

Fredericksburg Council Minutes 1871

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At a called meeting of the Common Council of the Town of Fredericksburg held at the Council Chamber on Monday January 8th 1872

Present L B Rose, Mayor

J W Sener, Recorder

J G Wallace, M W Mason, W H Russell, Benj Bowering, P McCracken, Wm A Little, L O Magrath

The minutes of the last meeting were read and approved

Present: H S Doggett

Mr J W Sener from the Committee appointed by the Council in reference to the costs of equipment of Hook & Ladder & Bucket Company, submitted a written report stating as near as they could estimate the cost of equipment including building for safe keeping of same at Five hundred and fifty dollars

On motion of Dr Wallace, the report of the Committee was received

Mr Little submitted the following resolution which was unanimously adopted

Resolved, that the sum of \$300, be placed at the disposal of the Committee heretofore appointed to consider the matter of procuring the materials &c for a Hook & Ladder Co, and that said committee be authorized to collect the amounts subscribed by the Insurance Companies (reported to be \$275.00) and with the said fund to purchase and provide the necessary subjects and building for the purpose as per their report of this date

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Provided that they can be satisfied that an efficient Hook & Ladder Co will be organized at once to use the said materials when thus provided by the Corporation, and that the said Committee be further instructed to prepare and submit an ordinance to organize a Fire Department for this town, and nominate the proper officers therefore to a subsequent meeting of this Council.

Mr Magrath submitted the following resolution which was unanimously adopted,

Resolved that the City Treasurer be and he is hereby requested to furnish to the council at its next meeting a statement shewing the amount of the public debt of the Corporation at this time, specifying as near as possible, how much is owing of principal and how much of interest, and also how much of Principal and interest has been paid off and discharged by the Corporation of Fredericksburg since the first day of April 1865

Mr Mason tendered his resignation as a member of this Council

On Motion of Dr Wallace, Mr Mason was requested to withdraw his resignation which being seconded and vote taken, the motion was unanimously adopted.

Mr Mason withdrew his resignation as a member of this Council

On motion, Mr Russell,

Ordered that the sum of two hundred and fifty dollars be appropriated for the [Page 88] use of the public schools of the town, subject to the order of the Board of Trustees of the Public Schools

On motion, Mr Little,

Resolved that the subject of the powers of the Board of Trustees of Public Schools to draw on this Council for funds for expenses of School be referred to the Finance Committee for investigation and report.

The Council then adjourned
L B Rose, Mayor

At a called meeting of the Common Council of the Town of Fredericksburg held at the Council Chamber on Saturday, January 13th 1872

Present L B Rose, Mayor

J W Sener, Recorder

J G Wallace, W R Mason, W A Little, W H Russell, L O Magrath, Benj'n Bowering, J G Hurkamp, G W Shepherd, H S Doggett

The minutes of the last meeting were read and approved

The Mayor stated that the Council had been convened to take such action as it may deem necessary to influence the Legislature of Va now in session to locate the proposed additional Asylum for Lunatics at Fredericksburg should the Legislature in its wisdom see proper to have another such asylum built

Present: W P Conway

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Mr Sener, Submitted the following resolution which was unanimously adopted

That inasmuch as we are informed that the Legislature of Virginia are about to establish additional lunatic asylums in the State, and as in the opinion of this Council, no more eligible situation for such an institution can be found in the State than the Town of Fredericksburg,

Resolved that the Mayor is requested to present the claims of Fredericksburg to the location of said asylum to the Legislature in proper form and out Senator Charles Herndon Esq'r and our Delegate J H Kelly Esq'r be and they are hereby requested to urge said claim with all proper zeal when said subject shall come up for final action in the bodies of which they are representatives

An account of R B Merchant, amt'g to \$8.75 was read and ordered to be paid.

Lt Gov Marye desired to be heard by the Council in reference to Matters connected with the F & G R R on motion, Gov Marye was permitted to be heard.

Stated that Mr Fairbanks, the Engineer [Page 90] sent to examine into the affairs of the Rail Road and was present suggested that the Council hear him on the subject, On motion, Mr Fairbanks was permitted to be heard

Mr Russell submitted the following, which, on motion, was unanimously adopted,

Whereas this Council has been informed by Mr A Fairbanks who has appeared before the Council that by the request and authority of the parties who claim to have purchased the Fredericksburg and Gordonsville Rail Road at the sales (made by the Trustee under the mortgage), held on the 28th December 1871 at New York, the said Fairbanks is engaged in making an examination of said Rail Road with a view to make an approximate estimate of the cost of completing said Rail Road, which estimate is to be returned to said parties and the Council is further informed that the said Fairbanks desires to inspect the papers prepared by Mess'rs Taylor and Braxton, late Chief Engineers of the Company and that said papers are now in the Custody of M Slaughter Esq'r & Wm L Slaughter Esq'r at Fredericksburg, and whereas this Council is earnestly desirous in furtherance of the interests of Fredericksburg, to and in facilitating the affording of all information which may reasonable tend to promote the completion of said Rail Road, and the Council is informed that the gentlemen so having custody of said papers have declined to allow Mr Fairbanks to inspect the same

Therefore, Resolved that the Council hereby requests Mess'rs Montgomery Slaughter & Wm L Slaughter [Page 91] as also the Board of Directors of said Company (if their consent be necessary thereto) to allow said papers to be delivered to L B Rose, the Mayor, in order that the latter may allow said Fairbanks to make such inspection and examination of the same as he may need in order to make the estimate aforesaid, upon the understanding that said Mayor Rose shall keep the possession of said papers and have

supervision, of same and shall return the same to the Mess'rs Slaughter when said inspection is complete, and that said papers shall be thus returned within two days after same are so delivered to the Mayor.

The Council then adjourned

L B Rose, Mayor

At a called meeting of the Common Council of the Town of Fredericksburg held at the Council Chamber on Monday January 15th 1872

Present L B Rose, Mayor

J W Sener, Recorder

J G Wallace, W P Conway, H S Doggett, L O Magrath, Benj Bowering, W H Russell, J G Hurkamp

The minutes of the last meeting were read and approved

Present Wm A Little, G W Shepherd

The Mayor stated that the Council had been [Page 92] convened in order that he might submit his report under the resolution adopted at the meeting held on Saturday last. The Mayor reported that in accordance with the resolution he called on Mr Slaughter to obtain possession of the papers referred to in the resolution and was informed by him that the papers named he had not in his possession.

