chamber and severally took the oath of office before the Mayor

On motion the salary of the Mayor was fixed at the sum of four hundred dollars per annum.

The Council then proceeded to the election of a Mayor when R B Semple, Esq was re-elected and took the several oaths of office before Wm Slaughter, Esq, a Justice of the Peace for the Corporation of Fredericksburg.

Doct B S Herndon was re-elected the Recorder and took the several oaths of office before the Mayor

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

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

The use of the house on the Court House square free of rent was allowed the Bellman in consideration of his services as bellman during the year.

The fixing the salaries of the Police Officers for the year and their election was postponed for the present, as also the compensation to the Collector of Taxes and on motion of Mr J Pritchard it was ordered that a committee be appointed to take into consideration the latter subject and report thereon to the next Council. John Pritchard, Hugh Scott, D H Gordon were appointed the Committee under the foregoing order

The Council then proceeded to the election of officers of the Corporation for the current year when A Goodwin was elected Clerk of the Council and Chamberlain of the Corporation

J Metcalfe, Commissioner of the Revenue
James N Campbell, Clerk of the Market
John S Caldwell, Collector of Taxes & Rents
Jesse White, Bellman

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John Minor, Surveyor
M D Anderson, Measurer of Coal, Grain &c
R W Hart, Inspector & Measurer of Wood, Lumber &c &c

Ordered that the present Police officers be continued in office at their present salary until the further order of the Council.

A Goodwin, J Minor, R W Hart, James N Campbell severally took the oaths of office before the Mayor.

On motion, ordered that the Mayor appoint the standing Committees for the current year and that he report the same at the next meeting of the Council and in the meantime the vacancies in the present committees be filled as follows, viz;

Thos F Knox & D H Gordon on Public Property

F Slaughter on Pumps

J J Berrey on Streets

On motion of Mr Allen, the whole subject of regulation of the Police of the Town was referred to a committee to be taken into consideration and reported on at the next meeting of the Council.

W Allen, C C Wellford, Hugh Scott were appointed said Committee.

On motion, F Slaughter, T F Knox and B S Herndon were appointed a Committee to take into consideration the subject to taxing drays, carts and wagons and to report to the Council.

On motion, it was ordered that the Chamberlain of the Corporation be and he is hereby authorized to raise the sum of one thousand dollars, the faith of the Corporation being pledged hereby to pay the amount so raised out of the revenue of the current year; which sum together with \$1000 of the fund now at hand, so in all \$2000, he is hereby directed to pay to the Secretary and Treasurer of the Freds'burg and Valley Plank Road Company being the installment on the Corporation subscription to the Stock of said Road, called for by order of the Directory of said Company on the 10th January last

On motion the Council then adjourned

R B Semple, Mayor

A Goodwin, CC

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At a meeting of the Common Council of the Town of Fredericksburg at the Council Chamber on Tuesday Evening the 1 April 1851

Present, R B Semple, Mayor

B S Herndon, Recorder

J Pritchard, Wm Allen, F Slaughter, J Minor, H Scott—Common Councilmen

J J Berrey, member elect appeared and was qualified before the Mayor

The Mayor appointed the following standing Committees

On Streets, William [Allen], T F Knox, J J Berrey, F Slaughter

On Public Property, C C Wellford, J Sanford, B S Herndon, D H Gordon

On Pumps, H Scott, J Minor, J Pritchard, L J Huffman

A fee bill of the Clerk of the County Court amounting to \$7.41 was passed and ordered to be paid by the Chamberlain.

Present, T F Knox, Councilman

The *Fredericksburg News & Democratic Recorder* were selected by ballot as the Papers in which the ordinances of the Corporation are to be published during the year.

A Motion made by F Slaughter that a synopsis of the proceedings of the Council be published in the Newspapers selected for the publication of the Ordinances free of charge and that the Clerk of the Council be allowed a reasonable compensation for furnishing the same was passed.

An account of John James Chew for \$14.21 was passed.

The Committee appointed to report upon the Compensation of the Collector of taxes made a report, which on motion was laid on the table.

On motion the foregoing report was taken up and being amended, was adopted; Whereupon it was ordered that all persons who shall pay their taxes before the 1st August shall be entitled to a deduction of 5 per cent, all who shall pay between the 1st August and 1st October 2½ per cent that the Compensation of the Collector of taxes and rents be fixed a 5 per cent Commission and the Collector of Taxes and rents be charged interest on all deferred taxes and rents returned by him in his annual settlement.

The Committee appointed to consider the subject of [Page 457] taxing drays, carts and wagons made a report which was read and a motion being made to adopt the same it was rejected

A Motion made by Wm Allen to fix the tax on drays, carts and wagons at the same rate as last year was also rejected.

On motion the following taxes on licenses for the present year was passed, viz;

On drays & carts used for hire	\$6.25
On Wagons	\$10
On hacks & carriages	\$10
On carryalls & buggies	\$5

The tax on Hacks, carriages, carryalls & buggies to be collected by the Collector of Taxes, and the licenses to be issued by the Commissioner of the Revenue, as in the case of drays & carts

On motion of F Slaughter it was resolved that t Committee of three be appointed to enquire into and report some plan under the laws of the new Code for reorganizing the fire department of the Town, and Mess'rs F Slaughter, J Minor and John Pritchard were appointed the said committee.

Ordered that the Commissioners named in the Act of the Legislation extending the limits of the Town be and they are hereby authorized to draw on the Chamberlain for any expenses necessary to be incurred by them in carrying out the provisions of said act.

