

Fredericksburg City Council Minutes 1853

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At a meeting of the Common Council of the Town of Fredericksburg at the Council Chamber on the 3<sup>rd</sup> day of February 1853

Present, James McGuire, Recorder

John Pritchard, Geo W Eve, Landon J Huffman, Wm F Cheek, Wm A Little, Thomas A Ball—Common Councilmen

The Recorder stated that the Council had been convened at the instance of the Plank Road Company and for the purpose of asking a further subscription on the part of the Corporation to said improvement; And thereupon, on motion of Mr G W Eve, Resolved that the Mayor be and he is hereby authorized and directed to subscribe for eighty shares or \$4000 worth of stock of the said Company.

On motion of Mr Geo W Eve, ordered that the Chamberlain of the Corp'n pay to the Sec'y & Treas'r of the Fred'g & Valley Plank Road Company the [Page 62] the sum of \$4000 being the amount of the further subscription by the Corporation, to the increased capital stock of said Company out of any money in his hands not otherwise appropriated.

On motion of Mr F Cheek, ordered that the Chamberlain curtail the debts due by the Corporation to the Bank of Virginia & to the Farmers Bank of Virginia \$2000 each.

On motion of Mr Wm A Little, the attention of the Street Committee is called to the condition of the sidewalk near the Market house pump with directions to said Committee to have the same repaired and put in order

A Communication from the Executive Committee of the Fred'g Cemetery Company was received and read, and on motion referred to the Street Committee which directions to do what may be necessary in the premises.

Mr Jas McGuire, Chairman of the Committee on Fuel &c made a report which having been read & was on motion received and ordered to be on the table for future action to be had thereon.

On motion of Mr Little, ordered that the Clerk of the Council do call the attention of the Comm'r appointed by the Act of the General Assembly extending the limits of the Town to the fact that the stones marking the boundaries of the Corp'n are not properly placed, and request them to have the same properly placed agreeable to said Act.

The following Resolution offered by Mr Wm A Little was adopted;

Resolved that the room in the north east corner of the Court House be and it is hereby set aside for the use of the District Court and for a library for said Court, and that said Court be requested to fit up and use said room for that purpose.

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

Jas Jennings for 2 keys for Mayor's Officer	\$1.00
B Cole, for charcoal	\$1.80
John Coakley for pitcher & tumblers	\$2.50
Editor of <i>Christian Banner</i> for Advertising	\$17.75

An order drawn by T B Barton, Esq, Chairman of the Building Committee on the Chamberlain in favor of Rob't G Layton for \$24.20 was presented to the Board for payment and on motion laid on the table

On motion the Council then adjourned

James McGuire, Recorder  
G F Chew, C C  
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At a meeting of the Common Council of the Town of Fredericksburg at the Council Chamber on the 9<sup>th</sup> of February 1853

Present, James McGuire, Recorder

John Pritchard, Geo W Eve, Wm A Little, L J Huffman, Thomas A Ball, John J Young, John J Berrey—  
Common Councilmen

The Recorder stated that the board had been convened in consequence of the death of Robert B Semple, Esq late Mayor of this Corporation and with a view to afford them an opportunity of taking such order upon the subject as the circumstances of the case might be thought to require.

Whereupon, on motion of Wm A Little, Esq the following Resolutions were unanimously adopted, viz;

1. Resolved that we have heard with deep regret of the sudden death in the City of Richmond of our esteemed fellow citizen and Mayor of this Corporation, Robert B Semple, Esq

2<sup>nd</sup> That the Council of the Town repair in a body to the cars to receive the remains on their arrival from Richmond this morning and escort them to the City Hall.

3<sup>rd</sup> That the Citizens be requested to assemble at the Cars and join in the procession and that the bells of the churches & the City Hall be tolled commencing at 10 o'clock.

4<sup>th</sup> That the Members of the Court and Bar, the Military and all the Officers of the Town be requested to unite with the procession

Resolved that James McGuire, John J Berrey & John S Caldwell Esq be appointed a Committee to make arrangements for the funeral and to receive and entertain such members of the Legislature or others friends as shall accompany the remains from Richmond

On motion the Council adjourned till this afternoon at 4 o'clock

James McGuire, Recorder

G F Chew, C C

The Council met at the Council Chamber pursuant to the order of adjournment

Present, James McGuire, Recorder

Wm F Cheek, John J Berrey, John Pritchard, L J Huffman, Wm A Little, John J Young, Thomas F Knox,  
Thomas A Ball, Geo W Eve, Alex K Phillips, John Minor—Common Councilmen

The following resolutions offered by Mr Wm A Little were unanimously adopted, viz;

1. Resolved as a testimony of respect to the memory of our dec'd [Page 64] deceased fellow citizen and late Mayor R B Semple, we will wear the usual badge of mourning for thirty days

2. Resolved that the members of the Common Council meet at the City Hall on Tomorrow at 10 o'clock AM for the purpose of attending the procession the funeral of the deceased.

3. Resolved that the Magistrates and other officers of the Corp'n, members of the Bar, Military & other Public Associations of the Town be requested to unite with the Council in the above tribute of respect; and that the citizens generally be requested to close their stores and places of business during the funeral services.

4. Resolved that lot No. 129 in the Fredericksburg Cemetery be purchased by the Committee of arrangements in which to deposit the remains of R B Semple, late Mayor of the Corporation.

5. Resolved that the Clerk of the Council be requested to forward a copy of these resolutions to the family of the deceased as a tribute of our condolence and respect.

On motion the Council adjourned

James McGuire, Recorder  
G F Chew, C C

Council Chamber  
February 10<sup>th</sup> 1853

The Council be request of the Recorder returned to their chamber after the funeral services over the body of Robert B Semple dec'd late Mayor &c were ended.

Present, James McGuire, Recorder

Wm F Cheek, John J Young, Thomas A Ball, John J Berrey, Geo W Eve, John Pritchard, Alexander K Phillips, Thomas F Knox, Wm A Little—Common Councilmen

On motion of Mr Geo W Eve, it is ordered that a statement of the facts and circumstances of the death of Robert B Semple, late mayor of this Corporation be spread upon the Records of the Council which is accordingly done as follows;

For some weeks previous to his decease, Mr Semple had been attending the Legislature of Virginia where several bills for the relief and benefit of Fredericksburg and of the most vital importance to the prosperity were pending, he was most assiduously and successfully engage in conciliating the good feeling of the Members and prosecuting in the most forcible light the claims and interests of this neglected Town to their consideration and support [Page 65] he had made himself universally popular & respected among them and had enlisted the kindest feelings for his Town and was rendering thus the most efficient and valuable services to the Corporation. On Sunday night (6<sup>th</sup> Feb'y 1853) by an unfortunate exposure of his person to the draft of an open window he was seized with a chill the first symptom of a violent attach pneumonia which the short space of some thirty hours closed his useful life on Tuesday the 8<sup>th</sup> of February a few moments before 10 O'clock AM. He was attended in his illness by kind friends and the best medical assistance and his remains were escorted from Richmond on the morning of the 9<sup>th</sup> February by the Speaker of the House of Delegates, O M Crutchfield Esq many members of the Legislature and other friends and were received at the Depot in Fredericksburg by the Common Council, members of the Court & Bar, Military and Citizens generally who in mournful procession conveyed them to the City Hall, where they were deposited for the night, under the guards of detachments of the Fredericksburg Guards of which Corps the deceased was an honorary member.

On Thursday Feb'y 10<sup>th</sup> (present day) his remains were deposited in the Fredericksburg Cemetery being accompanied to their last resting place by the Council, members of the Court and bar, Military and citizens generally through the Streets of the Town where all the stores and places of business were closed and signs of gloom and sadness were visible on every side. And buried thus, with all military and Civic honors he has received in death all these melancholy tokens of respect, which a grateful people bestow in sadness upon the grave of this who died in the useful discharge of Public Trust.

The following Resolution was unanimously adopted, viz;

Resolved that the Common Council tender their thanks to the ministers of the Gospel, Military, Committee of Arrangements and all others who united with them in paying suitable honors to the memory of our late Mayor R B Semple, on the occasion of his funeral.

On motion the Council adjourned till Tuesday evening next at ½ past 7 O'clock

James McGuire, Recorder

G F Chew, C C

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At a meeting of the Common Council of the Town of Fredericksburg at the Council Chamber on the 12<sup>th</sup> day of Feb'y 1853

Present, James McGuire, Recorder

Wm F Cheek, L J Huffman, Wm A Little, John Minor, G W Eve, A K Phillips, John J Young, Thomas A Ball, John Pritchard, John J Berrey, Thomas F Knox—Common Councilmen

On motion of Mr Wm F Cheek, it is ordered that the order in the 19<sup>th</sup> day of April 1852 granting the privilege to the Mayor to be heard and to discuss questions before the board &c be and the same is hereby rescinded

On motion of Mr Wm F Cheek, it is ordered that no compensation shall be allowed to the Mayor of the Corporation beyond his salary, for any extra service to the performed by him, as such.

The Council proceeded to fill the vacancy occasioned by the death of Robert B Semple, late Mayor of this Corporation, & the ballot having been taken and counted it appeared that John L Marye Jr Esq was duly elected Mayor of the Corporation of Fredericksburg until the third Monday in March next.

On motion of Mr A K Phillips it is ordered that the sale made by the Public Property Committee to Wm M Mitchell of the house and lot on Caroline Street being part of the Market Square be ratified and confirmed and that the said Committee cause to be prepared the necessary documents to perfect the said sale.

An application of Mess'rs English & Spindle to purchase the house and lot occupied by them on Caroline Street being part of the Market Square, was on motion referred to Mess'rs A K Phillips, T F Knox & Wm F Cheek with directions to report thereon.

The Application of Mess'rs Waite & Sener to purchase the lot now occupied by them in Commerce Street was on motion referred to the same Committee with directions to report &c

John L Marye Jr Esq, appeared and was qualified to the duties of his office of Mayor by James McGuire a Justice of the Peace for the Corp'n of Fred'g and took his seat as the presiding officer of the Common Council.

On motion of Mr A K Phillips, it is ordered that an appropriation of fifty dollars be made to the Fred'g Brass Band for the present year.

James McGuire Esq by note in writing addressed to the Council tendered his resignation as recorder of the Corporation which on motion was laid on the table and the [Clerk be] directed to wait on Mr McGuire and respectfully request him to withdraw his said resignation.

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

James P Chartters	\$20.00
Jesse White	\$7.50

Om motion the Council adjourned till Saturday next at 7½ o'clock

John L Marye, Jr, Mayor

Geo F Chew, C C

At an adjourned meeting of the Common Council of the Town of Fredericksburg at the Council Chamber on the 19<sup>th</sup> of February 1853

Present, John L Marye, Jr, Mayor

Geo W Eve, John Pritchard, Thomas A Ball, Thomas F Knox, Landon J Huffman, John J Young, Alex K Phillips, Wm A Little—Common Councilmen

An opinion of Mess'rs Fitzhugh & Little adverse to the right of the Mayor and Commonalty of Fred'g to sell the Market Place lots was submitted to the Board, read, and on motion ordered to be received.

On motion it is ordered that the Mayor be requested to procure the passage of an act by the Legislature of Virginia authorizing the Mayor and Commonalty to dispose of in fee simple any real estate now owned by the Corporation.

On motion of Mr L J Huffman, it is ordered that the Chamberlain pay to the Treasurer of the Fred'g Cemetery Company the sum of \$30 being the purchase money for lot No. 129 in said cemetery.

The resignation of James McGuire Esq as Recorder of the Corporation which was laid on the table at the last meeting of the Council was again taken up and the Clerk having stated to the board that in obedience to its order he waited upon Mr McGuire and respectfully requested him to withdraw his resignation and that he deferred doing so; on motion it is ordered that the same be received.

On motion the Council proceeded to fill the vacancy occasioned by the resignation of James McGuire, as Recorder, of the Corporation and the ballot having been taken and counted it appeared that Mr John Minor was unanimously elected the Recorder of the Corp'n until the 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday in March next.

On motion it was ordered that an appropriation not exceeding \$10 be made to the Fred'g Guards towards defraying expenses to be incurred by them in celebrating the approaching 22<sup>nd</sup> Feb'y.

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

Peter Nossett	\$3.00
Geo Mullin	\$1.00
Ball & Scott	\$2.13

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An order drawn by T B Barton, Esq, chairman of the Building Committee on the Chamberlain for \$24.20 in favor of R G Layton & which was laid on the table at a former meeting of the Council was again taken up and on motion ordered to be paid.

An account of the Hope Fire Co for amt paid for repairing apparatus &c amounting to \$140.44 was presented to the Board and on motion order to be laid on the table until an account in full embracing the various items of expenditure should be proffered.

On motion of Mr Pritchard, It is ordered that the Chamberlain pay to the Representative of R B Semple, Esq when one shall qualify as such, the sum of \$60.49 amount of his salary as late Mayor to the 12<sup>th</sup> Feb'y 1853 and \$22.50 allowance made to him for signing Corp'n scrip amounting together to \$82.99, after deducting therefrom the sum of \$45, the amount of his receipts to the Chamberlain for advancements made.

On motion of Mr Wm A Little, it is ordered that the Mayor, be requested to procure the passage of an Act by the Legislature of Virginia authorizing the Corporation to subscribe to the Stock of any internal improvement Company in which the Corporation may be interested and also to fund the debt which may be created by such subscription, with a provision therein that no subscription shall be made until the expediency thereof be submitted to the vote of the citizens of the Town after five days notice of the time and place of such vote shall be given & unless 2/3<sup>rds</sup> of the vote polled be in favor of such subscription.