Mr Conway stated that as Mr Slaughter, the President of the F & G R R Co was present, he desired that Mr S might make his statements in reference to the report of the Mayor, and on motion, Mr Slaughter was requested to be heard in reference to the matter under consideration

Mr Conway submitted the following which was unanimously adopted, the Ayes & Noes being called for on the vote being taken (Mr Little asked to be excused from voting, he being the counsel of the Rail Road Co—the Council by vote decline to excuse Mr Little)

Resolved that M Slaughter, President and the Directors of the Fredericksburg & Gordonsville Rail Road Co be respectfully requested to place in the hands of the proxies representing the stock of the Corporation of Fredericksburg in the said Road, any maps, profiles or other papers in their possession which may be necessary to enable [Blank] Fairbanks, Engineer, to make an estimate of the cost of completing the said road to Orange C H

Provided that the said papers be returned to the said Slaughter, President, as soon [Page 93] as the said estimate is completed not exceeding two days

The following is the vote on the resolution

Ayes Conway, Little, Hurkamp, Bowering, Wallace, Sener, Russell, Shepherd, Doggett, Magrath

Noes None

The Council then adjourned

L B Rose, Mayor

At a regular meeting of the Common Council of the Town of Fredericksburg held at the Council Chamber on Tuesday evening January 23^d 1872

Present L B Rose, Mayor

J W Sener, Recorder

J G Wallace, W P Conway, J G Hurkamp, H S Doggett, Benj Bowering, L O Magrath, W H Russell, P McCracken, W R Mason

The minutes of the last meeting were read and approved

Present: W A Little

Mr Conway stated to the Council that in accordance with the resolution adopted at the last Meeting that he with Mr Sener, proxies of the Corpo called on Mr Slaughter, the President of the F & G R R C and obtained possession of the papers referred to and hand them to Mr Fairbanks who made his examination and returned them to the proxies by whom they were returned to Mr Slaughter

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On motion, the report of the proxies was received

Mr Doggett, Chrmn of the Pump Committee, submitted a written report recommending the location of a pump in that part of the town known as Liberty and asked that the Council give the Committee the authority to have the pump erected

On motion, the Committee report was adopted

On Motion, Mr Mason, ordered that the Pump Committee be instructed to have a well dug and a pump located at such point as they in their judgment may deem best

Mr Sener, Chrmn of the Committee for the organization of the Hook & Ladder, stated that the Committee was unable as yet to make report, On motion, the Committee were granted further time

An account of Mess'rs Sener & Bowering for expenses to Richmond amt'g to \$23—was read and ordered to be paid

Mr Conway, submitted statements prepared by the Treasurer in accordance with the resolution adopted by the Council on 8th Inst which was read by the Clerk (see statement on next page)

Present: G W Shepherd

On motion Mr Magrath, ordered that the statement of the Treasurer be published one time in each of the newspapers of the Town

The Council then adjourned

L B Rose, Mayor

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A Statement of the Debt of the City of Fredericksburg, also the amount of Principal and Interest paid by the Corporation since the 1st day of April 1865

The Principal of the Debt at this date is \$193,679

The Bonds issued to Hazel River Navigation Co \$10,000

The Bonds issued to Fred'g Water Power Co \$113,500

The Bonds issued to Fred'g & Gordonsville R Rd Co \$25,350

The Bonds issued to purchase of Fair Grounds \$3,000

The Bonds issued to Fred'g & Valley Plank Rd Co \$9,300

The Bonds issued to consolidate small Bonds issued to Rail & Plank Rd Cos \$14,758

The Bonds issued to for funding interest to Jan'y 1st 1861 \$13,521.95

The Bonds issued to Sam'l Richardson for raising wrecks in Rappk River \$3,250

The Bonds issued to City of Richmond for purchase of Engine \$500

The Bonds issued to Miss Pamela English \$500

[total] \$193,679.95

There is due upon this debt as nearly as can be approximated 3 years interest \$34,862

Principal & Interest to Jan'y 1872 \$228,542

There has been paid of the Principal of the debt due 1st April 1865 \$20,403

Amount of Interest of the Debt paid since 1 April 1865 \$55,796

Fredericksburg January 22^d 1872

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At a called meeting of the Common Council of the Town of Fredericksburg held at the Council Chamber on Wednesday, January 31st 1872

Present L B Rose, Mayor

J W Sener, Recorder

J G Hurkamp, P McCracken, W A Little, W P Conway, W H Russell, Benj Bowering, L O Magrath, Geo W Shepherd, H S Doggett

The Mayor stated that the Council had been convened at the instance of Mess'r Terry, Walker, Atkins & others parties claiming to be interested in the purchase of the of the Fred'g & Gordonsville Rail Road at the recent sale (under a mortgage) in the City of New York, that they might be heard in reference to their plans for completion of the said road.

Lieut Gov Marye was present and presented a Communication, signed by L P Royer, Wm M Smith, C M Atkins, Thomas George Walker, E L Ferry & T A Hughes, and addressed to the Council which was read and is in the following words

To the members of the Town Council of the City of Fredericksburg
Gentlemen,

We reached your city the PM at nearly 7 o'clock instead of at Noon as we had anticipated, because of the ice blockage in the Potomac and which nearly defeated our purpose of getting here on this day.

Important engagements compel some of us [Page 97] to return by the next train tomorrow morning and as a consequence we cannot in a body have the pleasure and advantage of an informal personal interview with you, we have had barely time to take the necessary formal action required to give form and vitality to the new Rail Road Corporation created by force of a general law of your State as a result of the recent sale of the property and franchise of the Fredericksburg and Gordonsville Rail Road Company, [blank] some formal legislation will be probably desirable to give aid and greater efficiency to our purpose to complete the road as soon as practicable to Orange Court House and then to Charlottesville, a purpose which we are confident will promote the interests of your City and the counties along the line of our Road and for which we are sure we do not miscalculate when we say we expect your sympathy and cooperation We have conferred with Gov'r Marye, who with his known devotion to your local interest approves our plan for the future work to be done, [blank] We propose to hold a more formal and important Corporate meeting here on the 22^d February next, when we trust we shall have the pleasure of meeting you and stating somewhat in detail what we hope and expect soon to accomplish toward the final construction of the road. We have the fullest confidence and expectation that this result will occur in a few months "Fredericksburg, Jan'y 30th 1872"

After reading the communication, the mayor state that Mess'rs Walker and Terry were present and [Page 98] would like to address the Council in regard to their connection with and their plans for the completion of the Road (These gentlemen were introduced by Geo Marye)

Mr Walker was on Motion heard in reference to the plans of himself and associates respecting the Fred'g & G R Rd

Mr Conway submitted the following

Resolved that a committee of three members of this Council be appointed by the Mayor whose duty it shall be to meet with the parties claiming to have purchased under the foreclosure of the mortgage of the F & G R Rd Co in New York on the 28th of December 1871 and proposing to complete said road and to protect the interest of this Corporation in any Matter regarding said Rail Road, and report to the Council from time to time the action necessary for the Council to take in said matters.