Mess'r T B Barton, J J Chew, J Minor, Wm Allen and B R Wellford were appointed a committee to consider the subject of the location & erection of a new Court House and report thereon all matters connected with the costs, style, and site of said building &c &c

Mr William Allen, chairman of the Committee on Police asked further time to report which was granted

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 Saturday Evening the 26 April 1851

Present, R B Semple, Mayor

B S Herndon, Recorder

C C Wellford, F Slaughter, Thos F Knox, D H Gordon, J Pritchard, Wm Allen, J Minor, H Scott, L J Huffman—Common Councilmen

[Page 458]

Thos B Barton, Esq, Chairman of the Committee appointed to consider the subject of the site & erection of a new Court house presented a report of the majority of the Committee (Mr William Allen dissenting therefrom) and read the same to the Board, accompanying it with verbal statements of the plan of said building and estimates of the costs as made out by J Renwick Jr Esq, Architect; the said estimates not to exceed the sum of \$14,000 over and above the materials in the present building and including therein the removal of the Jail, Engine house and Clerk's office and the building of a new jail of the back part of the lot, which report was approved and confirmed and on motion it was ordered that the said Committee do take such steps as they may deem expedient to contract for the said buildings within the estimates of James Renwick Jr, Architect, and said Committee be and they are hereby empowered to make such contracts subject however to the approval of and ratification of the Council.

On motion the Council then adjourned till Tuesday evening next at ¼ past 4 o'clock.

R B Semple, Mayor

A Goodwin, CC

At an adjourned meeting of the Common Council of the Town of Fredericksburg at the Council Chamber on Tuesday evening the 29th April 1851

Present, R B Semple, Mayor

B S Herndon, Recorder

W Allen, J Pritchard, L J Huffman, T F Knox, J Minor, F Slaughter—Common Councilmen

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

An account of John S Caldwell for his expenses to Richmond to attend to the interests of the Town, in opposing the petition before the General Assembly about the Falmouth Canal, amounting to \$29.50 was passed and ordered to be paid.

An account of John N Fisk for glazing amounting to [Page 459] \$1.76 was referred to the Committee on Public Property

Present, H Scott & C C Wellford, Councilmen

The Commissioners under the Act of Assembly attending the limits of the town made a written report stating they had run the boundary lines and recommend that the Surveyor of the Corporation cause stones to be planted to designate the boundaries, which report was adopted and the Surveyor was accordingly ordered to have suitable stones planted under the superintendence of said Commissioners.

On motion it was ordered that the Commissioners named in the foregoing Act of Assembly be and they are hereby authorized to draw on the Chamberlain for the expenses incurred in the survey of said boundaries and planting said stones.

On motion of Wm Allen, the Memorial of the Fredericksburg Guards was taken upon and without any definite action thereon was again laid on the Table.

Wm Allen, the chairman of the Committee on the Police made the following report, viz;
The Committee to whom the subject of police was referred by the Council recommend that the town be divided into three districts, that an officer be appointed for each, whose duty it shall be to reside therein and to take special care thereof, and also of the town, throughout; to be elected to serve during the pleasure of the Council and to receive a salary of two hundred dollars per annum each, payable quarterly provided their duties be faithfully performed; that from the northern boundary of the Town to Lewis Street (from the River to the back line) to be 1st District; From Lewis to Wolfe Street to be the 2nd and from Wolfe Street to the southern boundary to be the 3rd District; and in order to secure the services of the Fredericksburg Guards who will do police duty, when called upon by the proper authority, an appropriation of one hundred dollars per annum payable quarterly be made that Company, the Committee would likewise recommend that the members of the Council be requested to report any negligence on the part of the officers, that may come to their knowledge from their own observation or the information of others, in order that the proper remedy may be applied promptly; all of which [Page 460] is respectfully submitted

Signed, Wm Allen, C C Wellford, H Scott, Committee
Which report was adopted.

A motion of W Allen to permit the Fredericksburg Guards to have the use of the Town Hall for purposes of drill was put to the vote and indefinitely postponed.

On motion the Council then proceeded to ballot for Police Officers for all three districts, when the following persons were elected, viz;

For the 1 st District	Bernard Cole
For the 2 nd District	John Timberlake
For the 3 rd District	Gilbert J Hunt

On motion the appropriation of one hundred dollars per annum to the Fredericksburg Guards, provided for in the foregoing report of the Police Committee was ordered to be paid quarterly upon the report of the Mayor as in the case of the Police officers

B Cole, John Timberlake and G J Hunt were severally qualified before the Mayor.

John Pritchard, B S Herndon and H Scott were appointed a committee to report upon the subject of taxation for the present year.

On motion ordered that the Sergeant of the Corporation be directed to hire out all free Negroes who shall not have paid their taxes for the past year, in accordance with the State law on the subject.

On motion the Council adjourned
R B Semple, Mayor

G Goodwin, CC

At a meeting of the Common Council of the Town of Fredericksburg at the Council Chamber on the 15 May 1851

Present, R B Semple, Mayor

B S Herndon, Recorder

Wm Allen, J J Berrey, J Pritchard, L J Huffman, C C Wellford, J Sanford, F Slaughter—Common Councilmen

The official bond of John S Caldwell, Collector of Taxes & Rents [Page 461] in the penalty of five thousand dollars with Samuel Phillips and A K Phillips as securities was submitted to the Board approved and ordered to be filed by the Mayor.

Present, Thos F Knox, D H Gordon—Common Councilmen

On motion, ordered that the ordinances of the Corporation be published in the *Virginia Herald*

Ordered that the ordinance taxing dogs for the last fiscal year be re-enacted for the present year to into effect on 1 June next

On motion an application of the Sons of Temperance to rent the Town Hall was referred to the Committee on Public Property for action thereon.

An application of J J Rollow & Co to use the cross street opposite their work shop for a distance no exceeding ten feet from the curb stone until the 15 August next for the purpose of putting their wheat and other machines was granted provided it do not incommode the public.

Ordered that the Commissioner of the Revenue be required to list all property subject to taxation within the limits of the town as held by the owner or owners thereof, on the 1st day of April last which is hereby made the beginning of the present fiscal year.