An account of James Mazeen for "refreshments furnished the Guards," amounting to \$41.68¾ was presented to the board and on motion laid on the table.

On motion the Council then adjourned.

John L Marye, Jr, Mayor

G F Chew, Cle

At a meeting of the Common Council of the Town of Fredericksburg at the Council Chamber on the 2<sup>nd</sup> day of March 1853

Present, John Minor, Recorder

James McGuire, Geo W Eve, John Pritchard, Thomas F Knox, Landon J Huffman, John J Young, Wm A Little, Thomas A Ball—Common Councilmen

On motion of Mr G W Eve, it was ordered that the Mayor be and he is hereby directed to subscribe on behalf of the Corporation for 140 shares (or \$7000 worth) of the increased Capital Stock of the Fred'sburg and Valley Plank Road Company, which in addition [Page 69] to the \$8000 heretofore directed to be subscribed makes up the sum of \$15000 authorized to be subscribed to said improvement by a vote of the people heretofore polled.

On motion ordered that the account of James Mazeen, for "Refreshments furnished the Guards" amounting to \$41.68<sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub> be referred to the Committee on Arrangements which directions to report thereon

On motion of Mr G W Eve it is ordered that the account of the Hope Fire Company against the Corp'n for repairs to their apparatus be referred to the Fire Department with the Request that they examine the said account and report as to its correctness &c

On motion of Mr John Pritchard ordered that the foregoing order referring the account of the Hope Fire Company to the Fire Department be endorsed on the said Account

On motion the Council then adjourned

G F Chew, C C

At a meeting of the Common Council of the Town of Fredericksburg at the Council Chamber on the 12<sup>th</sup> day of March 1853

Present, John L Marye, Jr, Mayor

John Pritchard, Wm F Cheek, James McGuire, Landon J Huffman, Geo W Eve, John J Young, Thomas A Ball, Wm A Little—Common Councilmen

The account of the Hope Fire Company against the Corp'n for "Repairing Apparatus &c" amounting to \$140.44 which was referred to the Fire Department was, with the report of the said Department thereon, taken up, and on motion the said account ordered to be paid.

An order drawn by T B Barton Esq, Chairman of the Committee of ten Citizens, in favor of Mr James B Ficklen for \$20 was presented to the Council for payment, and on motion having been made that the said order to be paid, Mr Wm F Cheek called for the Ayes and noes, which being taken resulted as follows, viz;

Ayes, L J Huffman, Thomas A Ball, John J Young, William A Little 4

Noes, James McGuire, Wm F Cheek, John Pritchard, George W Ever 4

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

On motion of Mr Geo W Eve it is ordered that the Council recommend to the President or agent of the Rappahannock Canal Co that he notify the said Company that the Corp'n will give up and suspend operations upon the said Canal on the 1<sup>st</sup> of May next, or sooner if the said President or agent shall deem it advisable, in accordance with the agreement entered into between said company and the Corporation.

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On motion, ordered that the Chamberlain fill up for circulation \$1000 of Corp'n scrip to bear date on the 1<sup>st</sup> April 1853 and payable sixteen years after date.

On motion of Mr John Pritchard, the Council proceeded to elect a School Comm'r for the 1<sup>st</sup> District of the Town to supply the vacancy occasioned by the death of R B Semple, Esq, when Reuben T Thom Esq was duly elected.

A Communication from the Cashier of the Bank of Virginia requiring a curtail of \$1000 on the Corp'n debt to said Bank upon each renewal of its note was presented to the board, read and on motion ordered to be laid on the table.

On account of C B White, for inkstands and boxes &c furnished for the Court Room, amounting to \$3.12 was passed & ordered to be paid.

On motion the Council then adjourned.

John L Marye, Jr, Mayor

C G Chew, C C

At a Council of Claims held at the Council Chamber on the 15<sup>th</sup> day of March 1853

Present, John L Marye, Jr, Mayor

Geo W Eve, Wm F Cheek, John Pritchard, Thmoas A Ball, Wm A Little, James McGuire, J J Berrey—  
Common Councilmen

On motion of Wm F Cheek, It is ordered that the order entered at the last meeting of the Council recommending the President or agent of the Rapp'k Canal Co to notify the said Company that the Corp'n would give up and suspend operations upon the said Canal on the 1<sup>st</sup> of May next be amended in this, that in the place of 1<sup>st</sup> May the 1<sup>st</sup> of April be substituted as the period at which the Corp'n will suspend operations in said Canal.

The following accounts were read, passed & ordered to be paid,

Va Herald office for printing &c	\$73.37
News office for printing	\$106.38
Democratic Recorder for printing	\$25.26
Leonard Hoffman	\$5.00
Jas Cooke & Co	\$5.25
Ste J Blaydes	\$13.60
John Eubank	\$17.50
B Cole	\$21.86
Berrey & Scott	\$13.75
Chs S Scott	\$1.00
Edwd McDowell	\$9.25
Js McGuire	\$2.25
H S Doggett	\$10.29
Jas Mazeen	\$34.68
C H Hunt	\$21.00
C N Parker	\$5.53

On motion ordered that the balance due by Jesse White for rent of room in the old Town Hall be, and the same is hereby released to him.

An account of John P Hill for rent of room for the Union [Page 71] fire engines, amounting to \$40.50 was presented, read and on motion laid on the table.

Upon the Mayors report in writing it is ordered that the Salaries of the Police Officers for the present quarter be paid by the Chamberlain

Mess'rs Wm F Cheek, Thomas A Ball and John J Berrey were appointed a Committee to settle the Collectors and Chamberlain's accounts and to report to the Council on Monday next.

On motion the Council adj'd till Monday morning next.

John L Marye, Jr, Mayor

G F Chew, C C

At a meeting of the Common Council of the Town of Fredericksburg at the Council Chamber on Saturday the 19<sup>th</sup> day of March 1853

Present, John L Marye, Jr, Mayor

Geo W Eve, Jas McGuire, John Pritchard, Thos F Knox, Thomas A Ball, Wm A Little, John J Berrey, John Minor—Common Councilmen

The Mayor stated that the Council had been convened for the purpose of adopting some measures in regard to sundry in individuals now in our midst & recently from a section of country in which the small pox is said to exist; whereupon the following resolution offered by Mr Wm A Little was adopted, viz;

Resolved that the Mayor be instructed to order the above persons to leave the Town this evening and that in case of their inability to pay their way, to bargain with the agent of the cars for their removal by this night's train to Aquia Creek and in the meantime to provide that they be kept together and not permitted to leave the Depot; and in the event of there being any obstacle to their going off on the cars, tonight, that then the Mayor shall have full authority to use any means in his power to get rid of them tonight or as soon as possible.

Ordered that E Rollin's a/c for provisions furnished the above individuals amounting to \$2.70 be paid by the Chamberlain

On motion the Council then adjourned.

John L Marye, Jr, Mayor

G F Chew, C C

At an adjourned meeting of the Common Council of the Town of Fredericksburg at the Council Chamber on the 21<sup>st</sup> day of March 1853

Present, John L Marye, Jr, Mayor

Wm F Cheek, T A Ball, John J Berrey, Wm A Little, Thos F Knox, James McGuire, Geo W Eve, John Pritchard, A K Phillips—Common Councilmen

The Committee appointed to examine and settle the accounts of the Chamberlain and Collector made the following reports which were [Page 72] were approved and ordered to be entered upon the minutes, viz;

On Collector's Account "The undersigned, a Committee appointed by the Council to examine the Account of John S Caldwell as Collector of Taxes & Rents report that they have performed that duty and that they find the account correctly stated.

Given under our hands this 19<sup>th</sup> day of March 1853.

John J Berrey, Thos A Ball, W F Cheek"

On the Chamberlain's Account "The undersigned appointed a Committee by the Common Council to settle the Account of Geo F Chew, Chamberlain, respectfully report that they have discharged said duty and find that the debits therein are supported by proper vouchers, as also the credits for taxes &c and that the balance remaining



in his hands is Thirty nine hundred & seventy two & fifty three cents, of which one hundred & thirteen dollars is redeemable scrip.

Given under our hands this 19<sup>th</sup> day of March 1853.

Jno J Berrey, Thos A Ball, W F Cheek.”

The same committee made a report upon the subject of extra compensation to the Chamberlain and clerk for additional services as such, and a motion having been made and seconded & carried, that the sum of \$125 be allowed for such extra services the same is ordered to be paid.

On motion It was ordered that the Mayor be requested to execute the deed to John F Scott, to whom the purchase from the Council, Mr Wm M Mitchell desires that the deed of the property purchased by him of the Mayor & Council be made upon the said John F Scott's complying with the terms of sale to said Mitchell.

On motion it was resolved that all non residents who are freeholders of the Town, are deemed by the Council entitled to vote & 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 tho' they shall not be housekeepers, shall be allowed to vote.

On motion, ordered that the account of John L Marye Jr for money expended by him, in the removal of these persons referred to in the order of Council of the 19<sup>th</sup> Inst, amounting to \$24.50 be paid by the Chamberlain.

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 1854 and until others are elected in [Page 73] their stead the voters met at the Council Chamber and deposited their ballots and after counting the same it was found that the largest number of votes were given for the following persons, to wit;

Thomas F Knox	330
Alexander K Phillips	323
Thomas A Ball	241
John W Collins	240
John J Young	229
Wm F Cheek	225
John Minor	222
Wm A Little	218
John M Forbes	218
Jas McGuire	184
Wm Allen	169
Geo W Eve	162
C B White	161
Wm S Barton	159
John Pritchard	158
Wm S Chesley	136
Eustace Conway	130
J J Rollow	128
Peter P Burr	126

The first names twelve of whom were declared duly elected

On motion the Council then adjourned

John L Marye, Jr, Mayor

G F Chew, C C

Council Chamber

March 22<sup>nd</sup> 1853

William Allen, John Minor, Wm F Cheek, Wm A Little, Thomas A Ball, Alexander K Phillips, Thomas F Knox, James McGuire—members elect of the Common Council of the Town of Fredericksburg met at the Council Chamber & severally took the oaths of office before the Mayor

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

The Council then proceeded to the election of a Mayor, when John L Marye Jr was re-elected and took the several oaths of office before Wm Slaughter, a justice of the peace for the Corporation of Fredericksburg

John Minor, Esq was re-elected Recorder of the Corporation 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 the Council for each session of Council	\$2.00
Chamberlain of the Corporation	\$200.00
Commissioner of the Revenue	\$75.00
Collector of Taxes and Rents, five per cent on all taxes received by him upon to the 1 <sup>st</sup> of Aug't & 10 per cent on all taxes collected by him after that period & 5 per cent on rents collected	
Jailor	\$50.00
Clerk of the Market	\$100.00

The number of police officers for the present year were fixed at two and their salaries at \$200 each per annum

The Council then proceeded to the election of officers of the Corporation for the current year when, Geo F Chew was elected Clerk of the Council & Chamberlain of the Corporation

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Robert W Hart, Commissioner of the Revenue

John S Caldwell, Collector of taxes & Rents

Jas N Campbell, Clerk of the Market

John Minor, Surveyor

Robert W Hart, Inspector & Measurer of lumber, wood &c

Jos B Anderson, Measurer of coal, grain &c

Bernard Cole & John Timberlake, police officers

On motion ordered that the Mayor appoint the standing Committees for the current year, whereupon the following were appointed, viz;

On Public Property, A K Phillips, Jas McGuire, Wm A Little, Wm Allen

On Streets, Thos F Knox, J W Collins, Wm F Cheek, Geo W Eve

On Pumps, John Minor, Thos A Ball, J J Young, John M Forbes

Ordered that the penalty of the bond to be given by the Chamberlain be fixed at \$5000

On motion the tax on licenses to drays, carts, & wagons were fixed the same that it was last year, viz;

On drays & carts	from the 1 <sup>st</sup> of April for 1 year	\$6.00
	from the 1 <sup>st</sup> Nov to 1 <sup>st</sup> of April	\$4.00
	from the 1 <sup>st</sup> Jan'y to 1 <sup>st</sup> April	\$2.00

On Wagons, in the same proportion at the rate of \$10.00 per year, no license to issue for any term for less than \$2.00

On motion of Mr Wm F Cheek, it is ordered that the Public Property Committee enquire, ascertain & report to the Board in whom the title to the Brass Cannon now in the Corporation is vested; whether in the Corporation or not.

On motion of Mr Wm A Little, It is ordered that a Committee be appointed to whom the Mayor shall be chairman to consider and report to the Council, rules and regulations governing the order of business before the Council and of debate;

Mess'rs Wm A Little & Wm F Cheek were appointed the Committee under the foregoing order.

On motion of Mr A K Phillips, it is ordered that the Committee on Public Property do pay the proceeds of the sale of the House & Lot sold to John F Scott to the Farmers Bank of Virginia in curtailment of the debt due by the Corporation to said Bank, and that the Mayor be & he is hereby directed to assign the bonds of the said Scott, taken for the deferred payments to said Bank in part payment of said curtail; And the said Committee are directed to report their proceedings herein to the Council.

On motion of Mr Wm F Cheek, it is ordered that the Chamberlain fill up two thousand dollars of the Corporation scrip to bear date on the 1<sup>st</sup> of May next & to be made payable in Eighteen years.

On motion ordered that the Committee to whom was referred the application of Mess'rs English & Spindle & others to purchase a portion of the [Page 75] property on Market Square be discharged from the further consideration of that subject & that the same be referred to the Public Property Committee.