Which being seconded and the vote being taken by Ayes & Noes it was adopted by the following vote
Ayes Messrs Conway, Little, Hurkamp, Bowering, Sener, Russell, Shepherd, Magrath 8

Noes Messrs Doggett, McCracken 2

The Mayor appointed Mess'rs Conway, Little and Russell as the Committee

Mr M Slaughter, President of the Fred'g & Gordonsville Rail Road Co being present was on Motion, requested to be heard and Mr S stated [Page 99] for the information of the Council that the person

claiming to have purchased the Fred'g & G R Rd did not recognize the President & Directors present of said Co, or the existence of such a Company
The Council then adjourned
L B Rose, Mayor

At a called meeting of the Common Council of the Town of Fredericksburg held at the Council Chamber on Tuesday the 6th day of February 1872
Present L B Rose, Mayor
J W Sener, Recorder
W H Russell, P McCracken, W A Little, W P Conway, J G Wallace, H S Doggett, G W Shepherd

The Mayor stated that the Council was convened not for the purpose of business, but to give expressions of sympathy for a bereaved member of the Council who in the past few days has been called to mourn the loss of an esteemed companion and devoted partner of his household. He alluded to Mr John G Hurkamp, who since the last meeting of the Council had been suddenly and severely afflicted, in the death of his estimable wife, Mrs E C Hurkamp which occurred on Saturday morning last, and whose funeral would take place this morning at 11 o'clock [Page 100] at the Presbyterian Church
Whereupon Mr A Little submitted the following which was unanimously adopted
Whereas we have received with unfeigned sorrow, the information of the death of Mrs Elizabeth Hurkamp, the estimable wife of our fellow Councilman, Mr John Hurkamp, and sincerely sympathize with our afflicted brother in his sad bereavement.
Resolved that as an expression of our sympathy with our friend and fellow Councilman in his affliction we will attend as a body the funeral of Mrs Hurkamp to take place this morning at 11 o'clock from the Presbyterian Church.
Resolved that a copy of these proceedings be furnished Mr Hurkamp, and that the same be published in the papers of the town.
The Council then adjourned
L B Rose, Mayor
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At a Called Meeting of the Common Council of the Town of Fredericksburg, held at the Council Chamber, Saturday evening February 10th 1872
Present L B Rose, Mayor
J W Sener, Recorder
J G Wallace, W H Russell, W A Little, W P Conway, Benj'n Bowering, Geo W Shepherd, P McCracken, L O Magrath, H S Doggett

Mr Conway, Chrmn of the Committee appointed at a meeting held on 31st January to confer with the parties claiming to have purchased the Fred'g & Gordonsville Rail Road at the sale on 28th December last, stated that the Committee desired to make a report; He reported (orally) that upon conferring together the Committee were unanimously of the opinion that the original Stockholders of the Fred'g & Gordonsville Rail Road Co held the right to the road, but notwithstanding this, he was satisfied that the Council desired to throw no obstacle in the way of the new company, toward carrying out their plans of completing the Road to Orange Court house and then to Charlottesville as they propose. The committee, however, deemed it important in view of past experience and action that such security should be required as a forfeit in the event of failure to complete the road within the time to be fixed upon, the Committee had a conference with Lieut Gov Marye, representing the parties interested and informed him what would be insisted upon, before the co-operation of the Council could be had in their efforts to procure the legislative action desired, [Page 102]

Gov Marye stated that he feared the parties would object to giving the security asked, but that he would communicate the views of the Committee and inform them of the result.

Mr C stated that Gov Marye had heard from the parties interested and their response in the view of the Committee was much more favorable than anticipated; Instead of personal security the parties propose to turn over the Road and franchises to the original Stockholders in the event of their failure to complete the work by a given time and they further propose that this condition shall be inserted as an amendment to an act the New Co is now seeking to have passed in the Legislature.

The Committee congratulated the Council upon this result; Mr Conway then read the paper containing the proposition of the parties submitted through Lieut Gov Marye, which is in the following words;

If said Fredericksburg, Orange, and Charlottesville Rail Road Company shall fail to complete the said Rail Road from the Town of Fredericksburg as far as Orange C H with a single track equal in point of work, materials and adaption for travel and transportation of merchandise to either of the Rail Roads connecting with said track, and erect Depots along said track suitable for accommodation of travels and freight consisting of one Depot at each terminus of the Road and not less than four intermediate Depots on or before the first day of May in the Year 1873, the said Company [Page 103] shall forfeit to the State of Virginia, their Corporate rights, and franchise, together with the said Rail Road Track, Road Bed, and all work and materials thereon and all other property of said Company; and the State of Virginia shall thereupon have right to enter upon and take possession of said Rail Road tracts, Bed and Materials thereon (and hold the same as Trustee for the benefit of the said State of Virginia, the Corporation of Fredericksburg and the private Stockholders in the proportion of their original subscriptions to said stock of Fredericksburg & G R Road)

This act shall not be in force until said Company shall file in the office of the Board of Public Works of Virginia the acceptance of the same with its conditions to be signed by the President and Secretary of said Company with the Common Seal of said Company affixed thereto.

Lieut Gov Marye being present was on Motion heard in reference to the matter under consideration. Messrs J B Sener, St Geo R Fitzhugh and M Slaughter were also present and Motion were heard.

On Motion, of Mr McCracken, the consideration of the subject of the report of the Committee was postponed until Tuesday, Feb'y 13th 1872

And then the Council adjourned until Tuesday next 13th Inst.

L B Rose, Mayor

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At an adjourned meeting of the Common Council of the Town of Fredericksburg held at the Council Chamber Tuesday, February 13th 1872

Present L B Rose, Mayor

S W Sener, Recorder

W P Conway, W A Little, J G Wallace, P McCracken, W H Russell, J G Hurkamp, L O Magrath, H S Doggett, G W Shepherd, Benj'n Bowering

The minutes of the last meeting were read, Mr Conway objected to that portion of same referring to the report made by him as inaccurate in part and stated that he would tonight submit a written report

Mr Conway, Chairman of the Committee appointed at the Meeting held on 31t January 1872 submitted a written report which he read and is in the following words

The undersigned, a committee appointed by the Common Council by its resolution adopted the 31st January 1872 (appended hereto) respectfully report that your Committee held a meeting the morning after their said appointment and took into consideration the important matters submitted to them. Your

Committee were fully aware that it was indispensable to the success of the said purchasers in their enterprise of completing said Rail Road, that their title to the same should be free from doubt or embarrassment; and further that it was necessary to said enterprise that said purchasers should obtain an Act of the General Assembly extending [Page 105] the Charter of the Company organized by said Assembly and authorizing said Company to create a Mortgage upon said Road in order to raise the moneys necessary for such completion, Your committee were further aware that the assent and co-operation of this Council was necessary in order to clear up the title and to procure the said legislation; your Committee had reason to believe that the said purchasers at the Mortgage sale (so far as those arising therefrom were concerned who held a contributing interest and power over the action of the said purchasers were men of substance and good standing in their respective communities, and your Committee had reason to believe that it was the purpose of said purchasers to proceed with energy on the work with a view to its ultimate extension to Charlottesville.

