

Fredericksburg City Council Minutes 1868

[Page 489]

At a regular meeting of the Common Council of the Town of Fred'bg held at the Council Chamber on Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> Jan'y 1868 at 7 PM

Present M Slaughter, Mayor

J J Hurkamp, Jos W Sener, Wm A Little, E M Braxton, G W Wroten, Jas H Bradley, A P Rowe Wm H Cunningham, Jno McGuire, Jno J Young

On motion made & seconded, St Geo R Fitzhugh Esq presented to the Council a proposition from Mr J B Ficklen offering the sum of five thousand dollars in the Bonds of the Corporation for the fee simple title to the house & lot on Main Street now held by him on a lease for lives.

On motion of Mr E M Braxton, as attorney for the parties ordered that the Collector of Taxes be instructed to settle their ground rents now due and to become due by D Green's estate, by receiving the past due Coupons of the Corporation in payment thereof.

Mr Wm A Little moved the following resolution,

Resolved that the Pub Prop Committee be instructed to advertise for 20 days for proposals to purchase in the Corporation Bonds the lots on Market Square in which the Corporation now holds the reversion & the 10 acres known as the Mercer Square & failing to make said sale privately, they be, and they are hereby instructed at the expiration of said time to sell the same at Public Auction; subject to the confirmation of the Council;

Which Mr Bradley moved to amend by inserting the words "for Cash or" after the word purchase; and the amendment being seconded the question was taken & the amendment was lost, the question then recurred on the original resolution of Mr Little and it was adopted.

The Mayor then presented a communication from Robt Walker [Page 490] and J T Smith preferring a complaint against Martin Cahill & Chas W Edrington two of the night police and on motion Mr Walker & Mr Smith were heard by the Council, Mr Mazeen was also heard & likewise Mr Cahil & Mr Edrington; Mr J B Sener appeared as counsel for Mess'rs Walker & Smith & was heard by the Council.

Mr J H Bradley moved that the action of the night policemen, Cahil & Edrington, in the matter complained of by Mess'rs Walker & Smith be sustained by the Council which upon being seconded, the motion was adopted.

A bill of Johnston & Co against the Corporation amounting to \$2.43 was passed and ordered to be paid.

Mr J W Sener called up the report submitted to the Council in Jan'y 1867 by a committee appointed to ascertain the cost of lighting the Streets of the town with gas & asked that the report might be read again, which was accordingly done.

A bill of the *Fredericksburg Ledger* for printing the delinquent list amounting to \$72.50 was read and Mr Braxton moved that it be paid. Mr Huffman, Mr Little & Mr Sener were heard on the matter when the Council after a division, the Mayor giving the casting vote, refused the bill.

Mr McGuire moved that the bill be referred to the Finance Committee for report which motion was lost.

On motion of Mr A P Rowe ordered that the sum of \$64.80 be paid the Editor of the *Fredericksburg Ledger* in full for printing the delinquent list.

On motion of Mr A M Braxton, ordered that the Street Commission be directed to fill up the well at the corner of A K Phillips lot on Main Street.

On motion of Wm H Cunningham,

Resolved that a Committee of three be appointed to confer with the Gas Company & with the Citizens of the town & ascertain if an arrangement can be made by which the town can be properly lighted & the Corporation relieved of the expense of lamp posts & other fixtures & report to a meeting of the Council to be held by next Tuesday evening.

Committee, Wm H Cunningham, Jas H Bradley & Jos W Sener.

And the Council adjourned till Tuesday next, the 4<sup>th</sup> day of Feb'y at 7 PM

[Page 491]

At a adjourned meeting of the Common Council of the town of Fredericksburg held at the Council Chamber on Tuesday evening the 4<sup>th</sup> day of February 1868

Present M Slaughter, Mayor

T F Knox, Recorder

J G Hurkamp, Wm A Little, Jas H Bradley, Geo W Wroten, E M Braxton, Wm H Cunningham, Jno J Young, Ab P Rowe, Jas McGuire, J W Sener.

The Mayor stated that this was an adjourned meeting of the Council to receive the report of the Committee appointed to confer with the citizens & with the Gas Company as to lighting the streets of the Town.

Mr Wm H Cunningham, (Chairman of the Gas Co) presented a report in writing accompanied by a plan for the position of the lamps, in words and figures following, to wit viz,  
The Committee appointed to confer with the Gas Company, and with the Citizens of the Town, upon the subject of lighting the streets with gas, beg leave to report, that having conferred with the President of the Gas Co, they were led to believe that immediately on the use of the Gas by the Corporation to the extent of the consumption twenty five or more lamps, the price of gas would be reduced to all consumers from its price of six to four dollars pr thousand feet, and the President stated that he would immediately call a meeting of the Gas Co to authorize this arrangement which has been accomplished, as will appear by difference to accompanying report of proceedings of the Gas Company at their meeting on the 30<sup>th</sup> ultimo. This arrangement having been stated to the Citizens, generally property holders & business men of the Town, we found universally disposed to contribute to the purchase of lamps & other fixtures necessary to the town, being properly lighted, and in some cases it was stated that if the amount contributed was not sufficient, and additional amount would be given it being considered that the success of the movement was highly important to the interests of the Town, leaving entirely out of view personal comfort & convenience. The amount already subscribed is eleven hundred & fifteen dollars (\$1,115) & subscriptions for the Steamboat Companys & other parties are confidently expected, accompanying is a plan prepared by the Committee for the arranging the lamp posts proposed to be used, which has been prepared with care & which they recommend for your adoption, this plan involves the use of 32 lamps and post, three of which are already furnished, one by the Episcopal, one by the Methodist church & one by the Exchange Hotel.

The cost of the necessary features is estimated as follows [Page 492]

1075 feet of surface pipe ¾ inch	@25.	268.75
29 Lamp Posts	11.	319.00
29 Lamps	6.	174.00
29 Burners	1.00	29.00
29 Fittings	about	8.00
Digging, setting & paving for posts		60.00
The Committee would state that the arrangements made with		858.75

The Gas Co, by which a large reduction in the price of Gas is made to all consumers was urged not only on the ground of a large consumption by the Corporation which will scarcely equal the amount of reduction but also on the ground of a increase of consumption at the reduced price on the part of the Citizens of the Town, & it is hoped by your Committee, who are not in any manner identified with the Gas Co, that the Citizens generally will now use the gas and thus insure the continuance of an arrangement which we think will prove beneficial to all parties

Respectfully submitted,

Wm H Cunningham, Jas H Bradley, J W Sener

Which on motion of Mr Jno J Young were adopted.