A Motion having bee made that the Council now adjourn, Mr Wm Allen moved as an amendment thereto that the Council adjourn after the reading of the minutes and the vote having been taken on the amendment it was rejected & the motion to adjourn carried & thereupon the Council adjourned  
John L Marye, Jr, Mayor  
G F Chew, C C

At a meeting of the Common Council of the Town of Fredericksburg at the Council Chamber on the 5<sup>th</sup> day of April 1853  
Present, John L Marye, Jr, Mayor  
Alex'r K Phillips, Wm Allen, Wm F Cheek, Thos A Ball, Wm A Little [Common Councilmen]

Mess'rs Geo W Eve & John W Collins, members of the Council elect appeared, were qualified before the Mayor & took their seats at the Board.

The bill of John P Hill, amounting to \$40.50 which was heretofore laid on the table for rent of room for Union Engines was again taken up, and on motion of Mr Wm A Little, it is ordered that the said bill in connection with the fact of the attachment for rent levied upon the property of the Union Fire Company which is under a lien to the Corporation, be referred to the Public Property Committee with instructions to consider the subject and to settle the matter.

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

J W Collins	\$15.00
Jno Davis for cleaning out &c the Mayor's office	\$9.75
C C Wellford	\$12.32
Present, James McGuire	
Charles N Parker	\$6.50
R W Hart	\$3.75

On motion it is ordered that Mr B Cole be authorized to employ someone to attend to the cleaning out of the Mayor's office, provided the expense does not exceed the sum of \$1 per month.

Present, John Minor

On motion, It is ordered that the Chamberlain of the Corporation pay to the order of the School Commissioners the sum of one thousand dollars in order to defray expenses incurred in organizing & carrying on the free school up to the 1<sup>st</sup> of April 1853 and that the said sum be refunded to the Corporation out of the funds to be raised for the support of said school for the present year.

On motion of Mr Wm F Cheek, it is ordered that the Chamberlain fill up \$3500 of the Corporation Scrip; \$1000 to bear date on the 1<sup>st</sup> of June [Page 76] 1853 & be made payable in 17 years and \$2500 to bear date on the same day & to be made payable in 19 years after date.

On motion of Mr Wm F Cheek, It is ordered that the Clerk of the Council do confer with the Editors of the Newspapers published in the Town & ascertain from them the rates at which they will do the printing of the Corporation per annum, with the understanding that the proceedings of the Council are to be published gratis.

On motion of MR A K Phillips, it is ordered that the Mayor appoint a Committee to ascertain the expense of making an index to the proceedings Council subsequent to the year 1825 & report to the council

Mess'rs A K Phillips & Wm A Little were appointed the Committee under the foregoing order.

Mr A K Phillips, chairman of the Committee on Public Property reported verbally to the Board that the said Committee in obedience to the order entered on the 22<sup>nd</sup> March last, had applied the proceeds of the sale of the house & lot made to Jno F Scott, toward the curtail of the debt due by the Corporation to the Farmers Bank of Virginia.

On motion of Mr G W Eve, it is ordered that the Public Property Committee be authorized to expose to sale by public auction, after giving due notice of the time & place of such sale the houses & lots situated on Commerce street & now occupied by Waite & Sener and J H Myer, upon such terms as they may think best, reserving a bid at such sale for the Corporation.

The official bond of the Chamberlain with John James Chew and Ro C Duerson his sureties in the penalty of \$5000 was submitted to the Board, approved and ordered to be filed.

On motion the Council adjourned

John L Marye, Jr, Mayor

G F Chew, CC

At a meeting of the Common Council of the Town of Fredericksburg at the Council Chamber on the 18<sup>th</sup> day of April 1853

Present, John L Marye, Jr, Mayor

Alex'r K Phillips, William Allen, George W Eve, Wm A Little, Thomas A Ball, John W Collins, Thomas F Knox, James McGuire [Common Councilmen]

John James Young, member of the Council elect appeared was qualified before the Mayor and took his seat at the Board

A Communication from Wellington Gordon, President of the Rappahannock Company was presented & read by the Mayor and the same on motion of Alexander K Phillips was ordered to be laid on the table.

On motion of A K Phillips, it is ordered that the Clerk of the Council communicate to the President & Directors of the Fredericksburg & Valley Plank Road, the request of this Council that the Chief Engineer of said Company be [Page 77] directed as soon as practicable to make a survey of one or more routes for an extension of said road from the main stem to Culpepper Court House in order that information as to the practicability and cost of a suitable route may be laid before the next General Meeting of the Stockholders of said Company.

On motion of Wm A Little, Resolved that in the opinion of this Council it is the duty of the Street Committee in conjunction with the police to take such step as may be necessary to keep the streets of the Town clean & free from filth and that they be requested to give this subject their attention.

Resolved that every exhibition of a public show, amusement or exhibition of any kind for pay, be required to employ two police officers of the town to keep order and to pay them one dollar each for each exhibition and on failure of any exhibition so to employ the police officers & to pay them as aforesaid, he or they shall forfeit & pay to the Corporation for the use of the Corporation the sum of ten dollars.

Resolved that the ordinance passed 21<sup>st</sup> May 1846 “for punish disorderly & riotous conduct in the streets of the Town” be amended in this, that a free Negro found guilty under said ordinance shall unless fine imposed by the Justice be paid be punished be stripes at the discretion of the Justice as in the case of slaves violating said ordinance whose masters refuse to pay their fines.

On motion of A K Phillips Ordered that a committee be appointed to enquire into the present condition of the Fire Department of the Town and to report at the next meeting of the Council.

Mess’rs Alex’r K Phillips, Thomas F Knox & William Allen were appointed the Committee under the foregoing order

On motion of George W Eve it is ordered that the Chamberlain pay to A K Phillips, President of the Rappahannock Company the sum of twelve hundred dollars.

On motion of Wm A Little, the communication of Wellington Gordon, President of the Rappahannock Co was taken up & ordered to be referred to a committee with instructions to consider and report their views upon the said communication to the next Council

Mess’rs Wm A Little, George W Eve, & Thomas A Ball were appointed the Committee under the foregoing order.

Ordered that the Chamberlain pay to the Treasurer of the Fredericksburg and Valley Plank Road Company the sum of Three Thousand dollars, in part of the subscription of the Corporation to the Company, the said payment to be made in the scrip of the Corporation

On motion, ordered that the Clerk of the Council cause the amendment to the ordinance passed tonight to be inserted three times in some of the newspapers published in the Town

On motion the Council adjourned  
John L Marye, Jr, Mayor  
G F Chew, CC

At a meeting of the Common Council of the Town of Fredericksburg at the Council Chamber on the 5<sup>th</sup> day of May 1853

Present, John L Marye, Jr, Mayor

Wm A Little, Alex'r K Phillips, Geo W Eve, James McGuire, William Allen, John J Young, John M Forbes—  
Common Councilmen

The Clerk of the Council submitted to the Board an ordinance prepared in conformity with the order entered on the 18<sup>th</sup> of April last, which being read, was on motion changed into the form of a resolution which resolution was adopted and is as follows;

“Resolved by the Mayor and Commonalty of the Town of Fredericksburg that the occupiers of every lot in the Town be respectfully requested from and after the 15<sup>th</sup> day of May 1853 to pile up in the middle of the Streets opposite their respective lots, on every Saturday by 10 O'clock AM during the months of May, June, July, August, Sept & October all the trash & filth that shall be in the said streets opposite their lots on the days aforesaid in order that the same may be removed by the carts employed for the purpose.

Present John W Collins, Common Councilman

Mr A K Phillips, Chairman of the Committee on Public Property presented to the board, a receipt of A Goodwin, Cashier for \$2,000 paid by said Committee under an order of Council entered on the 22<sup>nd</sup> day of March 1853 as a curtail of the debt due by the Corporation to the Farmers Bank of Virginia, the sum of \$40.83 returned to him by said Cashier for excess of interest paid, which is ordered to be place by the Chamberlain to the credit of the Corporation

On motion resolved that the note of the Corporation at the Virg'a Bank be renewed for eleven days from May 6<sup>th</sup> and that the Chairman of the Committee on Public Property be requested to ascertain whether \$2000 out of the proceeds of the sale of real Estate, made on the 30<sup>th</sup> of April in cash and bonds will be received as a curtail upon said note; and if so that he be and his hereby empowered to make said arrangement and curtail said note, by payment of \$2000 thereon out of said proceeding of sale.

A motion was made by Mr Wm Allen that the Comm'r of the Revenue be directed to take a census of the population of the Town which motion was laid on the table.

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Mr Wm A Little presented to the Board a resolution passed by the Commissioners under the Act empowering the Fredericksburg and Gordonsville Rail Road Company asking an advance by the Corporation of the necessary funds to employ an Engineer, to survey as many routs as may be necessary, and to employ agents to solicit subscribers and a release of land damages &c, which having been read was on motion laid on the table until the next meeting of the Council.

The following resolution offered by Mr J M Forbes was adopted, viz;

Resolved that the subject of printing for the Corp'n be referred to a Committee of three members of the Council who shall make such contract respecting the same, as they may deem most advisable.

Mess'rs John M Forbes, James McGuire, Geo W Eve, were appointed the Committee under the foregoing resolution.

On motion of Mr Wm Allen it is ordered that the Chamberlain a statement of the Receipts & expenditures of the Corporation for the year ending the 21<sup>st</sup> Mar 1853 and submit the same to the Council at its next meeting.

On motion, ordered that when the Council adjourn it adjourn till Thursday evening next.

On motion, the Council then adjourned.

John L Marye, Jr, Mayor

G F Chew, C C

At an adjourned meeting of the Common Council of the Town of Fredericksburg at the Council Chamber on the 12<sup>th</sup> of May 1853

Present, John L Marye, Jr, Mayor

Thomas A Ball, Wm A Little, Geo W Eve, John W Collins, Wm Allen, John J Young, Alex K Phillips, John M Forbes, James McGuire, Thomas F Knox—Common Councilmen

On motion it is ordered that the application of William H Browning for a subscription of \$2500 by the Corporation to the Hazle River improvement be postponed for the present

On Motion the Council to appoint proxies to represent the Stock of the Corporation at the annual meeting of the Stockholders of the Fred'g & Valley Plank Road Company to be held on the 18<sup>th</sup> Inst, whereupon the following gentlemen were elected in the first ballot, viz;

Thos F Knox, Chs C Wellford, Geo Gravatt.

On motion of Mr Wm Allen, Resolved that the Public Property Committee be and they are hereby authorized to contract with Mr John F Scott for the sale to him of that portion of the Market Square in the rear of his lot, recently from the Corporation which will extend his lint to the brick wall some twelve feet back of his present line and [Page 80] to permit him to have an outlet to said Market Square.

On motion of Mr Wm Allen, it is ordered that a Committee of three be appointed whose duty it shall be to examine the Charter of the Corporation and report whether in their judgment the Mayor is a member of the Common Council on not.

Mess'rs John M Forbes, Wm A Little, Wm Allen were elected the Committee under the foregoing order.

The Chamberlain in obedience to an order entered at the last meeting of the Council laid before the board a statement of the receipts and expenditures of the Corp'n for the year ending the 19<sup>th</sup> of May 1853

On motion, ordered that a Committee be appointed to examine and report to the Council whether the Act of Assembly or the action of this Council the highways traversing the late addition made to the corporate limits have been legal constituted streets of the Town.

Mess'rs Wm A Little, John M Forbes, Geo W Eve, were appointed the Committee under the foregoing order

The Overseers of the Poor made a Report in conformity to the 26<sup>th</sup> Section of the 51<sup>st</sup> Chap of the Code of Virginia, which having been read, was on motion ordered to be received.

The bond of John S Caldwell, as Collector of rents & taxes with Alex K Phillips and Samuel Phillips as his securities in the penalty of \$5000 was submitted to the board, read, approved and ordered to be filed.

The School Comm'rs reported to the Board that it would require the sum of \$3000 to defray the expenses of the free school for the year ending the 1<sup>st</sup> of April next (1854)

On motion of Mr Wm Allen, ordered that the Clerk of the Council prepare an ordinance prohibiting gambling by Negroes &c and present the same to the next meeting of the Council.

An a/c of Buddy Taylor, for cleaning out Green house hill, amounting to \$2, was allowed and ordered to be paid.

Ordered that the Clerk cause 300 copies of the Statement of Receipts & Expenditures of the Corp'n for the year ending the 19<sup>th</sup> March 1853 to be printed in hand bill form for circulation among the citizens of the Town.

On motion the Council adjourned to Tuesday evening next at 8 o'clock

John L Marye Jr, Mayor

G F Chew, C C

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At an adjourned meeting of the Common Council of the Town of Fredericksburg at the Council Chamber on the 17<sup>th</sup> day of May 1853

Present, John L Marye, Jr, Mayor

William Allen, Thomas A Ball, Alexander K Phillips, Wm A Little, James McGuire, John M Forbes, Thomas F Knox, Wm F Cheek, John J Young, John W Collins—Common Councilmen

Present John Minor, Recorder

A communication from James H Bradley, requesting permission to use a portion of Price Edward Street between William & George for depositing plaster was on motion, referred to the Street Committee

On motion of Alex K Phillips, ordered that the report of the Building Committee be referred to a committee of three to be considered and reported on.

On motion ordered that the Committee last proposed consist of the Public Property Committee

Wm Allen was on motion excused from serving on the Committee last ordered.