Yet while there appeared to be a favorable prospect for the prosecution of this improvement so vital to the welfare of Fredericksburg and a large section of the Country, it was nevertheless subject of gravest concern to your Committee to how to extend and at the same time obtain satisfactory security in behalf of Fredericksburg to protect her interests against a possible failure on the part of said purchasers to complete said Rail Road within a reasonable time, Your Committee considered and conferred upon several modes of providing such a security and condition to recommend one which they thought said purchasers might reasonably accept, Facts have occurred [Page 106] which make it needless for your committee to state formally in this report, what that plan for security was, they deem it sufficient to state that at their request the character of the security proposed was made known to said purchasers and that on the evening of the 10th Inst the Counsel for the said purchasers placed in the hands of your Committee a proposition in writing from said purchasers to provide a guaranty and security for the completion of the Road with the authority to the Committee to tender it to the Council. Your Committee having no time to make their report to the Council in writing before the meeting of the Council on the same night, submitted the said proposition with such oral statements as they deemed necessary.

The written proposition is before your body and your Committee desires it to be considered a part of the report, It will be perceived that this proposition agrees that a provision shall be inserted in the body of the Act of Assembly asking for extending the Charter and authorizing the mortgage creating the fundamental condition, that in case said Rail Road be not completed to Orange Court House on or before the 1st day of May 1873, the entire Rail Road work and materials and all the property rights & franchises of said company shall on that day be forfeited to the State of Virginia as a Trustee for herself and the Co Stockholders with the State, in the Stock of the original Fredericksburg & Gordonsville Rail Road Company with power to the State to enter upon and take possession of the said Rail Road and other property. Your Committee after full & mature [Page 107] consideration express it as their decided judgment that the said proposition provides a firm and sure guarantee upon the basis of which this Council and the entire Community may rest with safety and should act cordially in furnishing the said purchasers all practicable aid and co-operation in obtaining the legislation which they ask concerning the extension of the Charter and the creation of a Mortgage; and your Committee would esteem it as very impolitic to seek to affix, or prescribe any further conditions beyond the ample guaranty contained in said proposition, Your Committee do not regard it necessary to present in this report their reasons at length for depreciating the policy of seeking to prescribe additional conditions; they content themselves with stating that such a course of action would in the decided opinion of your Committee tend seriously to delay and might end in the defeat of an early prosecution of the work to its completion, if not defeat it altogether.

Your committee therefore recommend the adoption of the following resolutions

First, That Charles Herndon, Esq'r State Senator and J Harrison Kelly Esq'r, Delegate in the Gen'l Assembly be respectfully requested to use all proper efforts to procure at the present session of the Legislature the passage of the Act (as asked for by said purchasers) extending the Charter of the Fred'g, Orange & Charlottesville Railroad Co and authorizing the creation of a Mortgage of said Rail Raod by said Company

Provided that the said written proposition of [Page 108] security for the completion of the said Rail Road to Orange Court House (so tendered by said purchasers and now accepted by this Council) be incorporated as part of said act.

Second. That a copy of the proceedings be furnished by the Clerk of the Council to Charles Herndon Esq'r and to J H Kelly Esq'r without delay

Signed W P Conway, Chrmn

Mr Conway moved the adoption of the report of the Committee, which was seconded by Mr Little Dr Wallace moved the following as a substitute which was seconded.

The Common Council of the Town of Fredericksburg, Va are anxious for the Completion of the Fredericksburg, Orange and Charlottesville Rail Road to Orange Court House and desire that no obstacle shall be thrown in the way of the new management in all proper efforts for that purpose; yet they deem it a duty they owe to the people of Fredericksburg and along the line of the Road to provide by legislation such just and not possibly objectionable restrictions and limitations as will secure for the bonds, which the Company propose to raise by a Mortgage on its works and franchises a proper price in the finances, markets, by giving to the bond purchasers legislative assurances that the funds derived from the sales thereof will be duly applied to the building of the said road, as raised, thus insuring not only the Completion of said Road, but satisfying any such and all contractors that they may reasonably calculate upon their estimates as their work progresses, by a judicious sale of the bonds so authorized [Page 109] to be issued: Therefore

Be it resolved by the Council of Fredericksburg, that the Legislature be requested to grant the Fredericksburg, Orange and Charlottesville Rail Road a Charter to build their Road and authorizing there under effect a loan upon a Mortgage at a rate of interest not exceeding say ten per cent, but with the following proviso to wit: that the said company shall issue upon the Road bed as now built, Bonds not exceeding say seventy five thousand dollars, and upon each and every additional mile, beginning at a point say seventeen miles from Fredericksburg Va, when completed by them or the Company organized by, through or under them, a sum not exceeding twenty five thousand dollars until the road shall reach Orange Court House, and shall be properly equipped; Thus the Company may make such further issues of its bonds as to it shall seem best, and provided further that the said additional sum of twenty five thousand dollars for each mile of railway shall not be issued until the Chief Engineer of said Road and the Finance Committee of the Town of Fredericksburg shall jointly certify that so many miles of miles of said Road have been built as it may be proposed to issue bonds for, and Provided further that work on said Road under the provisions of this Charter shall be commenced by the first day of July 1874 and be completed to Orange Court House by the first day of September 1873.

This act shall not be in force until said Company shall have filed in the office of Public Works of Virginia their necessary [Page 110] of the same with its conditions, to be signed by the President and Secretary of said Company with the Common Seal of said Company affixed thereto.