On motion the Council adjourned.

R B Semple, Mayor

A Goodwin, C C

At a meeting of the Common Council of the Town of Fredericksburg at the Council Chamber on Wednesday the 21 May 1851

Present, R B Semple, Mayor

B S Herndon, Recorder

W Allen, J Pritchard, D H Gordon, L J Huffman, J Sanford, Thos F Knox, F Slaughter, J Minor—Common Councilmen

The Mayor stated the Council had been convened for the purpose of appointing proxies to represent the Stock of the Corporation at the Annual meeting of the Stockholders of the Fredericksburg and Valley Plank Road Company to be held today, and also at any other meeting until the 3rd Monday in March next. Whereupon it was ordered that three proxies be appointed and the following gentlemen were elected on the first ballot, viz; Thos F Knox, L J Huffman, J Pritchard, Esquires.

On motion the Council then adjourned
R B Semple, Mayor
A Goodwin, CC
[Page 462]

At a meeting of the Common Council of the Town of Fredericksburg at the Council Chamber on the 31
May 1851

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

J Sanford, D H Gordon, F Slaughter, J Pritchard, C C Wellford, T F Knox, J J Berrey, W Allen, J
Minor—Common Councilmen

A petition of J W Mitchell asking that the trees planted by him on George St from Main to Water Streets
be permitted to stand, was granted upon the condition that the same will be removed by him at the
pleasure of the Board

Present, L J Huffman, H Scott—Common Councilmen

A contract with Wm M Baggott for building a new Court House, Jail &c for the sum of \$13,850, together
with drawings & specifications of said buildings made by James Renwick Jr, Architect and to be taken as
part of said contract, and a bond executed by said Baggott, J Metcalfe, J S Caldwell and George Aler in
the sum of ten thousand dollars for the faithful performance of said contract by said Baggott, were
submitted to the Council by T B Barton, Chairman of the Committee appointed by the Council for that
purpose for their approval or rejection; Whereupon and before any action was thereon, Mr J M
Whittemore asked and obtained leave to be heard by the Council in support of a petition signed by 172 of
the voters of the Corporation, remonstrating against the extravagant act of pulling down the Jail and other
buildings on the Court House lot and praying the appointment of a committee of their own Board to
contract for the erection of a spacious and comfortable Court House at a cost not exceeding six thousand
dollars. Said petition was accordingly presented by Mr Whittemore and being read was on motion laid on
the Table.

On motion, said contract was then approved and confirmed by the following vote, viz;

Ayes, F Slaughter, J Minor, D H Gordon, J Pritchard, L J Huffman, B S Herndon, Thos F Knox, C C
Wellford and J J Berrey 10

Noes H Scott, Wm Allen 2

And it was ordered that the Mayor as evidence of said approval and confirmation do sign an endorsement
to that effect on said contract and cause the Corporation Seal to be affixed thereto, and that said contract
together with the drawings and specifications be then delivered to the Clerk of the Hustings Court for safe
keeping, &c

On motion T B Barton, J J Chew, J Minor, W Allen, B R Wellford was appointed a committee to
superintend the erection of said buildings

Ordered that the Chamberlain of the Corporation be and he is [Page 463] hereby authorized to borrow on
the faith of the revenue of the Corporation for the current year, the sum of two thousand dollars and apply
the same as the first payment to Wm M Baggett under the contract for erection of a court house, Jail &c

Ordered that the balance due on the bond of the Corporation to the Rappahannock Canal Company and now held by J S Armstrong be paid by the Chamberlain of the Corporation out of the first monies coming to his hands from the sale of Corporation Stock.

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 13 June 1851

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

J J Berrey, J Sanford, J Minor, F Slaughter, H Scott, T F Knox, C C Wellford—Common Councilmen

The Mayor submitted a written report in relation to the manner in which the Police Officers had discharged their duties for the present quarter, also that the Fred'burg Guards had not been called upon to discharge police duty, tho' willing to do so; Whereupon it was ordered that the salaries of the Police Officers for the quarter ending on the 16th Inst be paid also that the Fredericksburg Guards be paid at the rate of \$100 per annum from the 29 April to same date out of the appropriation for that purpose.

The Mayor paid in the sum of Thirty seven 87/100 dollars, the amount rec'd by him to this date for dog tax, which was ordered to be passed to the credit of the Corporation by the Chamberlain

A petition of sundry citizens for a pump at the upper end of the town was presented by Mr F Slaughter and referred to the pump committee to enquire into the necessity thereof & to report to the Council

On motion, ordered that the Committee on public property examine into the expediency of repairing or renewing the pavement before the Corporation property from D Green's store on William Street to Main Street and report thereon to the Council.

Mr F Slaughter, Chairman of the Committee upon the organization of the Fire Department of the Town made a report accompanied with an ordinance on the subject, which was read and on motion laid on the table by the following vote, viz;

[Page 464]

Ayes, Sanford, Berrey, Knox, Wellford, Scott, Herndon	6
Noes, Minor, Slaughter	2

Mess'rs C C Wellford, H Scott and J Sanford were appointed a committee to rent a suitable house for the preservation of the fire engines and the apparatus belonging thereto as soon as the present engine houses are pulled down.

On motion the Committee having the superintendence of the erection of the new Court House, Jail &c were appointed a committee to enquire into the expediency of erecting a new Market House, renting out the present Market house &c &c and report then to the Council

The Street Committee were directed to enquire into the propriety of opening a street from Donaldson's lower wharf to Knox's wharf and report thereon.

Present, L J Huffman, Councilman

Ordered that the sum of \$12.50 be allowed the Bellman of the Corporation in consideration of the inconvenience caused by his removal from the tenement on the public lot occupied by him rent-free in lieu of salary; his services as bellman having necessarily ceased from the time of pulling down the old Court house, said sum to be credited him on account of his rent of a room in Town Hall.