An Account of the Recorder officer & for telegraph expenses amt'g to \$2.50 was presented and ordered to be paid.

On motion the Adjourned until Tomorrow 11 o'clock

John L Marye Jr, Mayor

G F Chew, C C

At an adjourned meeting of the Common Council of the Town of Fredericksburg at the Council Chamber on the 18<sup>th</sup> May 1853

Present, John L Marye, Jr, Mayor

Wm Allen, Wm A Little, Alex K Phillips, Thomas F Knox, John W Collins, Wm F Cheek, John M Forbes, Thomas A Ball, John J Young—Common Councilmen

Whereas a petition signed by more than one fourth of the Citizens of the Town of Fredericksburg who are authorized to vote for members of the Common Council of Fred'g praying that the Mayor and Council shall subscribe the sum of Eighty five Thousand dollars to the Capital Stock of the Fred'sburg and Gordonsville Rail Road, has been presented to the Common Council. Be it resolved that a poll be and the same is hereby directed to take the sense of the voters of the Town aforesaid upon the question whether the Mayor on behalf of the Corporation of Fred'g shall subscribe the said sum of Eighty five Thousand dollars to the Capital Stock of [Page 82] the said Rail Road Company; and that the time of holding the said Poll be on Saturday the 4<sup>th</sup> day of June 1853; and that notice pursuant to this Resolution be published for fifteen days, and until the day aforesaid in all the newspapers published in the Town.

On motion made and seconded, ordered that this Council act as Commissioners under the foregoing order

On motion the Council then adjourned



John L Marye Jr, Mayor  
G F Chew, C C

At a meeting of the Common Council of the Town of Fredericksburg at the Council Chamber on the 7<sup>th</sup> day of June 1853

Present, John L Marye, Jr, Mayor  
John Minor, Recorder

Alex K Phillips, John M Forbes, Geo W Eve, Wm Allen, James McGuire, John W Collins, John J Young, Thomas A Ball, Wm A Little, Thomas F Knox—Common Councilmen

Alex'r K Phillips, Chairman of the Committee on Public Property presented a statement of the sale of the two houses and lots on William Street, made under an order of the Council entered on the 5<sup>th</sup> of April 1853, and also of the disbursement of the fund arising from said sale, agreeably to the order entered on the 5<sup>th</sup> of May 1853, and also the receipts of the Cashier of the Bank of Virginia & of the Chamberlain of the Corp'n for said proceeds which statement and receipts are ordered to be filed.

Alex K Phillips, Chairman of the Committee on Public Property paid over to the Chamberlain in the presence of the Council the sum of \$10 being the nett proceeds of sale of a house on William Street made by said Committee to Wm M Mitchell

It appearing to the Council that in the 4<sup>th</sup> day of June 1853 at the Mayors office, a poll was taken of the Citizens of the Town of Fredericksburg who are qualified to vote in elections for Common Councilmen of the Town upon the question whether the Mayor and Common Council of Fredericksburg shall subscribe on behalf of said Town the sum of \$85,000 to the Capital Stock of the Fredericksburg and Gordonsville Rail Road Company in pursuance of a resolution of this Council passed on the 18<sup>th</sup> day of May 1853 and after advertisement of said day and place of taking said Poll in the *Virginia Herald, Democratic Recorder, Fred'g News, Christian Banner,* and the *Weekly Advertiser*; newspapers published in the Town of Fredericksburg for more than fifteen days, prior to the said [Page 83] said 4<sup>th</sup> day of June and that three hundred and fifty voters were poll'd at said time and place, of which three hundred and thirty were in favor of, and twenty voters were opposed to said subscription being made, and that more than three fifths of the vote polled upon the said question were cast in favor of such subscription being made.

Be it resolved that the Mayor be and he is hereby directed to subscribe on behalf of the Mayor and Common Council of the Town of Fredericksburg to the Capital stock of the Fredericksburg & Gordonsville Rail Road, the said sum of eighty five thousand dollars and that the Chamberlain pay to the Commissioners the sum required by law to be paid, upon such subscription being made.

On motion Ordered that the Chamberlain do fill up the \$3,500 of blank Corp'n scrip now remaining in his hands to bear date the 1<sup>st</sup> of July 1853 and to be made payable in twenty years from the date.

On motion ordered that the Chamberlain do pay to the Treasurer of the Fred'g & Valley Plank Road Company, the sum of Four Thousand dollars, which with the amounts heretofore paid to said Company makes the sum of \$15,000 the amount of the last subscription on the part of the Corp'n to the increased capital stock of said Company

Geo W Eve Esq tendered his resignation as Common Councilman which on motion was received.

On motion ordered that the application of the Fred'g Guards for aid &c be referred to a Committee of two with directions to them to report to the next Council.

Mess'rs Thomas A Ball & John J Young, were appointed the committee under the foregoing order.

The Council proceeded to elect a Common Councilman to supply the vacancy occasioned by the resignation of Mr Geo W Eve, whereupon Mr Chester B White, having received the unanimous vote of the Board was duly elected.

Chester B White, Esq, member of the Council elect appeared was qualified before the Mayor and took his seat at the Board.

On motion, Resolved that the Clerk of the Council be directed to prepare an ordinance to punish the keeping of noisy and disorderly houses by Negroes, under such penalties as are prescribed in the Ordinance for the Suppression of noise and disorder in the Streets.

An a/c of G F Chew amounting to \$5 is allowed & ordered to be paid.

Ordered that the Chamberlain pay to J L Marye Jr Esq the sum of \$1 being the cost paid by him for the copy of an act of Assembly

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On motion Mr John Minor is appointed to supply the vacancy occasioned by the resignation of Mr Eve as a member of the Council on the Committee appointed by the order of the 12<sup>th</sup> of May 1853 on the subject of the Highways &c

On motion Mr C B White, is appointed a member of the Committee on Streets to supply the vacancy occasioned by the resignation of G W Eve as a member of the Council

On motion the Council then adjourned,

John L Marye Jr, Mayor

G F Chew, C C

At an a meeting of the Common Council of the Town of Fredericksburg at the Council Chamber on the 17<sup>th</sup> on June 1853

Present, John L Marye, Jr, Mayor

Wm Allen, James McGuire, Wm F Cheek, C B White, W A Little, Thos A Ball, John W Collins, Alex'r K Phillips, John J Young—Common Councilmen

The Clerk submitted to the Board an ordinance to punish the keeping of noisy and disorderly houses in the Town by Negroes, prepared in conformity to an order entered at the last meeting of the Council which having been read, was on motion adopted and ordered to be published and is as follows, viz;

Be it ordained by the Mayor and Common Council of the Town of Fredericksburg that hereafter if any Negroe or Negroes shall keep a noisy and disorderly house in the Town to the annoyance and disquiet of any citizen thereof, upon complaint thereof to the Mayor or some other Justice of the Peace of the Town aforesaid, it shall be and is hereby made his duty to cause such Negro or Negroes to be arrested and brought before him or some other Justice of the Peace of the Corporation and upon proof that he, she or they are guilty of keeping a noisy and disorderly house the Mayor or Justice of the Peace, before whom such conviction shall to place, shall impose a fine of not less than one nor more than ten dollars, and if the fine so imposed shall not be paid by the party convicted, nor by the owner or employer of such Negro or Negroes then such Negro or Negroes shall be punished by stripes at the discretion of the Mayor or Justice before whom such conviction shall take place providing always said stripes shall not be less than five nor more than thirty nine in number.

The ordinance shall be in face from and after the 1<sup>st</sup> day of July 1853.

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On motion made & seconded It is ordered that the Chamberlain be and he is hereby authorized to issue the bonds of the Corporation for a sum not exceeding three thousand dollars to bear interest at the rate of 6 pr annum payable semi-annually and to be irredeemable for a period not less than ten years and as much longer as the purchaser thereof may desire, the proceeds arising from the sales of said bonds to be placed by the Chamberlain to the credit of the Corporation.

On motion ordered that the Clerk of the Council do examine whether or not there is any ordinance now in force prohibiting the keeping of hog pens in the Corp'n and if there should not be then that he prepare an ordinance to that effect and submit it to the Council at the next meeting.

On motion ordered that the Clerk do prepare an ordinance prohibiting further internments in the Public burying ground fronting on Prince Edward Street & lying between George & Wm Street in the Town of Fred'g.

On motion the council proceeded to appoint three proxies to represent the Mayor & Commonalty of Fred'g in the meeting of the stockholders of the Fredericksburg & Gordonsville Rail Road Company, when the following gentlemen were elected by ballot viz;

Thomas F Knox, Chs C Wellford, Alex K Phillips, Esq'rs

On motion the Council then adjourned

John L Marye Jr, Mayor

G F Chew, C C

At a meeting of the Common Council of the Town of Fredericksburg at the Council Chamber on the 12<sup>th</sup> of July 1853

Present, John L Marye, Jr, Mayor

Wm Allen, Wm A Little, Alex'r K Phillips, John M Forbes, Jas McGuire, C B White, John J Young—Common Councilmen

Alex K Phillips, Chairman of the Committee on Public Property paid over to the Chamberlain the sum of \$20 being the proceeds of the sale of lot on Market Square, to John F Scott made by said Committee under an order of Council dated the 12<sup>th</sup> May 1853

The Chamberlain reported to the board that in conformity with the order entered at the last meeting of the Council directing him to issue the bonds of the Corporation for the sum of \$3000 and make such sale thereof that he had done so at par, and the proceeds arising from said sales had been place by him to the credit of the Corporation.

The Clerk submitted to the board an ordinance to prohibit further internments in the Public burying ground fronting on Prince Edward [Page 86] Street which having been read was adopted and ordered to be published and is as follows, viz;

An ordinance prohibiting further internments in the Public Burying Ground fronting on Prince Edward Street, in the Town of Fredericksburg, passed July 12<sup>th</sup> 1853

Be it ordained by the Mayor and Common Council of the Town of Fredericksburg that hereafter it shall not be lawful for any person or persons to open a grave or to enter the dead body of any person in what is known as the Public burying ground, fronting on Prince Edward Street & bounded on the North by William Street and on the South by George Street, and that any person so offending if a white person shall pay for every such offence the sum of fifty dollars to be recovered by warrant with costs before any Justice of the Peace of the Corporation of Fredericksburg, and any slave or free Negro offending herein shall upon conviction thereof before a Justice be fined not less than twenty five dollar nor more than fifty dollars, and upon failure to pay such fine shall receive not less than twenty nor more than thirty nine lashes at the public whipping post.

This ordinance shall be in force from & after the 19<sup>th</sup> July 1853.

The Clerk submitted to be board an ordinance prohibiting the keeping of hog pens in the Corporation which having been read and amended was passed and ordered to be published & is as follows, viz;

An ordinance prohibiting the keeping of hog pens in the Corporation of Fredericksburg, passed July 12<sup>th</sup> 1853

1. Be it ordained by the Mayor and Common Council of the Town of Fredericksburg, That no person shall between the 1<sup>st</sup> day of June and the 1<sup>st</sup> day of November in any year or prior to the 1<sup>st</sup> day of November of the present year, 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 one dollar for every day such hog pen or hog shall be so kept and shall moreover be liable to have the said nuisance abated by the police officer and pay the cost thereof to be recovered by a Warrant before a Justice of the Peace of this Corporation and the owner of any slave who shall knowingly permit his said slave to keep a hog pen shall pay the penalties aforesaid recoverable as aforesaid and the slave so offending shall upon conviction of the said offence be punished with stripes at the public whipping post not exceeding thirty nine for every said offence

2<sup>nd</sup> Nothing in this ordinance contained shall prevent any butcher or butchers of the Town aforesaid from keeping hogs in his [Page 87] or their lots adjoining the slaughter of said Butcher or Butchers for the purpose of consuming the offal from said Slaughter houses provided said hogs be kept in open and spacious lots and not in pens or slips

This ordinance shall be in force from and after the 19<sup>th</sup> of July 1853

The following resolution was adopted

Resolved that any hog with an iron ring in its nose of two inches in diameter and not less than one eighth of an inch in thickness may be permitted to run at large in the streets of the Town from this date until the 1<sup>st</sup> day of November next

An a/c of the Fred'g Guards for expense of firing the cannon in the 4<sup>th</sup> of July amounting to \$12.50 was presented, read & ordered to be paid

On motion it is ordered that the complaint of Mr W S Chesley and his application for a remedy against the annoyance occasioned by the keeping of cow houses in the town be referred to a Committee of three with direction to said Com'ee to report to the next Council

Mess'rs Wm A Little, Jno J Young, and A K Phillips were appointed the Committee under the foregoing order

On motion ordered that the Chamberlain do refund to the several lawyers, Physicians & Dentists the amount of tax paid by them respectively in the licenses for the year 1852, agreeably to a list to furnished him by the Collector of Taxes.

On motion ordered that the Chamberlain pay over to the Street Commissioners the sum of one thousand to be appropriated towards defraying the expenses of the free school to the 6<sup>th</sup> of July 1853

A a/c of John S Caldwell against the Corp'n amounting to \$21 was read, passed & ordered to be paid

The Committee appointed to take into consideration the propriety of making some appropriation to the Fred'g Guards made a report which having been read, was on motion laid on the table

On motion the Council then adjourned

John L Marye, Jr, Mayor

Geo F Chew C C

At a meeting of the Common Council of the Town of Fredericksburg at the Council Chamber on the 22<sup>nd</sup> day of July 1853

Present, John L Marye, Jr, Mayor

William Allen, James McGuire, Wm F Cheek, Wm A Little, Thomas A Ball, John W Collins, John J Young—  
Common Councilman

Mr Wm A Little, Chairman of the Committee appointed to consider the application and complaint of Wm S Chesley with respect to the keeping of cow houses in the Town made a report which having [Page 88] having been read, was on motion received, and the said Committee discharged from the further consideration of the subject

Present, C B White

Mr W A Little, to whom was referred the communication of Wellington Gordon, President of the Rappahannock Company made a report in writing, which having been read was in motion received and ordered to be laid on the table

On motion ordered that a Committee of three be appointed whose duty it shall be to consider the subject of the taxes and to report to the Council on Monday evening next.