The vote being taken by Ayes & Noes on the substitute of Dr Wallace, it was carried by the following vote;

Ayes Messrs Hurkamp, Wallace, Sener, Shepherd, Doggett, Magrath, McCracken 7

Nayes Messrs Conway, Little, Bowering, Russell 4

Lieut Gov Marye being present was, on motion Mr Conway, heard in reference to the question before the Council; Mr J B Sener being also present was also, on Motion, Mr McCracken heard;

Mr Hurkamp moved a reconsideration of the vote by which the substitute of Dr Wallace was adopted, which was seconded and upon which the Ayes and Noes were called; the vote being taken the Motion to reconsider was adopted by the following vote:

Ayes Mess'rs Conway, Little, Hurkamp, Bowering, Sener, Russell, Shepherd 7

Noes Mess'rs Wallace, Doggett, Magrath, McCracken 4

Mr Little submitted the following as an amendment to the report of the Committee
That said company shall not issue more than \$600,000 of said Bonds until said Road is completed to Orange Court House, and that said Bonds shall be issued as follows, viz \$75,000 of Bonds on the Road, as it now stands and not more than \$25,000 per mile of finished work on said Road to be issued only on the Certificate of the Engineer and two of the Directors as the road progresses

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Mr Conway called for a division of the question and moved the following as an amendment to the report of the Committee which was seconded

That said Company shall not issue more than six hundred thousand dollars of said Bonds until said Road is completed to Orange Court House, [blank] and upon which the vote was taken by Ayes and Noes and it was decided in the affirmative by the following vote:

Ayes Mess'rs Conway, Little, Hurkamp, Bowering, Russell, Shepherd, Sener, McCracken, Magrath 9

Noes Mess'rs Wallace & Doggett 2

The vote was then taken by Ayes & Noes on the remaining clause of the amendment offered by Mr Little and it was rejected by the following vote

Ayes Mess'rs Wallace, Doggett, Magrath, and McCracken 4

Noes Mess'rs Conway, Little, Hurkamp, Bowering, Shepherd, Russell, Sener 7

Mr Conway then moved that the report of the Committee as amended be adopted which was seconded and the vote being taken by Ayes & Noes it was carried by the following vote

Ayes Mess'rs Conway, Little, Hurkamp, Bowering, Wallace, Sener, Russell, Shepherd 8

Noes Mess'rs Doggett, Magrath, McCracken 3

The Council then adjourned

L B Rose, Mayor

[Pages 112-113 blank] [Page 114]

At a regular meeting of the Common Council of the Town of Fredericksburg held at the Council Chamber on Tuesday February 27th 1872

Present L B Rose, Mayor

P McCracken, W A Little, W P Conway, G W Shepherd, Benj'n Bowering, H S Doggett, L O Magrath, J G Hurkamp

The minutes of the last meeting were read and approved

An account of R B Merchant amt'g to \$3.00 was presented and ordered paid

The Mayor, Chrmn of the Committee appointed by the Council to visit Washington in reference to an appropriation from Congress for the improvement of the navigation of the Rapp'k River made a verbal report of the action of the Committee, which is to the effect that the chances of a further appropriation for the purpose are exceedingly favorable

The Mayor tended the resignation of Mr W L Slaughter, as Surveyor of the Corporation which resignation, on Motion Mr Conway, was accepted.

The Mayor presented the memorial of J E Tackett asking the Council to exempt from taxation to a certain extend Capital invested in Manufacturing enterprises, with a view to induce parties to locate in Fredericksburg.

Mr Tackett being present was by consent of the Council heard on the subject

On Motion, Mr Conway, Resolved that the petition of Mr Tackett be referred to a Committee of three of the Council for consideration [Page 115] with instructions to report at the earliest moment
The Mayor appointed Mess'rs Conway, Little & Hurkamp as the Committee

Mr Doggett presented a communication from Joseph Hall stating that his property was erroneously taxed and asked that the matter be investigated

On Motion, Mr Conway, Resolved that the report of Mr Conway in reference to examined taxation of Mr Hall's property submitted some time since, be recommitted to a consideration of one consisting of Mr W P Conway for further investigation and report

Mr Bowering from the Committee appointed by the Council in reference to the equipment and organization of a Hook & Ladder Co stated that in the absence of Mr Sener, the Chairman, the committee was unable to report at this Meeting

The Matter was discussed by Messrs Hurkamp, Little, Conway, Bowering & others, and Mess'r W J Moon & H C Sener being present, on motion, they were heard on the subject.

Mr Hurkamp moved that the sum of five hundred dollars be appropriated for the purpose of equipping a Hook, Ladder & Bucket Company, which being seconded, Mr Conway moved as a substitute

That the subject of the equipment of a Hook, Ladder & Bucket Co be postponed until the next meeting and that the Committee be requested to make their report at that time, which being put to the vote was adopted

A Motion ordered that the Collector of Taxes be directed to refund to Mrs H Baseler the taxes paid by her on a property standing in her name on the Commissioners books, but belonging to MR F Bauman, and to collect the amount so refunded of Mr Bauman

The Council then adjourned

L B Rose, Mayor

[Page 116]

At a called meeting of the Common Council of the Town of Fredericksburg held at the Council Chamber on Monday evening March 11th 1872

Present L B Rose, Mayor

W A Little, P McCracken, H S Doggett, G W Shepherd, W P Conway, J G Hurkamp, Benj Bowering, W H Russell

The minutes of the last meeting were read and approved

Present: L O Magrath

Mr Russell from the Committee appointed by the Council in reference to the equipment &c of a Hook & Ladder Co, submitted a written report which was read and on Motion the report was laid on the table

Mr Little for the Committee appointed at the last meeting to take into consideration the Memorial of J E Tackett asking an exemption to a certain extend capitals seeking investment in manufacturing enterprises, submitted the following which on Motion of Mr McCracken was unanimously adopted

Whereas it is all important to the prosperity of this community that every proper inducement and facility be offered to parties desiring to develop and utilize the Water Power and to engage in manufacturing enterprises within our Corporate Limits and

Whereas a partial exemption from municipal taxation in the judgment of this Council will furnish such inducement and will be amply compensated by the other advantages to be derived from the establishment of such enterprises among us

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

1st That from and after this date all [Page 117] capital used and employed in Manufacturing enterprises within our Corporate limits, in excess of the sum of twenty thousand dollars shall be exempt for the period of ten years from the date of its organization and use from all municipal taxation by this Corporation

2nd That inasmuch as the object of this exemption is to encourage the establishment of new enterprises in manufacturing, said exemption shall only apply to enterprises in manufacturing, which shall be commenced, organized and operated within five years from this date, and to new and or additional capital invested in enterprises already existing and in operation and shall not extend to dwelling houses, tenant houses, and stores connected with Manufacturing establishments.

An account of J B Sener (Ledger Office) amt'g to \$4.00 was presented and ordered to be paid

On Motion Mr Conway, ordered that the ordinance exempting partially manufacturing enterprises from taxation be published one time in each of the papers of the town.