Mr Wm H Cunningham moved that the vote adopting the report of the Gas Committee be reconsidered which being seconded, the vote was taken & resulted in the affirmative, so the vote was reconsidered.

On motion Mr Wm H Cunningham again read the report of the Gas Committee, when Mr A P Rowe offered the following as a substitute therefore, viz.

Whereas it appears to the Common Council of the Town of Freds'burg that a portion of the Citizens are very desirous that the streets of said town shall be lighted with gas, and whereas in the present condition of the Corporation Treasury, the inability of the said Corporation to meet its interest obligations and the poverty of a portion of the people (being such as to require a large portion of real estate to be offered for sale for the taxes due thereon) entirely preclude the Council from inflicting any further tax on the people at this time for lighting said Streets with gas; Therefore be it ordained by the Mayor & Common Council, that it shall be lawful for any person or persons to erect lamp posts, for either gas or oil, on the streets of this Corporation, under the Supervision of the Street Committee, providing that said posts shall not obstruct the streets & footways & provided also that the parties erecting the said posts, shall pay all the expense of said posts and for all gas or oil consumed by said lamps [Page 493] which being seconded, before the vote was taken Mr Sener presented a report sharing the expense of lighting the streets with gas per lamp, whether the question being taken on the substitute offered by Mr Rowe, the Ayes & Noes were called for and resulted as follows

Noes Mess'rs Knox, Hurkamp, Little, Bradley, Wroten, Braxton, Cunningham, Young, Sener 9

Ayes Mess'rs Rowe & McGuire 2

So the substitute was lost

Mr McGuire then moved that the matter of lighting the streets with gas be referred to the people for a vote to be taken thereon, which being seconded the Ayes & Noes were called for and resulted as follows:

Noes Mess'rs Knox, Hurkamp, Little, Bradley, Wroten, Braxton, Cunningham, Young, Sener 9

Ayes Mess'rs Rowe & McGuire 2

So the motion was lost

On motion of Mr Wm A Little the report of the Committee on gas with the plan accompanying was received and adopted.

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

1<sup>st</sup> Resolved; that Wm H Cunningham, Jas H Bradley, & Jos W Sener, be and they are hereby appointed a permanent Committee upon Gas and that they be & they are hereby instructed to collect the subscriptions & contract for the work of purchasing and putting up the lamp posts and other fixtures and carrying out the plan submitted in the report.

2<sup>nd</sup> Resolved; that said Committee be instructed to have said work done as far as possible by our own mechanics in Fredericksburg.

At a Regular Meeting of the Common Council of the Town of Fredericksburg held at the Council Chamber on Tuesday the 25<sup>th</sup> day of Feb'y 1868

Present M Slaughter, Mayor

Thos F Knox, Recorder

Wm A Little, Ab P Rowe, Geo W Wroten, Jas H Bradley, Jno G Hurkamp, & Jos W Sener.

The Mayor presented a communication from Mr W J Jefferies in regard to the booth at the corner of Commerce & Main Streets when Mr Bradley moved that Mr Jefferies be allowed to occupy the said booth at the pleasure of the Council which motion was lost.

Mr A P Rowe moved to reconsider the vote, by which the application of Mr Jefferies was rejected which was carried [Page 494]

On motion of Mr J G Hurkamp, ordered that Mr Jefferies be allowed to occupy the booth at the corner of Commerce & Main Streets, during the pleasure of the Council, provided that he obtains the consent in writing of a majority of the property holders and tenants in that square and files the same with the Clerk of the Council.

And then the Council adjourned

At a called meeting of the Common Council of the Town of Fred'sburg held at the Council Chamber on Friday evening March 6<sup>th</sup> 1868.

Present M Slaughter, Mayor

Thos F Knox, Recorder

Wm A Little, Jos W Sener, Jas H Bradley, Geo W Wroten, E M Braxton and Wm H Cunningham.

The Mayor stated that this was a called meeting of the Council to receive a report from the Public Property Committee, but as the Chairman of that Committee was not present, the Council proceed to other business.

Mr J B Sener, by consent of the Council called the attention of the Council to the fact that Dr Sears, the Chairman of the Peabody Educational Committee was now distributing the funds appropriated by Mr Peabody for the cause of Education in the South, Whereupon on motion of Mr Bradley, Resolved that the Mayor & Chamberlain be appointed a committee on the part of the Council to correspond with Dr Sears and obtain from him the facts in regard to the distribution of the Peabody fund,

Present Jno McGuire & Ab P Rowe

Mr Jos W Sener, by note in writing, tendered his resignation as a member of the Gas Committee, which on motion was laid on the table.

Mr Jos W Sener was excused from further attendance at this Council  
Absent: J W Sener

Mr McGuire, Chairman Pub Prop Commt'ee submitted a report in writing in the words and figures following to wit,

The P P Committee, who were charged by resolution of your honorable body of the [blank] day of January with the sale of certain property therein [Page 495] mentioned, beg leave to respectfully to report, that as the sale was to be made subject to the confirmation of the Council, they determined to let it go to highest bidder without any other reservation & the following is the result, viz

The house occupied by Jas L Green was knocked down to Ab P Rowe payable in Corporation Bonds at \$4,000

That occupied by S Hirsh to J B Ficklen       \$7,000

Mercer Square to Dr Wm S Scott               \$6,100

The latter property had been divided into ¼ acre lots (see accompanying map) and was put up as an entirety, reserving the right to annul and sell in lots, but the limited number of bidders present determined your Committee to report as above.

Respectfully submitted

Jas McGuire, E M Braxton, Geo W Wroten

Which report on motion was received.

On motion of Mr Bradley resolved that the sales reported by the Pub Prop Committee be not confirmed.