Mess'rs Wm A Little, Wm Allen, & James McGuire were appointed the Committee under the foregoing order

On motion the Council adjourned till Monday evening next at ½ past 4 o'clock

John L Marye Jr, Mayor

Geo F Chew, C C

At an adjourned meeting of the Common Council of the Town of Fredericksburg at the Council Chamber on the 25<sup>th</sup> July 1853

Present, John L Marye, Jr, Mayor

Wm F Cheek, Thomas A Ball, Wm Allen, Wm A Little, John W Collins, C B White, James McGuire, Thos F Knox & John J Young—Common Councilmen

The Mayor as chairman of the Committee to consider and report to the Council rules and regulations for the government of the Common Council of Fredericksburg which having been read and the vote taken thereon were adopted.

Ordered that the clerk cause to be printed in sheet form one hundred copies of the Rules and Regulations for the Government of the Common Council of Fred'g this day reported by the Committee appointed for the purpose.

Present, John Minor, Recorder

The Committee to whom the subject of the taxes for the present year was referred by an order entered at the last meeting of the Council made a report thru Wm A Little, Esq, their Chairman accompanied by a bill imposing taxes for the year 1853 which report & bill having been read and the blanks in the latter filled up were adopted the said tax bill is as follows, viz;

Be it ordained by the Mayor and Common Council of the Town of Fredericksburg that there shall be levied and collected on persons property and other subjects of the Town of Fredericksburg to defray the expenses of the Corporation for the year ending the 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday in March 1854 [Page 89] the taxes following, to wit;

On Real Estate fifty cents on every hundred dollars value thereof by the Commissioner's books

On each white male above twenty one years of age, one dollar

On each slave above 16 years of age, two dollars and fifty cents

On each slave between 12 & 16 years of age, two dollars

On each free colored male above 21 years of age, two dollars

On all personal property other than slaves, fifty cents on every hundred dollars value thereof, agreeably to the Commissioner's books.

On money in hand, on deposit, or loaned without written memorial, solvent bonds and other securities, such as notes, deeds of trust or Mortgages, eighteen cents on every hundred dollars

On all capital invested or used in any manufacturing business or invested, used or employed in any trade or business and the Capital of joint stock Companies, for which no license is required by the State, as ascertained by the Commissioner of the Revenue under the laws of the State, fifty cents on every hundred dollars.

On so much of the interest or profits, which may have been received by any person or converted into principal so as to become an interest bearing subject or otherwise appropriated with the year ending February 1, 1853, arising from bonds & certificates of debt, in this or any other state or Country, or any public corporation created by this or any other state, three per cent

On the salary, income or fees of every person as ascertained by the Commissioner of the Revenue, under the laws of the State, one per centum.

On every merchants, auctioneers, and ordinary keepers license granted by the state, twenty per cent on the State tax.

On every license granted by the State to an insurance agent or sub agent, twenty five per cent on the state tax.

On Bagatelle tables, ten dollars

On Ten pin Alleys, ten dollars

On billiard tables, ten dollars

On hawkers and Pedlars and others vending articles in the Streets whether of foreign or domestic growth and manufacture, five dollars for each carrier.

On the Proprietor or occupier of any Public Room, fitted for Public Exhibitions, and used for such purposes, except where a Mechanic or artisan exhibits any work or production of his own art or invention or where a lecture on a literary or scientific subject is delivered or a musical concert held, forty dollars

On every public exhibition other than at a Public Room fitted for Public Exhibitions, except lectures on literary or scientific subjects and musical concerts, five dollars for every twenty four hours.

On every license to the occupier of a Daguerrean room or gallery, five dollars.

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On every Toll Bridge, fifteen dollars

On every Ferry, Ten dollars

And be it further ordained that there shall be levied and collected for the support of the free school, as follows, viz;

On Real Estate fifteen cents on every hundred dollars value thereof by the Commissioner's books

On each white male above twenty one years of age, three dollars

And be it further ordained that the Commissioner of the Revenue do extend in the Book provided for the purpose the amount due from each person under the provisions of this ordinance, distinguishing and keeping in separate columns the school tax, and the ordinary taxes of the Corporation.

And be it further ordained that all persons who shall call on the Collector at the Mayor's office and pay him the taxes due by them under this ordinance by the 20<sup>th</sup> day of August next shall be entitled to a deduction of five per centum from the amount of their respective accounts.

On motion of Mr W F Cheek, ordered that the Clerk prepare and ordinance forbidding the erection of a building to be used as a cow house within fifteen feet of any dwelling house, situate on a neighboring lot; also providing that upon complaint made to a Justice that any existing cow house situate with such proximity to any dwelling house is offensive to the health or comfort of the occupiers of such dwelling house that it shall be the duty of the said Justice to notify the owner or occupier of the lot on which such cow house stands to discontinue the use of the same as a cow house and in case of default therein, that said Justice shall inflict a fine of not less than two nor more than ten dollars for every day that such use shall be continued. And that the Clerk add to the same

ordinance a like provision forbidding the erection or use of a house as a necessary within ten feet of a neighboring dwelling house, or of a street in the Town.

Mr Wm F Cheek tendered his resignation as a member of the Common Council, which on motion was received.

On motion ordered that the Clerk prepare an ordinance amending the 3<sup>rd</sup> section of the supplemental ordinance relating to Rail Road Company's passed 19<sup>th</sup> Dec 1842, so as to make the Rail Road Companies responsible for the Commission of the offence therein named.

The Council proceeded to elect a member to supply the vacancy occasioned by the resignation of Wm F Cheek when Mr Wm S Barton was elected on the first ballot.

On motion the Council adj'd till ½ past 8 o'clock this evening

John L Marye Jr, Mayor

Geo F Chew, C C

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Council Chamber, Monday evening, July 25, 1853

Present, John L Marye Jr, Mayor

Wm Allen, Wm A Little, Thomas A Ball, James McGuire, John W Collins, John J Young, Chester B White—  
Common Councilman

On motion of Mr J W Collins, the report of the Committee appointed to take into consideration the propriety of making some appropriation to the Fredericksburg Guards was again taken up. And thereupon on motion of Mr C B White, it was ordered that an appropriation of one hundred & fifty dollars for the present year be made to the Fred'g Guards, commencing on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of March last; and that the same be paid quarterly by the Chamberlain.

On motion of Mr J W Collins the Report of the Committee to whom was referred the communication of Wellington Gordon, President of the Rappahannock Company and which was laid on the table at the last meeting of the Council was taken up and thereupon, the following Resolution offered by Mr Wm A Little was unanimously, viz;

Resolved that a poll be and the same is hereby directed to take the sense of the citizens of the Town who are qualified to vote in elections of the Common Councilman of the Town, upon the question whether the Mayor and commonalty of the Town shall subscribe (on behalf of the Town) to the stock of the Rappahannock Company the sum of Twenty Thousand dollars in the scrip of the Corporation, payable in fifteen years, to purchase four tenths of the private stock of said Company and that the said Poll shall be taken on Saturday the 13<sup>th</sup> day of August 1853 at the Mayor's office in Fred'g and that notice pursuant to this Resolution be published for fifteen days and until the day aforesaid on all the Newspapers printed in the Town.

The following resolution offered by Mr John J Young was unanimously adopted, viz;

Resolved that the Report of the Committee on the Rappahannock Canal, the proposition of Wellington Gordon, President and John Baker, Esq together with the notice for taking the poll upon this question be printed in hand bill form, to the number of five hundred and distributed throughout the Town

On motion of Mr C B White, It is ordered that in consideration of the increased duties to be preformed by the Commissioner of the Revenue that an allowance fifty dollars be made him in addition to the salary heretofore allowed him.

On motion, the Council then adjourned

John L Marye Jr, Mayor

Geo F Chew, C C

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Council Chamber Aug't 2<sup>nd</sup> 1853

This being the day for the Regular monthly meeting of the Common Council of the Town of Fredericksburg the following members were in attendance, to wit; William Allen, John J Young, James McGuire.

There not being a quorum present the Council stood adjourned sine die

Geo F Chew, C C

Council Chamber, Aug't 6<sup>th</sup> 1853

A Meeting of the Common Council of the Town of Fredericksburg having been called for this day the following members were in attendance, viz; John Minor, Recorder, Wm Allen, Jas McGuire.

There not being a quorum present the Council stood adjourned sine die.

J Minor, Recorder

Geo F Chew C C

At a called meeting of the Common Council of the Town of Fredericksburg at the Council Chamber on the 11<sup>th</sup> day of August 1853

Present, John Minor, Recorder

Wm A Little, John J Young, Wm Allen, John M Forbes, Thos F Knox, Jas McGuire, John W Collins—

Common Councilmen

Mr Wm S Barton, member of the Council elect, appeared was qualified and took his seat at the board.

The Clerk submitted to the board “an Ordinance forbidding the erection of buildings to be used as cow-houses and for other purposes” prepared in conformity to an order entered on the 25<sup>th</sup> July last which having been read, was passed and ordered to be published and is as follows, viz;

1. Be it ordained by the Mayor and Common Council of the Town of Fredericksburg that it shall not be lawful for any person hereafter to erect or put up on his or her lot any cow house building to be used as such within fifteen feet of any dwelling house, on an adjacent or neighboring lot and any person offending herein shall forfeit and pay for every day such building shall stand the sum of ten dollars to be recovered by warrant for the use of the Corporation.

2. Be it further ordained that if any building with fifteen feet of any dwelling house, used as a cow house shall be offensive to the health or the comfort of the occupiers of such dwelling house it shall be the duty of the Mayor or any Justice of the Peace of the [Page 93] Corporation upon complaint made to notify the owner or occupier of the lot on which such building stands to discontinue the use thereof as a cow house and if the owner or occupier of the lot on which said building is, shall not discontinue the use thereof pursuant to such notice, he or she shall forfeit and pay not less than two nor more than ten dollars for every day that such use shall continue to be recovered by warrant.

3. Be if further ordained that it shall not be lawful for any person hereafter to erect or put up on his or he lot a necessary or building to be use as such, within ten feet of any dwelling house on an adjacent or neighboring lot, or within ten feet of any street of the Town and any person offending herein shall forfeit and pay, for every day such building shall stand the sum of ten dollars to be covered as aforesaid.

4. Be it further ordained that if any building now standing with ten feet of any dwelling house on an adjacent or neighboring lot or within ten feet of any street of the Town used as a necessary, shall be offensive to the heath or the comfort of the occupiers of such dwelling house or to persons passing along the street on which such building or necessary may be situated it shall be the duty of the Mayor or any Justice of the Peace of the Corporation upon complaint being made to notify the owner or occupier of the lot on which such building or necessary stands to remove the same and if the owner or occupier of the lot on which such building or necessary



is shall not remove the same pursuant to such notice, he or she shall forfeit and pay not less than two nor more than ten dollars for every day such building or necessary shall remain unmoved to be recovered by warrant as aforesaid

5. This ordinance shall be in force from its passage.

The clerk submitted to the Board “an ordinance amending the 3<sup>rd</sup> section of the supplemental ordinance concerning Rail Roads in the Town of Fredericksburg and to regulate the use of cars and other carriages on the same, prepared in conformity to an order entered on the 26<sup>th</sup> July last, which having been read was passed & ordered to be published and is as follows, viz;

Be it ordained by the Mayor and Common Council of the Town of Fredericksburg, that the third section of the supplemental Ordinance of the 19<sup>th</sup> of December 1842, be and the same is hereby so amended as to read as follows; that hereafter it shall not be lawful for any Rail Road Car, Engine, Carriage or other vehicle of any kind to be driven or propelled by steam [Page 94] animal power or otherwise upon any Rail Road or Rail Track in any street in the Town of Fredericksburg at a rate greater than for miles per hour. And that the Rail Road Company to which such car, engine, carriage, or other vehicle shall belong shall be adjudged to pay and shall pay a fine of twenty dollars for each violation of the ordinance

Thomas A Ball, Esq by note in writing resigned his office of Common Councilman which resignation was on motion received.

The Council proceeded to elect a member of the Common Council to supply the vacancy occasioned by the resignation of Thomas A Ball, when J L Huffman was elected on the third ballot.

Ordered that this Council do, two at a time, act as Commissioners in conducting the poll to be taken on the 13<sup>th</sup> Inst upon the question whether the Mayor & Commonalty of the Town shall subscribe on behalf of the Town to the Stock of the Rappahannock Company the sum of \$20,000 in the scrip of the Corporation payable in 15 years, to purchase four tenths of the private stock of said Company and that said Poll be opened at 10 O'clock AM

An a/c of Philip Hunt for distributing hand bills amt'g to 75¢ was passed and ordered to be paid.

It appearing that Mr John Minor has been erroneously charged on the Comm'rs Books with the sum of two dollars & sixty cent and that he hath paid the same it is ordered that the Chamberlain refund to him the said amount of \$2.60.