The Council then adjourned

L B Rose, Mayor

[Page 118]

At a called meeting of the Common Council of the Town of Fredericksburg held at the Council Chamber Thursday evening March 14th 1872

Present L B Rose, Mayor

W A Little, P McCracken, Benj'n Bowering, G W Shepherd, H S Doggett, W H Russell

A quorum not being present the Council stood adjourned

At a regular meeting of the Common Council of the Town of Fredericksburg held at the Council Chamber Tuesday evening March 26th 1872

Present L B Rose, Mayor

J W Sener

W H Russell, W P Conway, P McCracken, Benj'n Bowering, W A Little, H S Doggett, L O Magrath

The minutes of the last meeting were read and approved

A communication from G P King, complaining of the rates charged for weighing Hay &c at the public scales was read by the Mayor

Mr Doggett moved, that Section III, Chapter XI of the General Ordinance be amended in this, that where the word "five" occurs in 9th line of said section, the same be stricken out and the word "three" inserted instead, which was seconded.

Mr Sener moved as a substitute, that the [Page 119] communication of Mr King be referred to a committee of three of the Council who shall examine the subject and report at a subsequent meeting, which being seconded and the vote taken it was lost

The question recurring upon the motion of Mr Doggett to amend the ordinance and the vote taken it was adopted by a vote of 5 to 3

On Motion of Mr Magrath

Ordered that section IV, Chapter XI of the General Ordinance be so amended as that after the word "aforesaid" in the eighth line of said section there shall be inserted the following "But this shall not apply to any residents of the Town who purchased Hay, Fodder, or sheaf oats and bales and exports the same"

The following account passed by the Finance Committee were presented and ordered to be paid;

A A Little (News Office) for advertizing amt'g to \$6.50

J B Sener (Ledger Office) for same amt'g ot \$2.00

Mr John Howison, Supt of Public Schools appeared before the Council and by consent was heard in reference to the Continuation of the Schools until 1st July next and asking the Council to aid the Trustees in fulfilling their engagements with the Teachers to that time in the event of their failure to receive the amount necessary for the purpose from the State.

On Motion, Mr Conway

Resolved that this Council agree to guaranty to the Trustees for the Teachers of the Public Schools of Fredericksburg the payment of their Salaries to the 1st of July 1872 to the extent of Two hundred dollars, to meet a probable deficiency in [Page 120] the School funds for that purpose, in case said deficiency should occur.

The Mayor called the attention of the Council to the fixing of the License tax on Drays, Carts, & Wagons for the ensuing year as the present License would expire of 1st April next

Mr McCracken moved that the taxes be fixed at five dollars on Drays & Carts, and ten dollars on Wagons, which was seconded

Mr Doggett moved as a substitute, that the tax be fixed at five dollars and fifty cents on drays & carts, and eleven dollars on wagons which being seconded and the vote taken it was adopted

The Mayor having reported in writing that the police officers had discharged their duties faithfully during the present quarter, On Motion, ordered that the Treasurer pay the salaries of the Police Officers for the quarter ending March 31st 1872

The subject of the passage of an ordinance for a chain gang was brought to the notice of the Council

On Motion, Mr Doggett

Resolved that a Committee of three of the Council be appointed to prepare an ordinance in reference to a chain gang and report the same at a subsequent meeting.

The Mayor appointed Mess'rs Doggett, Magrath and McCracken as the Committee

The Council then adjourned

L B Rose, Mayor

[Page 121]

At a called meeting of the Common Council of the Town of Fredericksburg held at the Council Chamber on Friday evening Apl 12th 1872

Present L B Rose, Mayor

J W Sener, Recorder

J G Wallace, G W Shepherd, W H Russell, H S Doggett, P McCracken, Benj'n Bowering, W P Conway, W A Little

The minutes of the last meeting were read and approved

Present: L O Magrath, J G Hurkamp

The Mayor stated that Dr W H Ruffner, State Supt of Public Instruction was present and would address the Council upon the subject of Public Schools.

Dr R was introduced and addressed the Council at length upon the importance of education and presented some forcible arguments in support of the Public School System.

Mr McCracken offered the following resolution which was unanimously adopted,

Resolved that the thanks of the Council be and they are hereby tendered to Dr W H Ruffner for the able and eloquent address delivered before this body upon the subject of Public Schools

The Council then on Motion adjourned

L B Rose, Mayor

[Page 122]

At a regular meeting of the Common Council of the Town of Fredericksburg held at the Council Chambers on Tuesday April 23^d 1872

Present L B Rose, Mayor

J W Sener, Recorder

Dr J G Wallace, H S Doggett, L O Magrath, W P Conway, W H Russell, P McCracken

The minutes of the last meeting were read and approved

Present: J G Hurkamp, W A Little

An account of Scott & Bowering amt'g to \$2.50 passed by the Committee on Finance was ordered to be paid

Mr Doggett, Chrnm of the Committee appointed at a former meeting to prepare an ordinance in reference to a Chain Gang, submitted an ordinance which was read, and on Motion, Mr McCracken, the subject of was recommitted to the Committee for further consideration and report at a subsequent meeting

Mr Conway, to whom was referred the communication of Jos Hall, in reference to erroneous assessment upon his property, reported verbally that he had examined into the matter and found that the complaint of Mr Hall was without cause, that the aforesaid was correct and of this he had satisfied Mr Hall.

Mr Conway, Chrnm of Finance Committee called the attention of the Council to the erroneous assessment made upon the personal property of the Fred'g Gas Company, for the year 1870, on Motion, ordered that the erroneous [Page 123] tax upon the personal property of the Fred'g Gas Co, for the year 1870 amt'g to \$431.25 be corrected and that the collector be authorized to settle set said taxes upon the basis of \$1500 value

Mr Conway, at the instance of parties interested stated that he was requested to ask if the Council would allow the interest upon certain lost Bonds of the Corporation, known as the Hazel River bonds upon which judgment has been obtained for interest, to be placed upon the same footing of other bonds in the payment of taxes.

Mr Conway, moved the following which was seconded,

That the interest upon the bonds known as Hazel River bonds and for which judgment has been obtained be placed upon the same footing of other bonds in payment of taxes, and the Treasurer is directed to see that payments of said interest be entered to the credit of the Corporation on the judgment Docket in the Court.

Mr McCracken made as a substitute that the subject be postponed until the next meeting, which was seconded and the vote taken by Ayes & Noes, it was lost by the following vote:

Ayes Messrs Sener, Doggett, McCracken 3

Noes Messrs Conway, Little, Hurkamp, Wallace, Russell, Magrath 6

The question recurring jupon the Motion of Mr Conway and the vote taken, it was carried

[Page 124]

On Motion Mr Russell

Resolved that a Committee of three of the Council be appointed to prepare a paper setting forth the advantages of Fredericksburg & vicinity for manufacturing & other purposes to be forwarded to the Committee of the Legislature seeking such information.