Mr Bradley moved that the Pub Prop Committee be authorized to sell the house on Main Street occupied by J Hirsh for \$8,500, the house occupied by J L Green for \$6,500 and the Mercer Square for \$9,000 payable in Corporation Bonds the refusal to be given to the highest bidder at the sale reported to day, the said Committee to report to the next meeting of the Council, which was adopted.

And then the Council adjourned

At a meeting of the Common Council of the Town of Fredericksburg held at the Council Chamber on Tuesday the 24<sup>th</sup> day of March 1868

Present M Slaughter, Mayor

Wm H Cunningham, Jas H Bradley, Geo W Wroten, E M Braxton, Jos W Sener, Jas McGuire, Jno G Hurkamp, Thos F Knox, Recorder, Jno J Young.

The Mayor stated that this was a regular meeting of the Council & there being not reports from Committees, the Council proceeded to other business.

The Mayor presented a communication from Mr Jas Mazeen asking permission to erect a privy in the Market House Yard, which on motion was laid on the table.

[Page 496]

The Mayor presented an application from Mess'rs Wait & Sener asking the privilege of digging a well in rear of their store on Commerce Street for the purpose of making a sink, which on motion of Mr Wm H Cunningham was referred to the Pub Property Committee.

The Mayor presented from G A Rawlett asking the Council to refund to him the amount paid by him for redemption for a hog caught running at large and sold under the ordinances of the Corporation, amounting to six 50/100 dollars, which on motion of Mr Braxton was granted and the Chamberlain was ordered to pay the said amount of \$6.50 to Mr Rawlett.

On motion of Mr Wroten, ordered that the Chamberlain refund to Mr P B Dunn one 75/100 dolls, the amt for which a hog belonging to him & caught running at large, was sold under an ordinance of the Corporation.

Mr E M Braxton presented a communication from Duff Green Adm'r of D Green dec'd in regard to the ground rent paid by him since the war in greenback amount'g to \$135.00 & on motion Mr L J Huffman was heard, when on motion of Mr J W Sener the communication was referred to the Finance Committee

A bill of Geo Aler's for defending a suit against Wallace amt'g to \$25.00 & also certain fee bills of the Clerk am'tg to \$6.49 were referred to Finance Committee.

Mr Geo W Wroten presented a communication from Mr Jas L Green asking to be relieved from a fine imposed upon him this day amounting to twenty dollars for hauling lumber in the Town of Fredericksburg without a license & on motion Mr J L Huffman was permitted to make a statement, which on motion of Mr McGuire the communication was laid on the table.

On motion of Mr Bradley the tax on Drays, Carts & Wagons from the 1<sup>st</sup> April 1868 to 1<sup>st</sup> Apl 1869 was fixed as follows, viz, on Drays & Carts five dollars and on Wagons ten dollars.

On motion of Mr Jos W Sener, Ordered that the Police Officers notify all owners of property in the Corporation where pavements are out of order to repair the same within ten days from date of notice & in the event that they fail to repair the same, that the Corporation will have it done & the expense to be recovered by warrant.

On motion of Mr McGuire, ordered that the claim of the Corporation against Dr B R Wellford for repairs to the pavement in front of his house on Princess Ann Street and all similar claims against other persons be referred to the Finance Committee with instructions to make the same.

[Page 497]

And then the Council adjourned.

At a called meeting of the Common Council of the Town of Freds'burg held at the Council Chamber on Saturday evening March 28<sup>th</sup> 1868

Present M Slaughter, Mayor

Thos F Knox, Recorder

Wm A Little, Jno McGuire, Jas H Bradley, Jas A Ford, George W Wroten & Wm H Cunningham

The Mayor stated that the Council had been convened at the instance of several members to take into consideration the finances of the Corporation incidentally and more directly the question of retaining the Night Watch in office.

On motion of Mr Little, Ordered that on and after the 1<sup>st</sup> day of April next the number of Night Watch shall be reduced to two

Present: J G Hurkamp

The Council then proceeded to ballot for the two Night Watchmen to be retained and resulted as follows viz

Chas W Edrington	6
M Cahill	5
Geo H Timberlake	3
Jno B Larkin	1
F W Roberts	1

So Chas W Edrington & Martin Cahill are declared to be elected as Night Watch after the 1<sup>st</sup> day of April 1868 to serve during the pleasure of the Council.

Mr Little presented and read to the Council a statement in regard to the action of the Council in appointing the Night Watch, which was adopted by the Council and ordered to be spread on the minutes, and the Clerk of the Council is ordered to prepare a copy of the said statement and enclose the same to Mr Jno L Marye Jr at Richmond, with the request that he present the same to Gen'l Schofield.

The statement is as follows:

To Gen'l Schofield

Commanding Military District No1

The Common Council of Fredericksburg, Va, being informed that Lieut H Sears who is an agent of the Freedman's Bureau in this place, has reported or is about the report to your Head Quarters the action of this body in appointing a Night Watch as a violation of your Gen'l Orders No. [blank] which requires all officers hereafter qualifying to take the oath required by the Act of 1862 before entering on the duties of their officers, respectfully state that they have in no way violated said order as alleged, The robberies at night having increased to an alarming extent in the Town, the Council appointed five citizens to act as a Night Watch to patrol the Town at night and guard the property of the Citizens from their depredations, The Night Watch is [Page 498] is paid per night and is removable at the pleasure, they are in no sense police officers given no bond & security & have no right to arrest except the right which any other citizen has to arrest a party engaged in violating the law & carry him before some magistrate for examination & committal or discharge. Not regarding said Night Watch as officers required by said Gen'l Order to take the oath referred to, they were not required to do so & this action was understood to have been approved by Col Johnson who was then in charge of the Freedman's Bureau officers here.

Recently and on the night of the 24<sup>th</sup> inst one of the Night Watch being present on the occasion, was directed by the Mayor to arrest a Negro who was then very drunk and engaged in the actual violation of the laws in the presence of the Mayor.

This order could as well and as lawfully have been given to any private citizen who happened to be present, as to a member of the Night Watch, and as it can hardly be maintained that the two constructions of said Gen'l Order would require a magistrate, before deciding a citizen to aid in the arrest of a flagrant violation of the law in his very presence, to stop and wait until he administered the said oath to him, in order to qualify him to perform said duty, the action of the Mayor in ordering said arrest by a member of

the Night Watch cannot be considered as making the said Night Watch a Police Officer, nor as violating said Gen'l Order.