On motion the Council adj'd

J Minor, Recorder

Geo F Chew, C C

At a called meeting of the Common Council of the Town of Fredericksburg at the Council Chamber on the 13<sup>th</sup> day of August 1853

Present, John Minor, Recorder

Wm Allen, A K Phillips, Jno J Young, Wm S Barton, Thomas F Knox, Jas McGuire, John W Collins, Wm A Little—Common Councilmen

On motion ordered that the Clerk prepare and ordinance prohibiting the throwing of water in the streets & footways at and around a public pump &c and report the same to the next Council

Ordered that the Chamberlain pay to Bernard Cole, the sum of \$50 amount of his salary as keeper of the Court House &c agreeably to an order of the Corporation Court of Fredericksburg entered [Page 95] on the 12<sup>th</sup> Inst & certified for payment by the Clerk of the Said Court

On motion, Resolved that agreeably to the request contained in a resolution adopted at a public meeting of the Citizens of the Town on the 12<sup>th</sup> Inst, that the resolution of this Council adopted on the 25<sup>th</sup> of July last directing a poll to be opened on the 13<sup>th</sup> of August 1853 to take the sense of the Citizens of the Town upon the proposal of the Rappahannock Canal Company be & the same is hereby rescinded and annulled.

On motion the Council adjourned.  
J Minor, Recorder  
Geo F Chew, C C

At a regular monthly meeting of the Common Council of the Town of Fredericksburg at the Council Chamber on the 6<sup>th</sup> day of September 1853  
Present, John L Marye Jr, Mayor  
Wm Allen, Wm A Little, Jas McGuire, Wm S Barton, Thomas F Knox, John W Collins—Common Councilmen

Mr L J Huffman, member of the Council elect, appeared as qualified before the Mayor and took his seat at the Board

Mr Huffman is appointed a member of the Committee on Pumps to supply the vacancy in said Committee occasioned by the resignation of Thomas A Ball as a member of the Council.

The Clerk submitted to the board an ordinance prohibiting the throwing of water in the streets & footways of the Town at and around a public pump, which having been read was passed & ordered to be published & is as follows, viz;

Be it ordained by the Mayor and Common Council of the Town of Fredericksburg that it shall not be lawful for any person, bond or free, to throw or cause to be thrown any water into any of the public streets or footways at and around a public pump except in the regular drain from said pump, and any free person offending herein shall forfeit and pay to the Corporation for every such offence the sum of one dollar, to be recovered by warrant, and any slave offending herein and being thereof convicted before a Justice of the Peace of said Corporation shall received on his or her bare back any number of lashes, not exceeding thirty nice, unless his or her master or employer shall pay the sum of one dollar for every such offence.

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

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Whereas a petition signed by more that one fourth of the citizens of the Town of Fredericksburg, who are authorized to vote for members of the Common Council of Fred'sburg praying that the Mayor and Common Council be authorized to subscribe on behalf of the Town a sum not exceeding one hundred and twenty seven thousand five hundred dollars to be applied as follows, viz;

A sum not exceeding twenty seven thousand five hundred dollars to the purchase of eleven-twentieths of the interest of the private stockholders of the Rappahannock Canal Company &c &c as by reference to said petition will fully appear, be it therefore resolved that a poll be opened at the Mayor's office in the Town of Fredericksburg on Saturday the 24<sup>th</sup> day of the present month (September 1853) to take the sense of the citizens of the Town who are qualified to vote in elections of Common Councilmen of the Town upon the question whether the Mayor & Common Council of the Town shall subscribe on behalf of the Town a sum not exceeding one hundred & twenty seven thousand five hundred dollars, to be applied as follows, viz;

A sum not exceeding twenty seven thousand, five hundred collars to the purchase of eleven-twentieths of the interest of the private stockholders in the Rappahannock Canal Company to be paid in scrip of the Corporation

payable in fifteen years and bearing six per cent interest, and a sum not exceeding one hundred thousand dollars to the Stock of the Water Power Company in Coupon bonds of the Corporation payable in thirty years and that this resolution be published for fifteen days and until the day aforesaid in all the newspapers published in the town.

On motion, ordered that this Council act as Commissioners under the foregoing order.

An a/c of Wm K Gordon against the Corp'n amounting to \$36.75 was presented, read and on motion referred to the Comm'ee on Streets.

An a/c of C C Wellford for blankets furnished the jail amounting to \$5 was presented, read & ordered to be paid.

Ordered that the Chamberlain pay to Ro W Hart, the sum of \$125 being the amount of his salary for the year 1853 as Commissioner of the Revenue of the Corporation.

On motion ordered that the Committee heretofore appointed to enquire into the present condition of the Fire Department of this Town by discharged from the further consideration of the subject.

On motion ordered that a committee be appointed to enquire into the present condition of the Fire Department of the Town and to report to the next meeting of the Council

Mess'rs Wm Allen, Thomas F Knox, & Wm A Little were appointed the Committee under the foregoing order.  
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On motion, ordered that the Clerk cause to be printed in pamphlet form all ordinances of this Corporation passed since the last compilation of the ordinances and now in force.

The Mayor presented communications from the Treasury and Census Departments at Washington which having been read were on motion laid on the Table.

On motion the Council adjourned  
John L Marye Jr , Mayor  
Geo F Chew C C

At a called meeting of the Common Council of the Town of Fredericksburg at the Council Chamber on the 10<sup>th</sup> day of September 1853

Present, John L Marye Jr, Mayor

Wm Allen, John J Young, Wm S Barton, Thomas F Knox, John W Collins, L J Huffman, James McGuire—  
Common Councilmen

Mr William Allen, Chairman of the Committee appointed to enquire into the present condition of the Fire Department made a report which report having been read was on motion received and adopted & ordered to be filed.

The following Resolutions were adopted, viz;

Resolved that the Clerk of the Council be and he is hereby directed to amend the provisions of the ordinance entitled "An Ordinance to punish disorderly and riotous conduct in the Streets of the Town, passed May 21<sup>st</sup> 1846 in the following particulars, viz;

First that in place of the words "in the Streets" occurring in said ordinance be inserted the words "within the limits"; Second that the Justices of the Peace shall have discretion to inflict stripes at their discretion upon any slave or free Negro who may be convicted of the offences described in said ordinance when so amended.

On motion, it is ordered that the Chamberlain pay to Layton the sum of twenty dollars for a lot of ground lying between the wharf of Sam'l Phillips & Son, called Donaldson's wharf, and the west side of water street extended where a proper deed for the same is executed by said Layton to the Corporation.

On motion the Council then adjourned

John L Marye Jr, Mayor

Geo F Chew, C C

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At a called meeting of the Common Council of the Town of Fredericksburg at the Council Chamber on the 24<sup>th</sup> Sept 1853

Present, John L Marye Jr, Mayor

Wm Allen, Jas McGuire, Wm S Barton, Thos F Knox, William A Little, C B White

There being not quorum present the Council stood adjourned sine die

John L Marye Jr, Mayor

G F Chew, C C

At a called meeting of the Common Council of the Town of Fredericksburg at the Council Chamber on the 26<sup>th</sup> day of September 1853

Present, John L Marye Jr, Mayor

John Minor, Recorder

Wm Allen, Wm A Little, John J Young, Wm S Barton, James McGuire, C B White—Common Councilmen

It appearing to the Council that on the 24<sup>th</sup> day of September 1853 at the Mayor's office a poll was taken of the Citizens of the Town of Fredericksburg, who are qualified to vote in elections of Common Councilmen of the Town upon the question whether the Mayor and Commonalty of the Town shall subscribe on behalf of the Town a sum not exceeding one hundred and twenty seven thousand five hundred dollars in pursuance of a Resolution of the Council passed on the 6<sup>th</sup> day of September 1853, and after advertisement of said day and place of taking said poll in the *Virginia Herald, Fredericksburg News, Democratic Recorder & Christian Banner*, newspaper published in the Town of Fredericksburg, fifteen days prior to the said 24<sup>th</sup> of September 1853, and that three hundred and eighty one voters were polled at said time and place of which two hundred & eighty eight (288) votes were in favor of, and ninety three (93) votes were opposed to said subscription being made and that more than three fifths of the votes polled upon the said question were cast in favor of such subscription being made, be it therefore resolved;

1<sup>st</sup> That the proposal made by Wellington Gordon Esq to this Council in his letter dated the 12<sup>th</sup> April 1853 and now filed in the hands of the Clerk of this Council which letter contains an offer by the said Gordon to sell to the Corporation of Fredericksburg an interest in the property of the Rappahannock Company, be and the same is hereby accepted by the Council on behalf of the Corporation of Fredericksburg.

2<sup>nd</sup> That the Mayor be and he is hereby authorized to contract for the purchase of one twentieth of the private stock of said Rappahannock Company in addition to the amount thereof [Page 99] tendered for sale by said Wellington Gordon, as above stated upon the same terms of purchase as are offered for such stock by the said Gordon, and

3<sup>rd</sup> That the Mayor be and he is hereby directed to subscribe on behalf of the Mayor and Commonalty of the Town of Fredericksburg the sum of one hundred thousand dollars to the Capital stock of the Fredericksburg Water Power Company.

The following resolution offered by Mr John Minor was adopted, viz;

Resolved that there shall be appointed a standing Financial Committee to consist of three members of the Council whose duty it shall be to take into consideration all matters relating to the fiscal concerns of the Corporation and make report from time to time to the Council of any matter thereunto belonging and to act upon such matters as need not report to be made.

Mess'rs Wm Allen, Thomas F Knox & Wm S Barton were appointed the Committee under the foregoing resolution.

On motion, ordered that the Chamberlain procurer from Mess'rs Danforth, Wright & Co, Engravers, one thousand sheets of the scrip of the Corporation of the denomination of one & two dollars.

An ordinance amendatory of the ordinance to punish disorderly and riotous conduct in the Streets of the Town in the words and figures following, to wit;

Be it ordained by the Mayor and Common Council of the Town of Fredericksburg, that the ordinance of the 21<sup>st</sup> day of May 1846 be and the same is hereby amended in the following particulars, viz;

First, that in place of the words "in the streets of the Town" occurring in said ordinance, the words "within the limits of the Town" be inserted,

Secondly, that the Justice of the Peace shall at their discretion either impose the fine prescribed by said ordinance or cause to be inflicted stripes not exceeding thirty nine in number upon any slave or free Negro who may be convicted of the offence described in said ordinance, so amended.

This ordinance shall be in force from it passing.

Mr John Minor moved that the order hereto fore entered prohibiting smoking at the Council Board be rescinded upon which motion Mr Jas McGuire called for the Ayes and Noes, and the said motion was carried by the following vote

Ayes, John Minor, Wm A Little, Wm S Barton, J J Young, C B White	6
Noes, Wm Allen, Jas McGuire	2

On motion the Council adjourned

John L Marye Jr, Mayor

G F Chew, C C

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At a regular monthly meeting of the Common Council of the Town of Fredericksburg at the Council Chamber on the 4<sup>th</sup> day of October 1853

Present, John L Marye Jr, Mayor

John Minor, Recorder

Wm A Little, Wm Allen, Alex K Phillips, L J Huffman, Wm S Barton, John J Young, Thomas F Knox,  
Common Councilmen

The following resolution offered by Mr Wm S Barton was adopted, viz;

Resolved that the Committee heretofore appointed be requested to confer with the Committees to be appointed by the Fire Companies of the Town, as to the best means to be adopted to secure an effective fire department and to report to the Council at the earliest practicable day.

On motion made and seconded it is ordered that the public property committee do proceed after having advertised the time & place to expose to sale by public auction the fee simple & the reversionary interest of the Corporation in the vacant lots of ground situate on Market Square and report their proceedings herein to the Council.

On motion made and seconded, ordered that the Chamberlain of the Corporation pay to the Commissioners of the Free School the sum of five hundred dollars, towards defraying the expenses of said school.

Present, Chester B White

On motion, Mr J J Young has leave to absent himself from the Board.

An account of the Hope Fire Company for expenses incurred for employing labor of blacks at the late Fire on Market Square amounting to \$12.00 is allowed & ordered to be paid by the Chamberlain

The following resolution was adopted, viz;

Resolved that the Committee on Public Property be, and they are hereby instructed to have the Court Room floor covered with thick Cocoa matting; and that they be also instructed to have the experiment tried of putting up planks as recommended by Mr Renwick

An a/c of Mess'rs Ball & Scott, for one tierce of lime for the Jail amounting to \$1.25 is allowed & ordered to be paid.

On motion, resolved that the Committee on Streets be requested to consider the expediency of commencing the work of paving the streets of the Town, together with the plan of such work, including the material to be used, the locality for the commencement of such pavement and all matters connected with the subject; and that said Committee also enquire into the expediency of appointing a superintendent of Streets and the costs of obtaining such an officer, and report the result of their enquiries & deliberations to [Page 101] the Council

On motion the Council then adjourned

John L Marye Jr, Mayor

Geo F Chew, C C

At a called meeting of the Common Council of the Town of Fredericksburg at the Council Chamber on the 15<sup>th</sup> day of October 1853

Present, John L Marye Jr, Mayor

Wm Allen, Wm S Barton, L J Huffman, Wm A Little, Jas McGuire, Alex K Phillips, C B White—Common Councilmen

John M Forbes, Esq by note in writing addressed to the Mayor &c resigned his office as a member of the Common Council, which resignation was on motion, received.

The Council proceeded to elect a member to supply the vacancy occasioned by the resignation of John M Forbes, as a member of the Common Council of the Town of Fred'g when Mr Eustace Conway was elected on the first ballot.