Ordered that the Mayor be directed to enquire for, and report to the Council, a suitable house to be used as a lock up during the building of the new Jail.

A communication from the Sec'y & Treasurer of the Hazel River Navigation Company to Mr F Slaughter covering a claim of interest on the Corporation subscription to said Company was submitted by Mr Slaughter; and upon a statement made to the Board on the subject by the Chamberlain it was ordered that he reply to said communication

Resolved that Mr J Sanford as the proxy of the Corporation at the Annual Meeting of the Stockholders of the Hazel River Navigation Company, to be held this month, do enquire into the number and amount per share of installments called for by said Company and the amounts actually paid in by individuals and the state as stockholders in said Company and report thereon to the Council.

Ordered that the Committee on public property investigate the titles by which the leasehold property of the [Page 465] Corporation is held and report thereon

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 25 June 1851

Present, R B Semple, Mayor

William Allen, H Scott, J J Berrey, C C Wellford, L J Huffman, Thos F Know, John Pritchard—Common Councilmen

The Mayor stated the Council had been convened for the purpose of taking into consideration the propriety of inviting the President of the United States to partake of the hospitality of the Town as he passed through on his way to the seat of the Government; Whereupon the following resolutions were adopted, viz;

Resolved that the Mayor be requested to address a note of invitation to the President, and if accepted it was further Resolved that the Mayor appoint a suitable number of citizens to make the necessary preparation to venue him and the members of his cabinet who may accompany him

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 7 July 1851

Present, R B Semple, Mayor

B S Herndon, Recorder

Wm Allen, H Scott, J Sanford, J J Berrey, J Pritchard, L J Huffman, and F Slaughter—Common Councilmen

An account of Wm Slaughter for two maps or plats of the town amounting to \$30, was passed and ordered to be paid.

On motion ordered that a committee be appointed to make enquiry whether there be in the hands of any person or persons, and any funds intended for the completion of the Monuments to the memory of Mrs Washington, and report thereon to the Council [Page 466] together with any measures it may be deemed expedient to use towards the completion of the monument.

The Mayor, J J Berrey, F Slaughter were appointed said Committee

Present, Thos F Knox—Councilman

Thomas B Barton, Chairman of the Committee on the subject of renting out the old and erecting a new Market house submitted a report, which was read and on motion laid on the table.

Mess'rs Scott, Knox and Slaughter were appointed a Committee to effect a sale of the remainder of the Bonds which by virtue of several acts of the Legislature, the Corporation is authorized to issue.

The Chamberlain submitted his estimates of the receipts and expenditures of the Corporation for the fiscal year; Whereupon the following tax bill was passed, viz;

Be it ordained by the Mayor and Common Council of the Town of Fredericksburg that the taxes to raise revenue to meet the demands upon the Corporation for the current fiscal year be the same are hereby declared to be as follows viz;

On real estate six per cent on the rents or annual value

On each White male above 16 years of age two dollars

On each slave between 12 and 16 years of age one dollar and fifty cents

On each free colored male above 16 years of age two dollars

On each horse two dollars

On carriages, carioles, buggies, gigs or other pleasure carriages not used for hire, two dollars and fifty cents on all of the value of \$100 or under, and three per cent on the values all above the value of \$100.

On furniture, thirty cents in the \$100 on all over the value of \$50

On merchants licenses including all who are required to take out licenses under State Laws, thirty per cent of the amount of State taxes

On Goods, Wares merchandize &c when no license is required by the States, thirty cents in the \$100 value

On hogs, pigs & shoats fifty cents each

On cows, fifty cents each

On bagatelle tables, ten dollars each table

On ten pin alleys, ten dollars each alley

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On Hawkers, Pedlars or others vending articles in the Streets whether of foreign or domestic growth or manufacture ten dollars each

On Gold watches one dollar each
 On Silver patent, lever watches, fifty cents each on all other silver watches twenty five cents each
 On metallic clocks, twenty five cents, on wooden clocks twelve and a half cents each
 On Gold and Silver plate over \$50 value, one and a half per cent on the value
 On pianos, two dollars on all over the value of \$100 and one dollar on all of the value of \$100 and under
 On interest on Bonds, State Stock &c &c as enumerated in State law taxing interest, one per cent on amount received
 On all yearly income as enumerated in State laws imposing income tax, one half of one per cent on all over \$400
 On Auctioneers one half of one per cent on all sales at public auction; except sale of real estate and slaves
 On Physicians, five dollars each on all whose income from the practice of their profession is \$1000 or under and an additional tax of five dollars for each and every additional \$1000 of income
 On Attorneys at law, ten dollars each, on all whose income from the practice of their profession is \$100 or under and an additional tax of ten dollars on each and every additional \$1000, of income
 On Dentists ten dollars each on all whose income from the practice of their profession is \$1000 or under and an additional tax of ten dollars on each and every additional \$100, on income
 On a license to an agent or sub-agent of an Insurance Company incorporated or authorized by another thirty per cent of the amount of the State Tax
 On license to tavern keepers, thirty per cent of the amount of the State Tax
 On the Proprietor or occupier of any public room fitted for public exhibitions and used for such purposes, forty dollars
 On all vendors of patent specific or quack medicines, ten dollars each
 On tall bridges, twenty dollars
 On fences, five dollars

An ordinance prescribing the mode of ascertaining and collecting the tax on auction sales was passed in the following words and figures to wit;

[Page 468]

1a Be it ordained by the Mayor and Common Council of the Town of Fredericksburg that any tax that now is or may hereafter be imposed on sales at public auction, shall be ascertained and collected as follows, to wit; that each and every auctioneer shall at the end of each quarter of the fiscal year, render upon oath to the Collector of Taxes for the time being a statement exhibiting the amount of his or their sales at public auction during the preceding quarter which may be subject to taxation upon which the Collector shall ascertain the amount due and proceed to collect said tax in the same manner other taxes are collected