The Mayor & Council of Fredericksburg have endeavoured to the best of their ability to comply strictly with the laws of the land, and with all orders from therein authority which in the present state of the Country, it was manifestly their duty to obey, and the[y] respectfully challenge any investigation into their conduct in the past, which may be desired by any having authority over such matters.

Ordered that the tax on vehicles other than drays, carts, & wagons, be fixed at the same rate as last year.

The use of the picks, shovels &c, belonging to the Corporation in the hands of the Superintendent of the Streets was on motion given to the Committee on Gas to assist in putting up the lamp posts.

And then the Council adjourned.

[Page 499]

At a called meeting of the Common Council of the Town of Fredericksburg held at the Council Chamber on Friday evening the 10<sup>th</sup> day of Apl 1868

Present M Slaughter, Mayor

Wm A Little, Wm H Cunningham, Jos W Sener, Jno G Hurkamp, Jas McGuire, E M Braxton, J H Bradley, Ab P Rowe

The Mayor stated that the meeting had been called at the instance of two or three members to complete some unfinished business.

The following resolution offered by Mr Jos W Sener was unanimously adopted, viz

Resolved, that the Council hereby conveys all its right & title to the schooner now sunk in the harbor to Capt John Williams, who is raising the Steam Boat wrecks, on the condition that said schooner be removed so as not to obstruct or impair navigation.

The following resolution offered by Mr J H Bradley was adopted,

Resolved that the lamp posts, the lamps & fixtures purchased by private subscription and put up in the Streets of the Town, by permission of the Council, for the use of the Corporation in lighting the Streets are now and shall remain the private property of the said private contributors, subject to the said use only of lighting said streets, and that the Chairman of the Gas Committee is requested to deposit with the Clerk of the Council a list of all the said private contributors.

The Finance Committee reported adversely to the application of Duff Green, Ex'r of Duff Green dec'd which was referred to the Finance Committee at the last meeting of the Council.

The Finance Committee having also reported adversely to the payment of a bill of Geo Aler referred to the Committee at the last meeting of the Council.

The Finance Committee having reported favorably ordered that the fee bills of J J Chew, Clerk, amounting to \$6.47 be paid by the Chamberlain.

A bill of Jas McGuire amounting to \$5.25 was ordered to be paid.



On motion of Mr Jas McGuire, Resolved that Mr Jas L Green, be allowed to pay a fine adjudged against him of twenty dollars for hauling in the Corporation with a license, in the past due coupons of the Corporation, in consideration of the circumstances of the case.

A bill of A P Rowe against the Corporation amounting to Twenty dollars was allowed by the Council and ordered to be paid.

And then the Council adjourned.

[Page 500]

Fredericksburg, Va Apl 17<sup>th</sup> 1868

At a meeting of the Common Council of the Town of Fredericksburg convened in obedience to instructions from Maj Gen'l Schofield, commanding this District, communicated through Lieut G G Greenough, Military Commissioner, there were present the following old members of the Council, who hold over under orders from Gen'l Schofield, viz

Mess'rs M Slaughter, Mayor, Wm A Little, Wm H Cunningham, J G Hurkamp & Ab P Rowe

And the following new members appointed by Gen'l Schofield viz.

Chas E Hunter, Wm C Morrison, L C Frost, W J Jefferies, Peter Couse, D C Ellis, Geo W Eve

Appeared were qualified by the Mayor, by taking the oath required by the act of Congress passed July 2<sup>nd</sup> 1862 & took their seat at the Board.

On motion of Mr J G Hurkamp, ordered that the salaries of all the officers of the Corporation who are appointed by the Council be fixed at the same rate as at present.

The Council then proceeded to recommend to Gen'l Schofield a suitable person to be appointed Mayor of this Corporation to serve until his successor shall be duly elected and qualified when Chas E Mallam & Geo W Eve being put in nomination, the vote was taken by ballot and resulted as follows, viz

For Chas E Mallam	Seven
For Geo W Eve	Three

So Chas E Mallam was declared duly recommended: not voting Geo W Eve.

The Council then proceeded to recommend a suitable person for Recorder of this Corporation, when L C Frost, Esq'r was unanimously elected.

On motion of Mr Wm A Little, Resolved that a committee of three be appointed by the Mayor to take into consideration the recommendation of suitable persons, to fill the offices of the Corporation and to report to the next meeting of the Council.

The Mayor appointed Mess'rs Wm A Little, Geo W Eve, & Peter Couse as the Committee under the foregoing resolution.

Ordered that when the Council adjourn, it adjourn to meet on Thursday next at eight O'clock PM

[Page 501]

And the Council adjourned till Thursday next at 8 O'clock PM

At an adjourned meeting of the Common Council of the Town of Freds'burg held at the Council Chamber on Thursday evening April 23<sup>rd</sup> 1868

Present M Slaughter, Mayor

Wm C Morrison, D C Ellis, J G Hurkamp, C E Hunter, Wm J Jefferies, Geo W Eve.

Mr L A Beardsley appointed a member of the Council by Gen Schofield, appeared, was qualified before the Mayor by taking the oath prescribed by the act of Congress passed July 2<sup>nd</sup> 1862 and took his seat at the Board.

Present: L C Frost, Ab P Rowe, Wm A Little.

Mr Wm A Little Chairman of the Committee appointed at the last meeting of the Council to recommend suitable persons to fill the various offices of the Corporation, made report in writing, accompanied by the recommendations of the various persons mentioned in the report which on motion of Mr L C Frost was adopted, and laid on the table for the present.

And then the Council adjourned.

At a called meeting of the Common Council of the Town of Fredericksburg held at the Council Chamber on Tuesday the 28<sup>th</sup> day of April 1868

Present M Slaughter, Mayor

Geo W Eve, Peter Couse, L A Beardsley, Wm J Jefferies, Wm H Cunningham, Wm A Little, J G Hurkamp, Chas E Hunter, D C Ellis.

The Mayor stated that the Council had been convened for the purpose of receiving a communication from Lieut G G Greenough, Military Commissioner, informing the Council of the appointment of Mr Chas E Mallam as Mayor of the City of Fredericksburg and Mr L C Frost as Recorder.