The Mayor appointed Mess'rs Russell, Hurkamp and McCracken as the Committee

The Mayor, on Motion, was added to the Committee.

On Motion, Mr Conway, The Committee was requested to confer with Lieut Gov'r Marye in the preparation of their statement.

The Council then adjourned

L B Rose, Mayor

[Page 125]

At a called meeting of the Common Council of the Town of Fredericksburg held at the Council Chamber on Monday April 29 1872

Present L B Rose, Mayor

J G Wallace, L O Magrath, P McCracken, Benj'n Bowering, W P Conway, J G Hurkamp, G W Shepherd

The minutes of the last meeting were read and approved

Present: W A Little, H S Doggett

Mr Conway stated that the Council was convened at his instance for the purpose of an explanation in reference to the statement made by him at the last meeting respecting the erroneous assessment of the Fred'g Gas Co for the year 1870 and on his Motion the 19th Rule was suspended for the present meeting

Mr W H Fitzhugh was present in behalf of the Fred'g Gas Co and on motion, he was permitted to be heard.

On Motion, Mr Conway, the action of the Council at its last meeting, relieving the Fred'g Gas Co of \$431.25 of the tax upon said Co assessed for the year 1870 was reconsidered

Mr Conway moved that the relief from excessive tax of 1870 asked for by the Fred'g Gas Co be granted, which was seconded

Mr Doggett moved as a substitute that the Fred'g Gas Co be relieved of so much to the tax of the year 1870 as is assessed in excess of \$10,000 valuation which was seconded and the vote [Page 126] taken by Ayes & Noes, and it was lost the following vote (Mr Little by consent being excused from voting)

Ayes Mess'rs Hurkamp, Bowering, Doggett 3

Noes Mess'rs Conway, Wallace, Shepherd, Magrath, and McCracken 5

The question recurring upon the motion of Mr Conway and the vote taken by Ayes & Noes it was lost by the following vote (Mr Little excused)

Ayes Mess'rs Conway, Shepherd, McCracken 3

Noes Mess'rs Hurkamp, Bowering, Wallace, Doggett, Magrath 5

Mr McCracken moved a reconsideration of the substitute of Mr Doggett relieving the Gas Co of the tax of 1870 in excess of \$10,000 valuation which was seconded

Mr Conway moved as a substitute that the Gas Co be relieved of the tax of 1870 in excess of \$7500 valuation which being seconded and the vote taken by Ayes & Noes, the substitute of Mr Conway was carried by the following vote

Ayes Mess'rs Conway, Shepherd, Magrath, McCracken, Little 5

Noes Mess'rs Hurkamp, Bowering, Wallace, Doggett 4

The Council then adjourned

L B Rose, Mayor

[Page 127]

At a regular meeting of the Common Council of the Town of Fredericksburg held at the Council Chamber on Tuesday evening May 28th 1872

Present L B Rose, Mayor

J G Wallace, W A Little, W H Russell, P McCracken, Benj'n Bowering, L O Magrath, G W Shepherd, W P Conway

The minutes of the last meeting were read and approved

Present: H S Doggett

The following accounts approved by the Finance Committee were read and ordered to be paid Viz

J J Berrey & Co amt'g to	\$20.90
Waite & Sener amt'g to	\$58.50
R B Merchant amt'g to	\$ 2.50

Present: J G Hurkamp

Mr Doggett chairman of the Committee to propose an ordinance for a chain gang stated that the Committee were not prepared to report and asked for further time in which to make their report

Mr Conway moved that the subject be indefinitely postponed which was seconded and put to the vote and the motion was lost

An account of Roy Jones amt'g to \$11.00 was presented and ordered to be paid

The resignation of W R Mason as a member of this Council was presented by the Mayor and on Motion Mr Doggett the resignation of Mr Mason was received

Mr Conway moved that the Council [Page 128] now proceed to fill the vacancy occasioned by the resignation of Mr Mason, which motion was seconded and the vote being put the motion was lost by a vote of 6 to 4

The Council then adjourned

L B Rose, Mayor

At a regular meeting of the Common Council of the Town of Fredericksburg held at the Council Chamber on Tuesday evening June 25th 1872

Present L B Rose, Mayor

J W Sener, Recorder

Benj'n Bowering, G W Shepherd, J G Wallace, W P Conway, J G Hurkamp, P McCracken, W A Little

The minutes of the last meeting were read and approved

Present: L O Magrath, H S Doggett, W H Russell

Mr Doggett, Chairman of the Committee to prepare an ordinance in reference to a Chain Gang, submitted an ordinance which was read

Mr Sener moved the adoption of the ordinance which was seconded

Mr McCracken moved that the subject be laid on the table which was seconded and put to the vote, the Motion of Mr McCracken was carried

An account of J H Kelly, amt'g to \$43.25 was presented and ordered to be paid.

[Page 129]

Mr Russell, chairman of the Street Committee submitted a written report of the expenditures on the streets &c for the year ending June 30th 1872 which was read and on Motion the report was received and ordered to be filed

Mr Magrath submitted the following which was adopted

Resolved, That the overseers of the poor be respectfully requested to furnish the Council at its next meeting with the amount of money expended during the past year, and the number of persons relieved by them, and the amount furnished to each person, with the names of those who have been assisted

The Mayor having reported favorably on Motion, ordered that the salaries of the Police officers be paid for the quarter ending June 30th 1872

The Council on Motion, Dr Wallace, adjourned until Saturday Morning 9½ O'clock June 29th
L B Rose, Mayor
[Page 130]

At an adjourned meeting of the Common Council of the Town of Fredericksburg held at the Council Chamber on Saturday June 29th 1872

Present L B Rose, Mayor

J W Sener, Recorder

W P Conway, J G Wallace, P McCracken, H S Doggett, W A Little, J G Hurkamp, Benj'n Bowering

The minutes of the last meeting were read and approved

Present: L O Magrath

Mr Conway, Chairman of the Finance Committee submitted a written report setting forth at length a settlement with the Tax Collector for the year 1871, also stating that they had examined the Treasurers account to date and found the same to be correct and supported by proper vouchers and the account shews a balance in the hands of the Treasurer due to the Corporation of seventeen hundred and eighteen 23/100 dollars

On Motion, Mr Sener, the report of the Committee was received and ordered to be filed

Mr Doggett, Chairman of the Committee of Pumps submitted a written report of the expenditures of the Committee for the ending Jun 30 which was read and On Motion ordered to be filed

Mr McCracken, Chairman of the Public Property Committee submitted a written report of the expenditures of the Committee on the Public Property of the Town, which report was read and on Motion ordered to be filed