2a Be it further ordained that in the event of a failure or refusal by any auctioneer to render quarterly the statement of sales required by the preceding section of this ordinance he shall be liable to a fine of thirty dollars for each quarter for which he shall fail or refuse to make said statement said fine to be recovered with costs, by warrant in the name of the Collector of Taxes for the time being before any Justice of the Peace of the Corporation aforesaid, and it is hereby made the duty of the Collector to warrant for the same as when collected account therefore to the Corporation in his annual settlement

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 21 July 1851

Present, R B Semple, Mayor

B S Herndon, Recorder

J J Berrey, Wm Allen, J Pritchard, J Minor, D H Gordon, H Scott—Common Councilmen

Sundry bills for expenses attending the reception of the President of the United States amounting to \$287.97 were presented by the Committee of reception and ordered to be paid by the Chamberlain

An account of John Timberlake for hire of Carts to remove dirt from the Streets, amounting to \$3.75 was ordered [Page 469] also bills of Knox, Hunt & Hayes for powder &c for \$4.88 of Sam'l Phillips & Son for \$2 and an account of Geo F Chew amounting to \$10

Mr Richard S Rixey was appointed the proxy to represent the Corporation at the Annual Meeting of the Stockholders of the Hazel River Company in the place of Mr Joseph Sanford and the Clerk was directed to notify him and furnish him with a copy of the resolution ordered on the 13 June to be furnished to Mr Sanford

Present, Thomas F Knox, Councilman

An application from the Citizens of the lower end of the Town for a pump below Colo Mercer's was referred to the Committee on Pumps

A petition signed by sundry citizens residing in the neighborhood of John Beckley's Oyster house complaining of the same as a nuisance was submitted by Mr Pritchard and laid on the table, on the ground that it was a matter of complaint more properly cognizable by the Grand Jury.

Mr Thomas B Barton, Chairman of the Committee on the erection of a new Market house, made a supplemental report recommending as a site for the same, that portion of George Street which lies between Caroline & Water Streets, which with the original report with the exception of the scite recommended therein was adopted by the following vote, viz;

Ayes, J Minor, J Pritchard, D H Gordon, B S Herndon, Thomas F Knox, F Slaughter 6
Noes, J J Berrey, H Scott, William Allen 3

Present L J Huffman, Councilman

The Council then proceeded to select a location for a new Market house when votes were taken as follows, viz;

On George Street between Caroline and Sophia Streets

Ayes, Minor, Gordon, Slaughter, Scott 4
Noes, Berrey, Pritchard, Herndon, Huffman, Knox, Allen 6

On William Street between Caroline and Sophia streets

Ayes, Berrey, Scott, Allen 3
Noes, Minor, Pritchard, Gordon, Herndon, Huffman, Knox & Slaughter 7

A motion to reconsider the vote on George Street was [Page 470] carried and the vote being again taken was as follows, viz;

[Yeas] Minor, Gordon, Knox, Slaughter and Scott 5

Noes, Berrey, Pritchard, Herndon, Huffman, Allen 5

There being a tie the Mayor gave the casting vote in the affirmative, so said location was fixed upon

Ordered that the same Committee be appointed a building committee to carry out the provisions of said report their action thereon however to be subject to the approval of & ratification by the Council

Ordered that the Committee on Streets be authorized to build a wharf at French Johns if in their opinion it is deemed expedient

The pump committee were authorized to repair the pump on the lot of Doctor R L McGuire, on condition that the same be open to public use.

A letter from the Rev'd R F August covered Resolutions adopted at a quarterly meeting Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church South, Fredericksburg, Station expressed their thanks for the use of the Town Hall as a place of Worship since 1848, was presented by Mayor and ordered to be notice in the minutes.

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 August 1851

Present, R B Semple, Mayor

B S Herndon, Recorder

J Sanford, F Slaughter, J J Berrey, John Pritchard, T F Knox, William Allen, Hugh Scott—Common Councilmen

The clerk of the Council being absent from town H Scott, Esq acted as Clerk pro tem

The Mayor stated the Council had been convened to appoint proxies to represent the Corporation at a general meeting of the Stockholders of the Fredericksburg and Valley Plank Road Company to be held today and it being stated by a number of the Board that proxies had been appointed it was ascertained by reference to an order of the Council of the 21 May last that such was the [Page 471] fact and that Thomas F Knox, L J Huffman and John Pritchard, Esquires were then elected to continue as such until the 3rd Monday in March next.

Mr John Pritchard tendered his resignation on the score of want of time to discharge the duties, and his resignation being accepted Doctor W S Scott was appointed in his place and Mr L J Huffman being absent from town, J M Whittemore, Esq was appointed to act in his stead, until the return of Mr Huffman.

On motion Michael Ames was allowed permission to use the Street in front of his blacksmith shop for the purpose of putting tires on wheels &c provided he does thereby impede travelling on said Street or otherwise cause any obstruction thereon inconvenient to the public

On motion MR Dunnington was allowed permission to haul his plank to be used on the plank road to or from any point within the Corporation with taking out a wagon or cart license for so doing.