Mr Chas E Mallam appointed Mayor of the City of Fredericksburg under orders of Maj Gen'l Schofield, appeared was qualified before M Slaughter, Esq'r by taking the Oath prescribed by the Code of Virginia & also the oath prescribed by the Act of Congress passed July 2<sup>nd</sup> 1868, and took his seat at the Board as presiding officer

[Page 502]

The following resolution offered by Mr Wm A Little was unanimously adopted and ordered to be spread on the minutes of the Council and published in the papers of the Town.

Resolved, that in parting with their late Presiding Officer & Mayor M Slaughter, who for the last eight years has occupied the position & performed so faithfully the duties of the said office, it is proper and become in as the members of the Common Council of Fredericksburg to give expression to one united & unanimous opinion as to his satisfactory performance of said duties & to tender to him as we do hereby the assurances of our high appreciation of his said services, and of our cordial respect and esteem.

On motion of Mr G W Eve, the report of the Committee on Officers of the Corporation was taken up, and the report was read by the Clerk of the Council.

On motion of Mr Eve, Resolved that the Council will now proceed to recommend to Gen'l Schofield a suitable person to be appointed a Police Officer for the Corporation.

Mr Eve nominated Chas H Wheeler for the office

Mr Hurkamp nominated P Markey

Mr Little stated that all the persons mentioned in the report of the Committee were to be considered as candidates except Geo S Green who desired his name to be withdrawn.

Whereupon the vote was taken by ballot and resulted as follows, viz.

For P Markey 6 votes

For Chas H Wheeler 2 votes

For A C Smith 1 vote

So P Markey was declared to be duly recommended.

The Council then proceeded to recommend a suitable person for Measurer of coal & wood, the following persons being candidates, M Montgomery, Jos E Lordly & Thos L Savage & the vote being taken resulted as follows

For M Montgomery 5 votes

For Thos E Lordley 4 votes

So Mr Montgomery was declared to be duly elected

The Clerk of the Market, the following were in nomination

Jno D Elder, Wm J Jones, & Jno Manuel & the vote being taken by ballot, resulted as follows

For Wm J Jones 6 votes

For Jno D Edler 4 votes

So Wm J Jones was declared to be duly recommended.

On motion of Mr Hurkamp ordered that it be recommended to Gen'l Scofield to retain the present Board of Overseers of the Poor.

[Page 503]

On motion of Mr Eve, Ordered that it be recommended to Gen'l Schofield to retain Mr Hart, the present incumbent as Commissioner of the Revenue for this Corporation

Present: Ab P Rowe

On motion of Mr Hurkamp ordered that the report of the Committee on officers, in regard to the Office of Clerk of the Council & Chamberlain of the Corporation be adopted & that it be recommended that the present incumbent be retained in office.

On motion of Mr Hurkamp, ordered that it be recommended to Gen'l Schofield to retain the present incumbent L J Huffman, as collector of taxes for the Corporation, there being no other eligible person, who can qualify.

Mr Wm H Cunningham, Chairman of the Gas Committee, submitted a report in writing which on motion of Mr Hurkamp was received.

After some remarks from Mr Bradley & Mr Sener who were heard by permission of the Council, the following resolution offered by Mr Hurkamp was adopted,

Resolved, that the Corporation will commence to use Gas in the Streets of the Town on the 1<sup>st</sup> day of May 1868 and that the Chamberlain be empowered to sign the books of the Gas Company.

On motion of Mr Little, Resolved that the present Committee on Gas be requested to ascertain what arrangement can be made for lighting & extinguishing the lamps & to report that and also any other information on the subject

Resolved that when the Council adjourned it adjourn to meet again on tomorrow night at 8 O'clock

And then the Council adjourned

At an adjourned meeting of the Common Council of the Town of Fredericksburg held at the Council Chamber, on Wednesday the 29<sup>th</sup> day of April 1868

Present Chas E Mallum, Mayor

Wm A Little, Geo W Eve, Jno G Hurkamp, Wm H Cunningham, Chas E Hunter, Wm H Cunningham, Wm J Jefferies, Wm C Morrison, L A Beardsley, D C Ellis, L C Frost.

Mr L C Frost, appointed by orders from Gen'l Schofield, Recorder of this Corporation was qualified before Chas E Mallam, Mayor by taking the Oath prescribed by the State of Virginia and the United States.

Present: Peter Couse

Mr Wm H Cunningham, Chairman of the Gas Committee submitted a verbal report as to lighting and extinguishing the Gas lamps and also the proposition in writing of Wm G Hancock to light & extinguish the lamps

[Page 504]

On motion of Mr Wm A Little, Resolved that the night watch be disposed with from and after the 1<sup>st</sup> day of May 1868.

The Mayor read the application of Wm White to be appointed as lamp lighter

Mr Wm H King was also nominated

Mr Thos Sullivan was also nominated

On motion of Mr Eve, Resolved that the compensation for lighting and extinguishing the lamps in the Streets of the Town, be fixed at the rates of Two hundred dollars per annum & shall not at any time exceed that rate.

The vote being taken by ballot, Mr Wm G H Hancock was unanimously appointed to light and extinguish the Gas lamps.

The Mayor read a communication from S Richardson which on motion of Mr Little was laid on the table.

The Mayor also read a communication from Mr W Wallace Davis, and on motion of Mr Little, the Clerk of the Council was directed to furnish to Mr Davis the required information.

The Mayor appointed the following standing Committee, viz,  
On Finance Wm A Little, Wm H Cunningham, L C Frost  
On Public Property J G Hurkamp, Geo W Eve, W C Morrison  
On Streets D C Ellis, Chas E Hunter, & Wm J Jefferies  
On Pumps Ab P Rowe, L A Beardsley, & Peter Couse

On motion of Mr Little, ordered that the rate fixing the salary of Superintendent of Streets be paid at one hundred dollars per annum.

On the motion, of Mr Eve, Ordered that the Police Officers be directed to have one hundred & fifty hand bills struck off and posted about the Town, notifying the Citizens that one and after the 10<sup>th</sup> day of May next, the ordinances in regard to Hogs going at large will be strictly enforced.