Present, Thomas F Knox

On motion made & seconded Mr Landon J Huffman is appointed the proxy to represent the Stock of the Corporation at a meeting of the Stockholders of the Hazle River Navigation Company to be held on the 19<sup>th</sup> Instant.

On motion, Mr C B White is appointed associate proxy with Mr L J Huffman, either of whom may act, to represent the Corporation at the meeting of the Stockholders of the Hazle River navigation company to be held on the 19<sup>th</sup> Instant.

Mr Eustace Conway member elect of the Council appeared, was qualified before the Mayor and took his seat at the board.

On motion, Mr W S Barton has leave to absent himself from the board

On motion made and seconded it is ordered that a Committee of three be appointed to audit, state, and settle the account of Alex'r K Phillips, as late President of the Rappahannock Company & report the same to the Council.

Mess'rs James McGuire, E Conway & Wm Allen are appointed the Committee under the foregoing order.

On motion Resolved that the subject of the sale of the interest of the Corp'n of Fred'g in the property now occupied by Mess'rs English & Spindle to those gentlemen, be referred to the Committee on Public Property with instruction to ascertain for what said interest can be sold them.

Mr Alex K Phillips, chairman of the Committee on Public Property [Page 102] reported verbally to the Council that said Committee in conformity with the order entered on the 4<sup>th</sup> Inst had advertised & offered for sale the vacant lots on Market Square and failing to get the limit fixed upon by said Committee, the property was not sold.

Mr Thomas F Knox, Chairman of the Committee on Streets to whom was referred the account of Wm K Gordon, reported verbally for himself, recommending the payment of the said account, whereupon Mr C B White, a member of said Committee having stated that one of the said Committee had a report adverse to the payment of the said account, on motion, it is ordered that the subject be laid on the table for the present.

Mr Eustace Conway is appointed a member of the Committee on pumps to supply the vacancy occasioned by the resignation of John M Forbes as a member fo the Common Council

On motion made and seconded, it is ordered that the Clerk prepare an ordinance prohibiting the building or making of fires in the Market place and report the same to the next Council.

On motion the Council then adjourned

John L Marye Jr, Mayor  
G F Chew C C

At a Regular Monthly meeting of the Common Council of the Town of Fredericksburg at the Council Chamber on the 1<sup>st</sup> day of November 1853

Present, John L Marye Jr, Mayor  
John Minor, Recorder

Eustace Conway, Wm Allen, Thos F Knox, Wm A Little, L J Huffman, A K Phillips, James McGuire, John J Young—Common Councilmen

The Clerk of the Council reported to the Board an ordinance to prohibit the building or making of fires in the Market place which having been read & amended was passed and is as following, viz;

An Ordinance to prohibit the making of fires in the Market Place

Be it ordained by the Mayor and Common Council of the Town of Fredericksburg, that it shall not be lawful for any person to make a fire at any time in any part of the Market Place or to put any fire in the same; any person, bond or free, offending herein shall forfeit and pay to the Chamberlain of the Corporation for the use of the Corporation for every such offence the sum of five dollars, to be recovered with costs by warrant and any free Negro or slave offending herein and being thereof convicted before a justice of the Peace of said Corporation

shall in default of the payment of the fine [Page 103] by the party offending or someone on behalf of him or her be punished by stripes not exceeding thirty nine in number

This ordinance is not to operate against the making of fires in said Market place, when made according to Regulations, prescribed by the Committee on Public Property.

The Ordinance shall be in force from the passing thereof

Mr Alex K Phillips, Chairman of the Committee on Public Property reported that the said Committee had sold the interest of the Corporation in and to two of the lots on William street, to wit, lot No. 5 to John Coakley for the sum of eight hundred dollars, and lot No. 7 to John L Marye Jr for seven hundred dollars; and thereupon on motion made and seconded it is ordered that the said report be received and that the said sales be confirmed and that the Mayor be & he is hereby requested to execute proper conveyances to the purchasers of said lots, upon their complying with the terms of the sale, as set forth in said report.

Present C B White

The proposition of Mr James B Ficklen, to purchase the Corporation interest in the lot now occupied by him as a store, the pump lot in the rear of said lot, & lot No. 8 on William Street is referred to the Public Property Committee.

On motion made and seconded it is ordered that the contract with Wm M Baggett for building the Court House, the Reports of the building Committee and all matters pertaining thereto be referred to John L Marye Jr with the request that he report fully thereon to the Council.

On motion made and seconded it is ordered that the proceeds of the sales of the lots on Wm Street and the Insurance money to be received, be appropriated towards curtailing the debts due by the Corporation to the Bank of Virginia and the Farmers Bank of Virginia in equal portions.

On motion made and seconded it is ordered that the Committee on Streets be directed to enquire into the expediency of passing a regulation of this board directing the owners of lots in the Town to pave the footways opposite their respective lot, and make report to the Council

On motion made and seconded, it is ordered the Mayor be authorized to procure suitable lights for the Council Chamber.

Ordered that the Clerk of the Council be paid \$15 for services rendered in having the ordinances of the Corp'n printed in pamphlet form.

On motion ordered that the Chamberlain pay to Mr L J Huffman his bill of expenses as proxy representing the Corporation at [Page 104] at the meeting of the Stockholders of the Hazle River Navigation Company held on the 19<sup>th</sup> Inst when the same shall be presented.

On motion the Council then adjourned

John L Marye Jr, Mayor

Geo F Chew, C C

At a called meeting of the Common Council of the Town of Fredericksburg at the Council Chamber on the 22<sup>nd</sup> day of November 1853

Present, John L Marye Jr, Mayor

John Minor, Recorder



Thomas F Knox, James McGuire, Wm Allen, Alex K Phillips, Wm S Barton, Wm A Little, C B White—  
Common Councilmen

The Mayor stated that the Council had been convened for the purpose of meeting a requisition of two dollars per share on the Corporation subscription to the Fredericksburg & Gordonsville Rail Road Co amounting to \$1700; Whereupon the following resolution offered by Wm A Little was adopted, viz;  
Resolved that the Chamberlain of the Corporation be requested to issue the bonds of the Corporation for the sum of \$1700 in amounts of \$50 or more as may be desired & to dispose of the same at their par value, and to appropriate the proceeds towards pay the amount of the said requisition and that in the event of his inability to dispose of the said bonds, in time to meet said requisition that he do pay the same out of any funds of the Corporation in his hands, not otherwise appropriated, and that in the latter alternative, he replace the said sum of \$1700 out of the sale of said bonds, when such sale shall be effected by him.

Mr Wm S Barton offered the following resolution, viz;

Resolved that the Committee on Public Property be and they are hereby authorized to contract for the removal of the clock from the Episcopal Church to the Steeple of the Court House, for its being put in good repair and for general superintendence; and they are hereby authorized to draw on the Chamberlain for the necessary funds; and the vote thereon being taken by Ayes and Noes it was adopted by the following vote;  
Ayes, John Minor, Thomas F Knox, A K Phillips, Wm S Barton, Wm A Little, Jas McGuire, Wm Allen 7  
No, C B White 1

On motion it is ordered that the propriety of changing the place of the sessions of this Council and for holding the Mayor's Court and the subject of the uses to which the South wing of the court house may be put be referred to the Mayor, who is hereby requested to report to the next meeting of the Council.

A motion was made by Mr C B White, that the resolutions passed on the 18<sup>th</sup> day of April 1853 requiring every exhibitor of a public show to employ two police officers of the Town to keep order and to [Page 105] pay them one dollar each, for each exhibition be repealed and the vote having been taken in said motion, it was rejected.

C B White, Esq tendered his resignation as a member of the Common Council, which was on motion received.

Mr Jas McGuire, moved a reconsideration of the vote accepting the resignation of Mr C B White, which motion was carried and thereupon Mr White withdrew his resignation

Ordered that this Council hereby express it as the sense of this board that all the ordinances of this Corporation shall be strictly enforced and the police officer are hereby directed to use all diligence in reporting offenders against the same.

An a/c of Jesse, a slave, against the Rapp's Canal Co amounting to \$3.25 was presented to the board, read and on motion the consideration thereof indefinitely postponed.

On motion the Council then adjourned

Jno L Marye Jr, Mayor  
Geo F Chew, C C

At a Regular Monthly meeting of the Common Council of the Town of Fredericksburg at the Council Chamber on the 6<sup>th</sup> day of December 1853

Present, John L Marye Jr, Mayor  
John Minor, Recorder

Wm Allen, Wm A Little, Wm S Barton, James McGuire, Thos F Knox, E Conway, John W Collins, L J Huffman, C B White, J J Young—Common Councilmen

On motion, resolved that the Corporation do hereby relinquish to Duff Green, Edw'd McDowell and to the Representatives of Robert Dickey, whomever may qualify, all claim to any portions of the sum due to said Green, McDowell & Dickey for damages by fire to buildings on Market Square ensured by them in the M A Society of Virginia. The Corporation holding the reversionary interest in the property held by said Green & McDowell and that the Chamberlain be and he is hereby directed to execute a relinquishment accordingly.

On motion ordered that the Chamberlain pay to the Comm'rs of the Free School the sum of seven hundred & fifty dollars toward defraying the expenses of the said School.

The Committee to whom was referred the settlement of the accounts of Mr A K Phillips, late president of the Rappahannock Canal Company made a report which having been read was on motion adopted & ordered to be filed; and it appearing from the said report that there is a balance due by the Corporation to S Phillips & Son of \$417.62 with interest on \$365.60 part thereof, from the 3<sup>rd</sup> of Aug't 1853 and on \$52.02 the residue thereof from the 1<sup>st</sup> Nov 1853 it is ordered that the Chamberlain of the Corp'n pay the said amount to Mess'rs S Phillips & Son

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Mr A K Phillips, Chairman of the Committee on Public Property presented the board a receipt of the Teller of the Farmers Bank of Virginia for the sum of \$1500, applied to the reduction of the debt due by the Corp'n to said Bank from \$5000 to \$3500, which said receipt is ordered to be filed by the Clerk of the Council.

John L Marye Jr Esq to whom was referred the contract with Wm M Baggett for building the Court House &c made a written report which having been read on motion the said Report was laid on the table for consideration.

Mess'rs Wm S Barton, John W Collins, & C B White, members of the Street Committee to which was referred the account of Wm K Gordon, made a report in writing, adverse to the payment of said account, which report having been read was on motion adopted and ordered to be filed.

The Committee on Streets to whom was referred the subject of paving the streets of the Town and also the expediency of appointing a superintendent of Streets &c made a report which report having been read, was on motion received and the recommendation contained in said Report for the appointment of a Superintendent of the Streets was on motion laid on the table until the next meeting of the Council.

On motion ordered that the account of Gabriel Johnston against the Corp'n amounting to \$100.62 be referred to the pump committee with directions to examine & report upon the same.

On motion it is ordered that a poll be held at the Mayor's Office in the Town of Fredericksburg on the 24<sup>th</sup> day of December 1853 to take the sense of the qualified voters of said Town upon the question whether the Common Council of the said Town shall make the subscription to the Stock of the Fredericksburg Water Power Company which was directed by the vote of said voters cast on the 24<sup>th</sup> day of September 1853 without effecting the purchase of the eleven twentieths of the private stock of the Rappahannock Company, as required by the same vote; and that in taking said vote, there shall be two polls opened one headed "For the subscription" the other headed "Against the Subscription" and the names of those who vote in favor of said subscription shall be recorded in the first poll, of those who vote against the same shall be recorded in the last poll. And it is further ordered that Public notice shall be given of this poll by advertising this order in the Newspapers of the Town until the day of holding said Poll.

On motion it is ordered that the Chamberlain do contract either here or elsewhere as he may find most expedient (after consultation with the Finance Committee) for the printing of bonds of the Corporation with Coupons attached; and he is hereby authorized to pay all expenses [Page 107] expenses attending the same out of any monies in his hands not otherwise appropriated.

On motion It is ordered that the application of Mr Geo Rowe for a pump in Wilkinsville be referred to the Pump Committee.

An ordinance entitled “An ordinance for providing a night watch for the Town and for the more effectual suppression of crime” was presented to the Board, read, passed & ordered to be printed and is as follows;

1. Be it ordained by the Mayor and Common Council of the Town of Fredericksburg, that the Mayor be and he is hereby authorized to appoint one or more additional officers of Police whose duty it shall be during such night of each week as shall be prescribed by the Mayor to keep watch throughout the said town and to deter and report any violations which may occur therein of the laws of the Commonwealth or the ordinances of this Corporation.

2. Be it further ordained that the Mayor be and he is hereby authorized to draw upon the Chamberlain for an amount not exceeding the sum of one hundred and fifty dollars per annum in order to defray the expenses of said night watch and that he be and is hereby required to report quarterly to the Council or whenever called upon so to do at other periods by the Council the amount expended for this object as well as his opinions touching the value of the plan of a night watch thus authorized.

This ordinance shall be in force from its passage.

On motion it is ordered that all persons having occasion to carry articles into the cemetery lot, along the footway be permitted to do so without incurring the penalty of an infringement of any ordinance on the subject.

On motion it is ordered that when the Council adjourns it adjourns to meet on Thursday next.

On application of George P King for permission to deposit the ashes from his factory on the street in front thereof, was granted upon the condition that the Street Committee shall define & regulate his use of this permission.