The Council then 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 on Saturday the 6th Sept 1851

Present, R B Semple, Mayor

B S Herndon, Recorder

Wm Allen, J J Berrey, J Sanford, H Scott, C C Wellford, F Slaughter, L J Huffman, Thos F Knox, John Pritchard—Common Councilmen

The Mayor informed the Board they had been convened at the instance of two of the proxies representing the Corporation at an adjourned meeting of the Stockholders of the Fredericksburg and Valley Road, for the purpose of considering the propriety of giving instructions to the vote of the Corporation on certain questions now pending before said meeting and Doct W S Scott one of the proxies being present stated to the Board that he had been appointed [Page 472] under a resolution of said meeting on the 21 Ult a member of a Committee to enquire into the general affairs of said Company and said Committee having made a report in which he fully concurred; but being unwilling to cast the vote of the Corporation so far as he could do so, in sustaining the views in said report for fear of being thought hereafter to have misrepresented the Corporation he respectfully asked instructions in casting said vote; whereupon the Board having sent a messenger of the Council to the Secretary of said Company for the resolution under which said Committee was appointed and also the report of said committee which being received and read, Mr F Slaughter then moved the following resolution, viz;

Resolved that the proxies of the Corporation in the meeting of the Fredericksburg and Valley Plank Road Company be requested to exercise their own judgment in all matters that may be brought before the meeting of the Stockholders affecting the interests of the Corporation

And the ayes and noes being taken thereon it was adopted by the following, viz;

Ayes, J Sanford, F Slaughter, J J Berrey, L J Huffman and William Allen 5

Noes, John Pritchard, Thos F Knox, B S Herndon, C C Wellford, Hugh Scott 5

The Mayor giving the casting vote in the affirmative

An account of B Cole for fitting up a room in the Town Hall as a Jail, per order of the Mayor, amounting to \$21.88 was read and ordered to be paid.

On motion Mess'rs Scott & Herndon were allowed the use of the cross Street opposite their foundry as a place to put machines &c &c, for a distance not exceeding ten feet from the curbing, provided said use does not incommode the public.

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 17 Sept 1851

Present, R B Semple

B S Herndon, Recorder

Wm Allen, J Sanford, L J Huffman, F Slaughter, J Pritchard, John Minor, Thos F Knox, D H Gordon,
Hugh Scott, Common Councilmen
[Page 473]

The Mayor having reported favourably upon the discharge of their duties by the police officers it was ordered that John G Timberlake and G J Hunt be paid their quarter salaries and that in consequence of the service upon the Mayor of a writ from the Circuit Court of Spotsylvania County at the suit of Geo & Wm Grotz vs Bernard Cole, said Cole's salary be retained until the rights of the parties thereto be adjudicated.

Ordered that the quarterly allowance of twenty five dollars to the Fredericksburg Guards be paid by the Chamberlain

An account of C C Wellford for blankets furnished B Cole in May 1850 for the use of the Jail amounting to six dollars was ordered to be paid.

An account of Mess'rs Conway & Herndon for a legal opinion in relation to the rights of the Corporation to tax Allen Town, and for the services of E Conway Esq in procuring the passage of the law enlarging the limits of the town, amounting to \$300, was presented and referred to the Committee who engaged the services of Mr Conway for examination and report thereon.

A contract for building a new Market house for the sum of \$1600, signed by J P Hill & J L Knight; and leases for ten years to Ball & Scott and Thos F Knox for the basement and north and south wings of the present Market house, at a rent of \$250, per annum, each, were submitted to the Board by T B Barton, chairman of the Committee appointed for that purpose, and the same were approved, ratified and ordered to be executed by the Mayor under the seal of the Corporation and placed on file in the Clerk's office of the Hustings Court, by the following vote, viz;

Ayes, Slaughter, Minor, Knox, Gordon, Herndon, Scott 6
Noes, Sanford, Pritchard, Huffman, Allen 4

A motion to change the location of the Market House from George to Hanover Streets if said change be concurred in by the contractors without extra charge was lost by the following vote, viz;

Ayes, Huffman, Herndon, Allen 3
Noes, Sanford, Slaughter, Minor, Pritchard [Page 474] Knox, Gordon, Scott 7

Joseph Sanford was appointed the proxy to represent the stock of the Corporation in the Hazel Run Navigation Company, at any meeting of the Stockholder of said Company; and Richard S Rixey, Esq of Culpeper, was appointed alternate, to act in his absence of said Sanford

Absent, John Minor, Councilman

Ordered that the scrip of the Corporation for the remaining five thousand dollars of its subscription to the Capitol stock of the Hazel River Navigation Company be issued to the President, Directors and Company of the Hazel River Navigation Company in sums to suit said Company none larger however than \$100, said scrip to be irredeemable for 30 years, from the 13 Sept 1850, \$2000 from 1 January 1851 and \$2000 from 1 Feb'y 1851 the interest thereon to be payable half yearly, to wit on the 1 Feb'y and 1 August in each and every year.

Ordered that the 4th installment called for in the Stock of the Corporation in the Fredericksburg and Valley Plank Road Company, amounting to four thousand dollars be paid by the Chamberlain of the Corporation out of any monies on his hands, derived from the ordinary revenues of the Corporation or the sale of Corporation scrip.

On motion the Council adjourned till Monday evening next at 7½ O'clock
R B Semple, Mayor
A Goodwin, CC

[The above is the final page of the transcript version of the Fredericksburg Council Minutes [1829-1851]

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At an adjourned meeting of the Common Council of the Town of Fredericksburg at the Council Chamber on the 22 September 1851

Present, R B Semple, Mayor

B S Herndon, Recorder

J Sanford, H Scott, J Pritchard, L J Huffman, F Slaughter, Thomas F Knox—Common Councilmen

On motion ordered that the Collector of Taxes be and he is hereby directed to close his collection of taxes by the first day of December ensuing; and that all free Negroes who shall be delinquent at that time shall be levied out according to law.

A letter from E Conway, Esq in relation to the bill of Conway & Herndon for professional services rendered the Corporation was read and referred to the Committee to whom said claim was referred.

A memorial of Mrs Jane Benson, Joseph Nax and C M Brower protesting against the location of the Market house in George Street as prejudicial to their property and the comfort of their families was presented by Mr Sanford; whereupon Mr Thos F Knox moved to appoint a committee to confer with the Contractor and ascertain if he is willing to rescind the contract with the Corporation for building a Market House, and report to the Council, which motion with the Memorial was, on Motion of Mr Slaughter, laid on the table.