And then the Council adjourned.

At a called meeting of the Common Council of the Town of Fredericksburg held at the Council Chamber on Tuesday evening the 5<sup>th</sup> day of May 1868

Present Chas E Mallam, Mayor

Wm A Little, J G Hurkamp, Geo W Eve, Wm J Jefferies, Peter Couse, Ab P Rowe, Chas E Hunter, L A Beardsley, Wm H Cunningham, Wm C Morrison.

The Mayor stated that the Council had been convened at the instance of the Pub Prop Committee who desired to make a statement to the Council.

[Page 505]

The Chairman of the said Committee Mr Hurkamp, stated that on yesterday an offer was made to purchase the Fair Grounds for the sum of Twenty five hundred dollars in currency and that the Council had been convened for the purpose of laying the offer before them for acceptance or rejection, but the gentleman who made the offer declined this evening to sign a written offer to the Council & intimated that he desired to consider the matter further.

On motion of Mr Cunningham,

Resolved, that the Pub Prop Committee be instructed to sell the property known as the Fair Grounds for a sum not less than twenty five hundred dollars, the proceeds to be converted under the direction of the Finance Committee into the Bonds of the Corporation on the most favorable terms possible.

Present: D C Ellis, L C Frost, Recorder

On motion of Mr Eve, Ordered that Mr Wm J Moon procure from the Committee appointed to superintend the repairs to the Town Clock, a certificate that the work has been done according to the contract and for the price contracted for and that upon production of said certificate & the refunding bond the Chamberlain be directed to pay the amount of his bill to Mr Moon.

The Mayor stated that a notice had been served on him by F S Coleman to recover two years interest on certain bonds of the Corporation held by him, whereupon it was moved and seconded that the Pub Prop Committee be empowered to employ council [counsel] to defend the interest of the Corporation in the said suit, and the motion was adopted.

Mr Jas Hayes, Pres't of the Board of Overseers of the Poor, by note in writing, resigned his position, which was on motion accepted.

Mr Thomas Griffin was unanimously appointed a member of the Board of Overseers of the Poor, to supply the vacancy occasioned by the resignation of Mr Jas Hayes.

On motion of Mr Eve, ordered that the Finance Committee be requested to ascertain the amount of the entire indebtedness of the Corporation and also of the assets of the Corporation, and report the same to the next meeting of the Council.

The mayor read a communication from Geo H Peyton & sundry others, complaining of the present system of licenses for selling liquor to be drank where sold and asking relief from the same, which on motion was laid on the table for the present.

And then the Council adjourned.  
[Page 506]

At a meeting of the Common Council of the Town of Fredericksburg held at the Council Chamber on Saturday evening May 23<sup>rd</sup> 1868

Present Chas E Mallam, Mayor

L C Frost, Recorder

Wm J Jefferies, Wm A Little, L A Beardsley, Chas E Hunter, D C Ellis, J G Hurkamp, Wm C Morrison

The Mayor presented a communication from Maj Gen'l Schofield in regard to some omission in the recommendation of persons to fill the offices of the Corporation.

On motion ordered that it be recommended to Maj Gen'l Scholfield to retain Chas E Bragdon in office as Measurer of Wood, Lumber &c, there being no other applicant for the office.

On motion, ordered that it be recommended to Maj Gen'l Schofield to retain Carter M Braxton in office as Surveyor of the Corporation, there being no other applicant for the office.

On motion of Mr Little, Ordered that the Mayor be authorized to send Nelson Saunders, a colored lunatic, to the City of Richmond, where he can be properly cared for, and to draw upon the Chamberlain for the expenses of the removal.

The Finance Committee through its Chairman, Mr Little, made a report in writing and also an ordinance imposing taxes for the year 1868, which report on motion was adopted.

The Ordinance imposing taxes for the year 1868 recommended by the Finance Committee was passed and is in the words and figures following, to wit:

Be it ordained by the Mayor & Common Council of the Corporation of Freds'burg that there shall be levied and collected upon the persons & subjects liable to taxation in said Corporation, for the year ending the 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday in March 1869 the following taxes, to wit:

On Real Estate, \$1.25 on the \$100 value

On Personal Property \$1.25 on the \$100 value

On every male person over the age of twenty one years, three dollars,

On licenses on all persons required to be licensed by the State laws of Virginia within the said Corporation except Brokers & Real Estate Agents, a license of three fourths of the State license imposed for the current year.

On Incomes, interest & salaries and all other subjects of State taxation, within the Corporation, three fourths of the State tax for the current year.

On licenses to Real Estate Agents & Brokers 50 per cent of the State tax for the current year.

Of which tax the Collector shall be authorized to receive one third [Page 507] in money and two thirds in the Corporation interest or past due obligations of the Corporation.

A deduction of five per cent shall be allowed on all taxes paid to the Collector on or before the 15<sup>th</sup> day of August 1868 and of three percent of all taxes paid to the Collector on or before the 15<sup>th</sup> day of September 1868 and said taxes shall be liable to be distrained for on and after the 1<sup>st</sup> day of October 1868.

Be it ordained by the Mayor & Common Council of the Town of Fredericksburg that a tax be levied and collected on all male dogs of \$1.25 and on all female dogs of \$2.25 for the year ending third Monday in March 1869. This ordinance to take effect on and after the 10<sup>th</sup> of June 1868.

Ordered that the Police Officer be directed to give notice immediately of the foregoing ordinance by posting hand bill throughout the town.

On motion, ordered that the Mayor be authorized to contract for the purchase of as many collars & medals as may be necessary to supply the owners of dogs, provided the price shall not exceed twenty five cents each.

And then the Council adjourned

At a regular meeting of the Common Council of the Town of Fredericksburg held at the Council Chamber, Tuesday evening the 23<sup>rd</sup> day of June 1868

Present Chas E Mallam, Mayor

L C Frost, Recorder

Wm A Little, Geo W Eve, Peter Couse, Wm H Cunningham, Wm J Jefferies, Chas E Hunter, Ab P Rowe, Wm C Morrison

The Mayor reported that he had received the Commissions of Mr Montgomery as Measurer of Coal, Grain, Salt, &c, and of Wm J Jones as Clerk of the Market and that they had taken the necessary oath before him & entered in the discharge of the duties of their offices.