On motion the Council adjourned to meet on Thursday evening next at 7 o'clock

Jno L Marye Jr, Mayor

C G Chew, C C

At an adjourned meeting of the Common Council of the Town of Fredericksburg at the Council Chamber on the 8<sup>th</sup> December 1853

Present, John L Marye Jr, Mayor

John Minor, Recorder

Wm Allen, Wm A Little, L J Huffman, Eustace Conway, Wm S Barton, James McGuire, John W Collins, C B White, Thomas F Knox—Common Councilmen

On Motion made and seconded, it is ordered that the fine & costs [Page 108] imposed upon Edw'd Mondowney for driving along the footway to the cemetery, amounting to \$1.50 & which has been paid be refunded to him by the Chamberlain.

The Mayor reported verbally upon the subject of changing the place of the sessions of the Council, and for holding the Mayor's Court &c and thereupon on motion made and seconded it is ordered that the subject be laid on the table for the present.

Mr John Minor asked leave to absent himself from the board, which on motion was granted.

Mr James McGuire moved that the proposition of Mr Grotz to lease the vacant ground between the north end of the Market house and the Warehouse of Wellford, Eastham & Co be referred to the Committee on Public Property, which motion being put to the vote was rejected.

The following resolutions offered by Mr L J Huffman was passed, viz;  
Resolved that the Clerk of the Market be required to keep the steps going to the Market House & also the space in front thereof clean &c

On motion it is ordered that the Public Property Committee be and they are hereby instructed to consider the subject of grading the grounds around the court house, and the planting of trees thereon, together with the expense to be incurred thereby & report to the next Council

John L Marye Jr presented a bill for services rendered in examining the contract with Wm M Baggett for building the Court House &c amounting to \$10 and thereupon on motion made and seconded it is ordered that the sum of twenty dollars be allowed Mr Marye for his services.

On motion, Resolved that this Council will attend the approaching meeting of the Fred'g & Valley Plank Road Company to represent the stock of this Corporation therein, that in such meeting any member or a majority of Members present at any time may cast the vote of the Corporation save upon the selection of a route for the proposed branch of said road, upon which question the Council shall pass in its organized form.

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

Wm Allen	\$61.13
John Timberlake	\$1.50

On motion the subject of appointing a superintendent of Streets &c is laid on the table.

On motion it is ordered that the Council adjourn to meet in a Room in the North end of the Court House

Jno L Marye Jr, Mayor

G F Chew, C C

[Page 109]

At a called meeting of the Common Council of the Town of Fredericksburg at the Council Chamber on the 15<sup>th</sup> day of December 1853

Present, John L Marye Jr, Mayor

James McGuire, Wm Allen, Wm A Little, Thomas F Knox, L J Huffman, John W Collins, Wm S Barton, C B White—Common Councilmen

An application was made by Mess'rs Slacum & Rollins for relief from a fine & forfeiture imposed upon them for a violation of the ordinance amending the ordinance regulating the market passed the 10<sup>th</sup> of August 1838, whereupon on motion made & seconded it is ordered that the said fine & forfeiture be remitted.

The Mayor stated that the Council had been convened to consider the propriety of having the interests of the Corporation represented by a Committee who should enquire into the nature and probable success of the movements now being made in the Legislature to empower the Orange and Alexandria Rail Road Company to abandon Gordonsville as a point on their Road and to allow the said Company to build a road from Orange Court House to Charlottesville; as also to make enquiry into the movements in said body relating to a line Rail Road from Richmond to Charlottesville which Committee shall determine and propose such measures to their

delegates and others in the Legislature as to it may seem expedient for the protection and advancement of the trade of Fredericksburg.

Whereupon the following resolutions were adopted

1. Resolved that the Mayor with such associates as he may designate be appointed a Committee whose duty it shall be to visit Richmond at such times as may by them be found necessary for the object, in order to ascertain what Legislation is sought to be had for the extension of the Orange & Alexandria Rail Road westwardly and for the building of a Rail Road by direct route from Richmond to Charlottesville, as well as to determine upon and set on foot such legislation as may to it seem proper for the protection and advancement of the trade of Fredericksburg & the interests of the Fred'g & Gordonsville Rail Road Company in the premises; as also to ask for such an additional to the capital stock of the Fred'g & Valley Plank Road Company as may be sufficient to extend said road from Liberty Mills to Stanardsville

2<sup>nd</sup> Resolved that our Delegate and Senator in the General Assembly be requested to cooperate with and give such aid to the said committee as may be in their power.

The following resolution offered by Mr Wm A Little was adopted [Page 110] viz;

Resolved that the Common Council hereby express as their opinion that before any selection be made of any route for the rail road contemplated from the Town of Fredericksburg to Gordonsville, or to such other point as may be selected to make a connection with the central and other roads, or any steps be taken by the President and Board of Directors of the Fredericksburg and Gordonsville Rail Road for the construction of any portion of such road, that a meeting of the Stockholders of the Company be called (to which full information shall be rendered) to consider and determine what shall be done.

The proposition of Dr R T Browne to give possession of the Room in the Market house rented by him from the Corporation was on motion referred to the Committee on Public Property.

On motion made and seconded the report of the Committee on Streets upon the subject of appointing a superintendent of Streets was again taken up; And thereupon the following ordinance was read & passed, viz; An ordinance providing for the appointment of an officer to be called the Superintendent of Streets and prescribing his duties.

Be it ordained by the Mayor and Common Council of the Town of Fredericksburg that there shall be appointed hereafter by the Common Council an officer to be termed the Superintendent of Streets whose duty it shall be to attend to the repairs and cleaning of the Streets & public alleys of the Town, and who shall superintend all work contracted for & ordered to be done by the Committee on Streets.

2. The Superintendent of Streets shall hold his office at the pleasure of the Common Council and shall receive a salary of one hundred & fifty dollars per annum payable quarterly.

3. The superintendent of Streets shall furnish quarterly to the Committee on Streets a detailed statement of the expense incurred by him in repairing & cleaning the streets and public alleys of the Town accompanied by vouchers where such can be obtained.

This ordinance shall be in force from its passage.

The Council proceeded to elect a superintendent of Streets when Mr George Aler was elected on the first ballot.

Ordered that in addition to the salary now allowed to Jno Davis for cleaning & attending the Mayor's office he be allowed the sum of 50¢ per cord of sawing wood to be used in said office to be paid upon the order of the Mayor and that the Chamberlain be authorized to pay the orders of the Mayor for wood bought and used for the Mayor's office.

On motion the order entered at the last meeting of the Council making it the duty of the Clerk of the Market to keep the steps going to the Market house & also the space in front thereof clean &c is rescinded.

The following resolution offered by Mr Wm S Barton was adopted [Page 111] viz;  
Resolved that the Superintendent of Streets be and he is hereby required to have the area of the Market Place and the steps leading thereto and the yard of the free school kept clean and in good order.

On motion made and seconded, it is ordered that the Mayor be requested to have fitted up the middle room of the North Wing of the court house to be used for hold the sessions of the Council and he is authorized to draw upon the Chamberlain for the expense incurred thereby

On motion the Council then adjourned.  
Jno L Marye Jr, Mayor  
Geo F Chew, C C

Council Chamber Dec'r 17<sup>th</sup> 1853  
Present, John L Marye Jr, Mayor  
Wm A Little, Wm S Barton, John J Young, Landon J Huffman, Thomas F Knox, James McGuire, Chester B White—Common Councilmen

The Council was convened for the purpose of determining how the vote of the Corporation should be cast upon the selection of a route for the proposed branch of the Fredericksburg & Valley Plank Road to Culpeper Court House, at the meeting of the Stockholders of said Road now in Session and thereupon the vote having been taken, a majority were found to be in favor of the “Germanna Route” Therefore it is ordered that the vote of the Corporation be given in favor of that route.

On motion made and seconded it is ordered that this Council do recommend to the Stockholders in the Fredericksburg & Valley Plank Road Company now in session that the salary of the President of said Company be fixed at Eight hundred dollars per annum from this time, and that compensation be allowed him at such rate as to make his salary from the date of the last annual meeting of the Stockholders of said company to this time equivalent to the sum of Eight Hundred dollars per annum.

On motion the Council then adjourned  
Jno L Marye Jr, Mayor  
G F Chew, C C

At a called meeting of the Common Council of the Town of Fredericksburg at the Council Chamber on the 26<sup>th</sup> day of December 1853  
Present, John L Marye Jr, Mayor  
Wm S Barton, Wm A Little, Wm Allen, Thos F Knox, L J Huffman, James McGuire, John W Collins, J J Young—Common Councilmen

It appearing to the Council that on the 24<sup>th</sup> day of December [Page 112] 1853 at the Mayor's Office a poll was taken of the Citizens of the Town of Fredericksburg, who are qualified to vote in elections of Common Councilmen of the Town upon the question whether the Mayor and Common Council of the Town shall make the subscription to the Stock of the Fredericksburg Water Power Company, which was directed by the vote of said voters cast on the 24<sup>th</sup> day of September 1853 without effecting the purchase of the eleven twentieths of the private stock of the Rappahannock Company as required by the same vote, in pursuance of a resolution of this council passed on the 6<sup>th</sup> day of December 1853 & after advertisement of said day and place of taking said poll in the *Virginia Herald*, *Democratic Recorder* and *Christian Banner* newspapers printed in the Town of Fredericksburg for more than fifteen days, prior to the said 24<sup>th</sup> day of December 1853, and that ninety two votes were polled at said time and place of which eighty five votes were in favor of and seven voter were

opposed to the said subscription being made and that more than three fifths of the votes polled on the question were polled in favor of such subscription being made; Be it therefore Resolved,

1. That the Mayor be hereby authorized and directed to subscribe on behalf of the Mayor and Commonalty of the Town of Fredericksburg the sum of one hundred thousand dollars, payable in the coupon bonds of the Corporation of Fredericksburg which shall mature in thirty years from their date, to the capital stock of the Fredericksburg Water Power Company.

2. That the Mayor and Chamberlain of this Corporation do execute and deliver to the Treasurer of the said Fredericksburg Water Power Company the coupon bonds of this Corporation payable either at the Mayor's office in the Town of Fredericksburg, or at some place to be designated in the City of New York, as may be chosen by the payees in thirty years, in such sums as may be preferred over fifty dollars each, to an amount not exceeding thirty three thousand, three hundred & thirty three dollars, thirty three and a third cents (\$33,333 1/3) and the residue of said sum of one hundred thousand dollars in such sums and at such times and in either of said places as may be required by the President and Board of Directors of said Company

The following accounts were read, passed & ord'd to be paid, viz;

Wm Browne & Son	\$10.00
A A Little, Editor Fred'g News	\$33.00

On motion made and seconded it is ordered that a Committee of three be appointed to take into consideration the propriety and expediency of petitioning the General Assembly of Virginia to transfer the property and funds now vested in the Trustees of the Charity School [Page 113] to the Mayor and Common Council or School Commissioners of Fredericksburg, to be held by them for the same purposes as now held by the said Trustees.

Mess'rs John S Caldwell, Wm S Barton, & Wm A Little were appointed the Committee under the foregoing order

On motion the Council then adjourned till Friday evening next at 7 o'clock  
Jno L Marye Jr, Mayor

At an adjourned meeting of the Common Council of the Town of Fredericksburg at the Council Chamber on Friday evening the 30<sup>th</sup> December 1853

Present, John L Marye Jr, Mayor

William Allen, Eustace Conway, Wm S Barton, John W Collins, James McGuire, Landon J Huffman, John J Young, Thomas F Knox, Alex K Phillips, Chester B White—Common Councilmen

On motion made & seconded John James Chew was appointed to act as Clerk pro tempore in the absence of the Clerk.

The Chamberlain being absent on public business it is ordered that John James Chew be appointed Chamberlain at interim

It being stated by the Mayor that the Bonds of this Corporation would be satisfactory to the owners of the majority of the Stock of the Fredericksburg Water Power Company for the purchase of two thirds of their present stock, until the coupon bonds heretofore provided for could be prepared, It is therefore ordered that bonds be executed for the respective amounts to be paid to the stockholders and that so soon as the coupon bonds can be prepared that they be executed as heretofore ordered and delivered to the parties respectively entitled thereto in exchange for the above mentioned bonds to be issued in such sums as the parties may desire not less than fifty dollars.

Present, John Minor, Recorder

The Mayor vacated the Chair and the same was occupied by the Recorder

On motion made, the Council instructed their proxy's hereafter to be appointed the Stock to be held by this Corporation in the Fredericksburg Water Power Company, at a meeting of the Stockholders to be held tomorrow to vote in favor of \$300 as the salary of the President of said Company, and the Council instructed their proxies to [Page 114] to vote for John L Marye Jr Esq for President of said Company, and the following gentlemen for directors, viz; George B Scott, Eustace Conway, M Slaughter, Wm A Little, & Charles C Wellford.

The Mayor resumed the Chair

Alexander K Phillips was appointed proxy to represent the Stock to be subscribed by the Corporation in the Fredericksburg Water Power Company at a meeting of the stockholders to be held tomorrow.

Resolved that the Clerk be instructed to prepare an ordinance which shall empower the Superintendent of Streets in all cases where the occupants of lots in the Town shall cause any obstruction or inconvenience to a free passage upon the footways or other portions of the Streets, by the passage of water from said lots or by any other means to notify said lot holders to remove such obstructions and upon default of such lot holders so to do, that said Officer shall be required to have said work done at the cost of said lot holders to be recovered by warrant before a Justice of the Peace of the Corporation.

And then the Council adjourned

Jno L Marye Jr, Mayor

J J Chew, C C p t