On motion the Council adjourned till Friday next at 7½ o'clock PM

R B Semple, Mayor

A Goodwin, CC'

At an adjourned meeting of the Common Council of the Town of Fredericksburg at the Council Chamber on Friday the 26th September 1851

Present, B S Herndon, Recorder

J J Berrey, D H Gordon, J Pritchard, L J Huffman, Hugh Scott, Thomas F Knox, Wm Allen, J Sanford, F Slaughter, John Minor—Common Councilmen

The proceedings of a Town Meeting held on the 24 Inst in relation to the building a new Market house were presented to the Board and read; Whereupon the [Page 2] motion submitted by Mr Knox at the last meeting, viz; "that a Committee be appointed to confer with the Contractor and ascertain if he is willing

to rescind the Contract with the Corporation for building a Market House and report to the Council,” was taken up and adopted by the following vote, viz;
Ayes, J Sanford, J J Berrey, D H Gordon, John Pritchard, T F Knox, H Scott, Wm Allen, B S Herndon 8
Noes, L J Huffman, F Slaughter, J Minor 3

Mess’rs Thos F Knox, J Sanford were appointed the Committee under the foregoing resolution

A petition of the Brass Band praying aid to keep up their organization as a body was presented, read and on motion laid on the table.

Ordered that the Commissioners superintending the erection of the Court House & Jail be directed to locate the Jail immediately in the rear of the Centre of the Main building of the Court House, or on the property of the Corporation elsewhere provided no additional expense be incurred by said location and the same be concurred in by the Architect; said order being adopted by the following vote, viz;
Ayes, J Sanford, J J Berrey, L J Huffman, F Slaughter, J Minor, Thos F Knox, W Allen, B S Herndon 8
Noes, D H Gordon, J Pritchard, H Scott 3

On motion the Council then adjourned
B S Herndon, Recorder
A Goodwin, A A

At a meeting of the Common Council of the Town of Fredericksburg at the Council Chamber on the 13th October 1851
Present, R B Semple, Mayor
B S Herndon, Recorder
W Allen, L J Huffman, J Sanford, J Pritchard, F Slaughter, H Scott, J Minor, J J Berrey—Common Councilmen

Ordered that an advance of one thousand dollars be made to Wm M Baggett on his contract for building a Court House out of the first funds coming into the hands of the Chamberlain

Ordered that J Minor, J Pritchard and Joseph Sanford, be a committee to take such steps in relation to the permanent establishment of the boundary lines of the Town, as in their opinion may be deemed expedient.
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Present, C C Wellford, Council man

Mr Thomas B Barton submitted reports of the Commissioners for the erection of the Court House and of the Architect, in relation to the location of the Jail, when the following order, also submitted by him was adopted, viz;
The report of the Architect and the Commissioners for the erection of the Court House, being duly considered are approved and confirmed and it is ordered that the new Jail be erected in the rear of the Centre of the Court House, that said building shall, as advised by the Architect extend seven feet in the alley, and that the Hay Scales be removed; and it is ordered that the Committee on public property consider and report where the said Hay Scales shall be erected, whether in the alley or elsewhere, and the cost of such removal and erection.

Ordered that the Street Committee be empowered to contract with Mr Joseph Sanford for opening the drain from the Rail Road depot to the lands of late Yeaman's Smith.

The Street Committee submitted a paper signed by James R Thom and concurred in by them which was adopted by a vote of the Council and the same ordered to be spread at length upon the minutes said paper being in the following words and figures, to wit;

The Street Committee appointed by the Town Council for the Corporation of Fredericksburg are permitted by me to make a way & use my lot adjoining the lot belonging to Philip Terrier Estate, being part of lot No. one fronting on Wolfe & Sophia Streets, provided a proper entry be made on the Minutes of the Council, so that I may be subjected to no inconvenience when I see fit to use it otherwise & (re-enter)

Given under my hand this 2nd day of July 1851

Signed, J R Thom

And endorsed on the back thereof as follows, viz;

The undersigned Committee on the Street acknowledge the permission granted them to use the lot named within and concur in the propriety of an entry being made on the Minutes of the Proceedings of the Council to the effect required by the owner of said lot.

Signed, Wm Allen, ch'n, Jno J Berrey, F Slaughter

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Mr Pritchard presented a petition of many citizens asking permission to erect a market house at the lower end of the Town, in some place that may meet their approbation and that of the property holders, said house to be erected at their own expense, which being read, was on motion, laid on the Table

The following accounted were passed and ordered to be paid, viz;

R B Semple's for holding inquest on the body of Betsy Proctor five dollars

G J Hunt's for summoning inquest on same three dollars

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 1st December 1851

Present, R B Semple, Mayor

W Allen, J Sanford, H Scott, F Slaughter, John Pritchard, L J Huffman, Thos F Knox, J J Berrey—
Common Councilmen

Ordered that the Chamberlain of the Corporation pay to Wm M Baggott, the sum of one thousand dollars, being the balance due on the second payment on his contract for building the Court House. (side note: See entry in Chamberlain's a/c of 24 Nov'r for this sum paid in advance to Wm M Baggott)

A communication from the Sec'y & Treasurer of the Fredericksburg and Valley Plank Road Company calling upon the Corporation for the 5th & 6th installments upon its subscription to the Capitol stock of said Company amounting \$8,000, was submitted to the Board; Whereupon with the view of raising the necessary funds to meet the demands upon the Corporation, it was ordered that the Committee appoint on

the 7th July last to negotiate a sale of the Corporation Bonds be requested to continue their efforts to that end without delay and report to the Council on what terms said bonds can be negotiated.