The Mayor also stated that he had received the Commission of P Markey as Police Officer, but that Mr Markey declined now to take the Oath required under the Act of Congress of July 2<sup>nd</sup> 1863.

On motion of Mr Eve, ordered that Chas W Edrington be appointed a Police Officer for the Corporation temporarily until the Mayor can recommend some suitable person to fill the Office who can qualify readily under the existing laws of the United States.

[Page 508]

The Mayor also presented a communication from Thomas Branch & Co which on motion was referred to the Finance Committee for action and report

The Mayor also stated to the Council that he had today, in Company with the Superintendent of Streets inspected the Streets of the Town and found many nuisances existing which upon motion of Mr Little, Resolved, that the Mayor be and he is hereby requested to enforce strictly hereafter the provisions of the Corporation ordinances prohibiting the deposit of filth, ashes, &c in the Streets & footways of the Town.

On motion of Mr Little, Resolved that the Pub Prop Committee be and they are hereby instructed to cause the District Court Room & the Iron railing and gates to the Court House lot to be repaired.

On motion ordered that Mr A P Rowe be authorized to clean out the Market House lot on the same terms as last year, commencing the 1<sup>st</sup> of July next for the space of one year.

And then the Council adjourned

At a called meeting of the Common Council of the Town of Fredericksburg, held at the Council Chamber on Thursday evening July 30<sup>th</sup> 1868

Present Chas E Mallam, Mayor

L C Frost, Recorder

Geo W Eve, Jno G Hurkamp, Wm H Cunningham, Wm J Jefferies, Ab P Rowe, Peter Couse

The Mayor presented a communication from Lewis L Layton proposing to remove two wrecks now obstructing the Channel of the River opposite the Wharves, which on motion of Mr Hurkamp was referred to the Street Committee for examination & report to the next meeting of the Council.

The Mayor presented a communication from Robt Staiars, offering himself as a candidate for Police Officer, which on motion was laid on the table.

The Mayor presented a communication from Mr G A Myers on behalf of Mess'rs Hoyer & Ludwig in regard to a claim against the Corporation for lithographing small notes in the year 1861 which on motion was referred to the Finance Committee for investigation & report.

On motion of Mr Frost, Resolved that the Chamberlain be authorized to borrow a sum not exceeding four hundred dollars from the fund arising from the sale of the Fair Grounds to be appropriated to cleaning the Streets and gutters of the Town the said sum of four hundred dollars to be returned to the said fund out of the first taxes [Page 509] may be received.

A bill of C W Edrington against the Corporation for going to Stafford by order of Jno Coakley acting Coroner, amounting to \$4.00 was ordered to be paid.

Mr Wm H Cunningham for the Gas Committee returned to the Council a list of all the persons who subscribed to the erection of the lamp posts, lamps &c & a report showing the receipts & expenditures of the Gas Committee leaving a balance in the hands of the Council of \$105.64 and asked that a new Committee on Gas be appointed, which report was received and ordered to be filed.

The Mayor [appointed] as the Gas Committee, Mess'rs Hurkamp, Cunningham & Hunter

On motion of Mr Hurkamp, Ordered that notice be given immediately by hand bills posted about the town that on and after the 10<sup>th</sup> day of August next all dogs belonging to the residents of the town found running



at large in the Streets of the Town, without a collar such as is prescribed by the ordinance of the Corporation, shall be liable to be caught & confined for twenty four hours. The owner of a dog so caught can redeem him by paying a fine of two dollars for each time his or her dog may be caught. One half going to the officer catching the dog & the other half to the Corporation. At the expiration of twenty four hours if not redeemed, said dog will be killed.

Ordered that the Chamberlain be instructed to render two lost registered bonds of the Corporation for \$100 to Mrs Mary G Henderson, she having advertised the same according to law; and give the usual indemnifying bond.

And then the Council adjourned.

At a meeting of the Common Council of the Town of Fredericksburg held at the Council on Monday Evening the 31<sup>st</sup> day of August 1868.

Present C E Mallam, Mayor

L C Frost, Recorder

L A Beardsley, Chas E Hunter, Peter Couse, Geo W Eve, Wm H Cunningham, Wm J Jefferies, Ab P Rowe, E C Ellis.

It appearing to the Council that the Mayor & Chamberlain, have executed their individual bonds, the one as original & the other as security, in the penalty of five hundred dollars, which bond was rendered necessary in order to obtain a supersedeas to judgment of the Circuit Court of Spotsylvania County in favor of Thomas S Coleman against the Mayor & Chamberlain of Fredericksburg. The Council doth sanction the execution of said bond & doth hereby pledge the faith of the Corporation to the indemnity of the said Mayor & Chamberlain.

It appearing to the Council that certain holders of the bonds of the Corporation [Page 510] of the denomination of one hundred dollars & under are desirous to consolidate their bonds into larger bonds, it is hereby ordered that the Finance Committee be and they are hereby ordered, whenever in their judgment the interest of the Corporation will not be thereby impaired, to instruct the Chamberlain to consolidate the small bonds of the Corporation into larger ones upon the application of the holders of said small bonds to be cancelled by the Chamberlain and destroyed by the Finance Committee at the annual settlement in March.

Mr Geo W Eve moved that the sum of fifty dollars be appropriated for the purpose of building a music stand on the Public Square for the use of the Band, which motion was rejected.

Mr Cunningham presented a communication from Mr Elzar Payne in regard to a fine imposed upon him by the Mayor for driving a dray on the streets of the Town without a license, and on motion Mr St Geo R Fitzhugh was heard on the subject, when on the motion of Mr Eve, the matter was indefinitely postponed.

The Mayor stated that he had been requested to mention to the Council that a vane was at the service of the Council, provided that it should be put up on the Court House, when Mr Rowe moved that a sum not exceeding thirty dollars be appropriated for the purpose of putting up the vane, but afterwards withdrew the motion, when Mr Frost moved that the Pub Property Committee be authorized to expend the sum of twenty dollars in addition to the repairs necessary for the roof of the Court house in putting upon the vane, which motion after division was adopted.

The Street Committee made a verbal report in regard to the removal of the wrecks in the river, when on motion of Mr Frost, the said Street Committee were authorized to proceed at once to have the said wreck removed in the most economical manner.

It appearing to the Council that the Commissioner of the Revenue has not as yet furnished to the Collector of Taxes his books for the current year, on motion of Mr Eve, the Recorder, Mr Frost was requested to call on the Commissioner and ascertain his reasons for the delay & to report to the Council at an adjourned meeting of the Council to be held on Tuesday evening the 8<sup>th</sup> proximo

And then the Council adjourned till Tuesday the 8<sup>th</sup> prox  
[Page 511]

At an adjourned meeting of the Common Council of the Town of Fredericksburg held at the Council Chamber on Tuesday the 8<sup>th</sup> day of September 1868

Present Chas E Mallam, Mayor

L C Frost, Recorder

Wm J Jefferies, Chas E Hunter, Peter Couse, D C Ellis, Geo W Eve, J G Hurkamp

Mr Frost stated that in obedience to the instructions of the Council he had called on Mr Hart, the Commissioner of the Revenue, to ascertain his reasons for not having his books ready for the Collector of taxes. That the Comm'r informer him that he had been prevented from completing his books on account of illness and assured him that he would have the books ready certainly by the 1<sup>st</sup> day of October next which report on motion of Mr Eve was received.

On motion of Mr Hurkamp ordered that a discount of five percent be allowed to all persons who shall pay their taxes on or before the 15<sup>th</sup> day of October and a discount of three per cent to all who shall pay their taxes on or before the 15<sup>th</sup> day of November 1868.

Present: Wm H Cunningham

The Mayor presented a communication from C E Bragdon, Harbor Master, calling the attention of the Council to the condition of the Wharf at the foot of Dixon street belonging to Dr M A Blankman, a non-resident of the State and on motion of Mr Frost, Ordered that the Clerk of the Council be instructed to enclose a copy of the communication of Mr Bragden to Dr Blankman at Washington City and to notify him that the said Wharf must be properly repaired within thirty days, and if not so repaired the Council will take further action on the matter.

And then the Council adjourned.

At a called meeting of the Common Council held at the Council Chamber on Tuesday evening Sept 29<sup>th</sup> 1868

Present Chas E Mallam, Mayor

L C Frost, Recorder

Geo W Eve, L A Beardsley, Peter Couse, Wm H Cunningham, J G Hurkamp, Chas E Hunter, Wm J Jefferies, Ab P Rowe, D C Ellis.

The Mayor having reported that the Police Officers had discharged their duties satisfactorily for the quarter ending the 16<sup>th</sup> Inst, Ordered that the Chamberlin pay them their salaries up to that time.  
And then the Council adjourned.

[Page 512]

At a called meeting of the Common Council of the Town of Fredericksburg held at the Council Chamber on Saturday evening the 10<sup>th</sup> of October 1868

Present Chas E Mallam, Mayor

L C Frost, Recorder

Wm H Cunningham, Chas E Hunter, Geo W Eve, J G Hurkamp, Wm J Jefferies, Peter Couse

The Mayor stated that the council had been convened for the purpose of considering the propriety of sending delegates to an adjourned meeting of the Bristol Convention to be held in the City of Norfolk on the 14<sup>th</sup> Inst to consider the Rail Road interests of the South & the establishment of direct trade with Europe, when on the Motion of Mr Hurkamp

Resolved that the Mayor be authorized to appoint twenty five or more delegates to attend the said Convention and that the Mayors named be added to the list.

And then the Council adjourned.

At a meeting of the Common Council of the Town of Fredericksburg held at the Council Chamber on Tuesday the 24<sup>th</sup> day of November 1868

Present Chas E Mallam, Mayor

Geo W Eve, Ab P Rowe, Wm A Little, Peter Couse, C E Hunter, J G Hurkamp, Wm H Cunningham.

Ordered that a bill of Waite & Sener's amounting to the sum of \$26.00 which on motion by the Council be paid by the Chamberlain

On motion ordered that Mr Jas Mazeen be permitted to erect a privy in the Market House lot on condition that the same be kept clean and in good order, for the use of parties who rent stalls in the Market, & that said privy be located under the direction of the Public Property Committee.

On motion of Mr Hunter, ordered that section 1 of Chapter V of the ordinances be amended in this, that the words "as by railroads" be inserted after the word "basin", in the fourth line of said ordinance and in the first section.

And then the Council adjourned.

[Page 513]

At a regular meeting of the Common Council of the Town of Fredericksburg held at the Council Chamber on Tuesday evening the 22<sup>nd</sup> day of Dec 1868

Present Chas E Mallam, Mayor

Wm A Little, L A Beardsley, Jno G Hurkamp, Wm J Jefferies, Wm C Morrison, Geo W Eve, D C Ellis, Chas E Hunter

The Mayor presented a copy of an order passed at the December Term of the Corporation Court in regard to the uncomfortable condition of the present Court Rooms, which was ready by the Clerk of the Council, when on motion of Mr Little, Resolved that it be recommended to the Corporation Court to make use of the District Court Room for the session of the said Court during the said month.

The Mayor having reported favorably, Ordered that the Chamberlain pay the Police Officers their salaries for the quarter ending on the 16<sup>th</sup> Inst

Present: Peter Couse

On motion of Mr Little ordered that Mr J G Hurkamp be requested to ascertain upon what terms he can purchase one thousand feet of serviceable hose, either new or second hand to be used with the Corporation Fire Engine and report at the next meeting of the Council

On Motion of Mr Little ordered that the Clerk of the Council be direct to prepare at once a copy of the Communication addressed to the Council by C E Bragden Harbor Master in regard to Dr Blankman's Wharf, and also of the resolution passed by the Council on the 8<sup>th</sup> day of September 1868 in regard thereto and cause the same to be properly served on Mr C W Wallace, the attorney for Dr Blankman.

The following offered by Mr Little was unanimously adopted,  
Resolved that all laws in respect to crimes & punishments & to criminal proceedings applicable to White persons in the By Laws of the Corporation shall apply in like manner to colored persons and that all laws inconsistent with this provision be and they are hereby repealed.

Then the Council adjourned.