On motion of Mr F Slaughter to prevent wagoners from using Princes Ann Street as a feeding or camping ground was rejected by the following vote, viz;

Ayes, F Slaughter, J J Berrey, Thos F Knox 3

Noes, J Sanford, J Pritchard, L J Huffman, H Scott, [Page 5] W Allen 5

On a motion to prevent the use of Charles Street as a feeding or camping ground for wagoners, the vote stood as follows;

Ayes, F Slaughter, J J Berrey 2

Noes, J Sanford, J Pritchard, L J Huffman, Thos F Knox, H Scott, Wm Allen 6

An application of Thomas Murray for remuneration for services rendered in attending to the Clock in the Town of the Church amounting to fifteen dollars was presented and rejected.

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 5 December 1851

Present, R B Semple, Mayor

B S Herndon, Recorder

W Allen, J Pritchard, T F Knox, J J Berrey, L J Huffman, J Sanford, J Minor, F Slaughter, C C

Wellford—Common Councilmen

The application of J H Myer to have the tenement occupied by him put in good order, was referred to the Committee on Public Property with instructions to have the necessary repairs made.

Mr F Slaughter, Chairman of the Committee to negotiate a sale of the Corporation Bonds read to the Board letters from Selden, Withers & Co, and Ro Galleher of Washington City in reply to letters on the subject of negotiating a loan for the Corporation; Whereupon John Minor, L J Huffman and John Pritchard were appointed a committee to consider the propriety of issuing coupon or other bonds of the Corporation in sums of 1, 2, 3, 5 or 10 dollars, and to take legal advice as to the competency or authority of the Corporation to issue such, and make report thereon.

Resolved that the Chamberlain of the Corporation be instructed to pay to Wm M Baggott the sum of two thousand dollars, upon report from the Building Committee that said sum is due according to the terms of his contract for building the Court House; the said amount to be paid out of any funds now in the hands of the Chamberlain [Page 6] or out of the first funds he may receive

A Communication from Jesse White praying a remission of rent due for the room occupied by him as a printer's room was read and laid on the Table.

On motion the Council adjourned till Tuesday evening 7 O'clock

R B Semple, Mayor
A Goodwin, CC

At an adjourned meeting of the Common Council of the Town of Fredericksburg at the Council Chamber on Tuesday evening the 9 December 1851

Present, R B Semple, Mayor

B S Herndon, Recorder

W Allen, C C Wellford, T F Knox, D H Gordon, J Minor, J Sanford, J Pritchard, L J Huffman, J J Berrey, F Slaughter—Common Councilmen

Mr John Minor, Chairman of the Committee appointed at the last meeting of the Council made a verbal report stating that the Committee were of the opinion that it was perfectly legal to issue Corporation Bonds of any denomination or size under the law authorizing the issue of scrip by the Corporation, whereupon, on motion, it was ordered that said Committee be and they are hereby instructed to enquire into and report to the Council the expense of procuring plates for the issue of Corporation bonds or scrip of the denominations of 1, 2, 3, 5, or 10 dollars, and all other expenses attending the issue of bond of said amounts.

On motion D H Gordon and F Slaughter were added to said Committee

The Committee to whom the account of Mess'rs Conway & Herndon was referred at the Meeting of the Council on the 17 Sept last having severally submitted their views of the engagement entered into with Mr Conway for his services in procuring an Act of the Legislature for the enlargement of the boundaries of the Town, a motion to pay said account to wit \$50 for a legal opinion on the question of the power of the Corporation to levy taxes in Allen Town, and \$250 for the professional services of E Conway in procuring the passage of the law enlarging the boundaries of the town (in all \$300) [Page 7] in Corporation scrip bearing 6 per cent interest was made by Mr Knox and adopted by the following vote, viz;

Ayes, Minor, Huffman, Herndon, Knox, Gordon, Wellford 6

Noes, Slaughter, Sanford, Pritchard, Berrey, Allen 5

On motion of Mr F Slaughter it was,

Resolved that no report of a committee or resolution shall be considered unless submitted in writing.

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 evening the 19th December 1851

Present, R B Semple, Mayor

William Allen, J Pritchard, H Scott, J Sanford, F Slaughter, J Minor and J J Berrey—Common Councilmen

The Mayor having made a favourable report, it was ordered that the salaries of the Police Officers for the present quarter be paid by the Chamberlain; also ordered that the quarterly allowance of twenty five dollars be paid by the Chamberlain to the Fredericksburg Guards

The following resolution offered by Mr Slaughter viz;

Resolved that the Common Council will issue scrip of the Corporation to the amount of \$15,000 in sums of \$1 & \$2 bearing interest at 6 per cent and redeemable in 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11 years; was adopted by the following vote, viz;

J Minor, F Slaughter, J Pritchard, J J Berrey and H Scott 5

Noes, J Sanford, Wm Allen 2

On motion of F Slaughter it was

Resolved that Mess'rs Danforth, Bald & Co of Philadelphia are hereby authorized to engrave a steel plate of four notes, three of the Denomination of one dollar and one of the denomination of two dollars after the following form to wit;

The Corporation of Fredericksburg

Will pay one dollar to [Blank] on order at the Mayor's office [Blank] years after date, with interest thereon at the rate of six per cent per annum.

Fredericksburg, Va 185[Blank]

No. [Blank] [Blank] Mayor.

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And that they furnish 2000 impressions from said plate for the use of the Corporation

Resolved that the sum of six hundred and eight dollars and seventy five cents be appropriated for the purpose of paying the expenses of the same and the Chamberlain is hereby instructed to pay the amount to Mess'rs Danford Bald & Co, upon the delivery thereof, or as soon thereafter as required.

Ordered that a copy of the foregoing resolutions be furnished Mess'rs Danforth, Bald & Co.

On motion the Council adjourned

R B Semple, Mayor

A Goodwin, CC