By request the Mayor vacated the chair which was taken by the Recorder [Page 131]

Mr Conway submitted the following which was unanimously adopted

At this the last meeting of this body as by the mandate of the voters of the City our respected Mayor and friend closes for the present his official life, we deem it appropriate to make permanent record of the high appreciation in which we hold (and have ever held) him for his faithful and impartial administration of the duties of his office and his uniform urbanity and courtesy to us personally

The Council then adjourned, sine die

L B Rose, Mayor

[Page 132 & 133 blank] [Page 134]

The Common Council elect of the Town of Fredericksburg at the election held in accordance with law on Thursday 20th day of May 1872 met pursuant to call Robert B Berrey, Esq'r, Mayor elect, at the Council Chamber on Tuesday Morning July 2nd 1872

Present Rob't B Berrey, Mayor

The following members elect having qualified according to law appeared and took their seats at the board,
Viz

J G Wallace, Benj'n Bowering, J W Sener, J G Hurkamp, P McCracken, R H Coakley, L O Magrath, W P Conway, H S Doggett, Chs E Hunter

The Mayor called the Council to order and addressed the board in assuming the duties of his office

On motion, Mr Sener, Resolved that the address of the Mayor be spread on the Minutes of the Council (see the address)

On Motion, the salary of Clerk of Council was fixed at seventy five dollars
R W Adams was nominated and elected unanimously Clerk of the Council for the ensuing year

Dr Wallace nominated J W Sener as Recorder and he was unanimously elected Recorder for the ensuing year
[Page 135]

On Motion Mr Magrath, Resolved that the election of officers be postponed until Tomorrow Morning, Wednesday at 9½ O'clock

The Salary of the Mayor was on Motion Dr Wallace fixed at Four hundred dollars per annum

On Motion, Dr Wallace, Resolved that the number of Police Officers for the present year be fixed at two
Mr Hurkamp, Moved that the salary of Police officers be fixed at four hundred dollars, which was seconded
Dr Wallace moved as an amendment that the salary of the police officers be fixed at three hundred dollars for the present year which was seconded and the vote taken upon the same and the amendment was adopted

The salary of Treasurer was on Motion fixed at three hundred dollars for the present year

The Salary of Commissioner of Revenue was on Motion fixed at two hundred and fifty dollars for the present year

The Salary of Clerk of Market was on Motion fixed at one hundred dollars

The Commissioner of Collector of Taxes was on motion was on Motion fixed at two and a half per cent on all taxes received up to 15th November next and 5% on all taxes received thereafter

An account of \$30 in favor of G J Hunt, P Couse & H C Sener as Commissioners & Judges of elections was read and ordered to be paid
[Page 136]

Mr McCracken submitted the following resolution
Resolved that it be part of the duty of the overseers of the poor to render to this Council a monthly Statement of all money expended by them giving the names of each person aided by them and the amount to each and all other expenditures incurred by them.

Mr Conway, moved the following as a substitute for Mr McCracken's resolution which was seconded
That a committee of three of the Council be appointed by the Mayor to take into consideration the whole subject of provision to be made for the poor of the Town, who shall report at a subsequent meeting and that Mr McCracken's resolution & all other papers referring to the subject be referred to said Committee, the vote being taken upon the substitute of Mr Conway it was carried.
The Mayor appointed Mess'rs Conway, Magrath and Hunter as the Committee

On Motion of Mr Conway,

Resolved that in the session of the Mayor and Council to be held tomorrow morning, only the Clerk of the Council and Reporters of the several newspapers of the Town shall be admitted

The Mayor announced the following Standing Committees, Viz

On Finance Mess'rs W P Conway, (Chrmn), W A Little, J G Wallace

On Streets Mess'rs W H Russell (Chrmn), Benj'n Bowering, L O Magrath

On Public Property Mess'rs J W Sener (Chrmn), P McCracken, J G Hurkamp

[Page 137]

On Pumps Mess'rs H S Doggett, C E Hunter, R H Coakley

On Motion Mr Conway, the order passed for the payment of the account of Mess'rs G J Hunt, P Couse, & H C Sener amt'g to thirty dollars was rescinded.

Mr Conway submitted the following which was adopted

Resolved that a Committee of three consisting of Wm A Little, J G Wallace and H S Doggett be appointed to take into consideration the subject of the Public Schools and report at a subsequent meeting

The Council then adjourned until Wednesday morning July 3rd 9½ O'clock.

Robert B Berrey, Mayor

[Page 138]

The following is the address of Mayor Berrey to the Council in assuming the duties of his office and which by resolution was ordered to be spread upon the Minutes of the Council

Gentlemen of the Common Council,

In entering upon the duties of the office to which I have been called by my fellow citizens, I feel some distrust or distrust as to my ability to discharge these duties in such a manner as well best promote the interests of our town, and make my administration a success. I cannot do this by any effort of my own solely, but I am sure that with the co-operation of these Gentlemen of enlarged experience who have so faithfully heretofore represented and protected the various interests of the Corporation I need have no serious misgivings as to the result. On yesterday under favorable auspices I entered upon my duties as Mayor of this Corporation with the full determination to give freely of my time and to bring to bear what talent I may possess to a faithful, impartial and conscientious discharge of the same, as the chief executive officer of this Town I will see that the Law and Ordinances are strictly enforced and that the officers who are charged with the enforcement of them are diligent in the discharge of their duties, and if there are ordinances which have become inoperative through the changes of the times or other causes I will recommend their repeal and if I find the Ordinances defective in any particular I will bring the fact to your notice that you may devise such remedy as the case requires.

I will endeavor to intelligently perform [Page 139] perform all the duties prescribed, but will give special attention to a thorough review of the Streets for the purposes named in the prescribed duties of the mayor. As the presiding officer of your honorable body I feel it my duty to familiarize myself with the rule adopted for the government thereof, I will endeavor to be punctual in my attendance at your meetings, prompt in my rulings, impartial in my decisions, and courteous in my intercourse with the members of the Council

With my limited experience in deliberative bodies, I feel it due to myself to ask the aid of those who by age and experience are capable of giving advice so that I may better qualify myself for the responsibilities I have assumed and that the business of the Council may not be retarded by want of experience on my part.

Disclaiming any intention of indulging in fulsome compliments, I take great pleasure however in congratulating the members of the present Council who were re-elected upon receiving this merited

tribute to the zeal and fidelity with which they discharged their responsible duties last year, and feel sure that for the present year their zeal will not abate and that the interests of the Corporation will not suffer at their hands, It is a cause of congratulations too that in the election of new members we have been so fortunate as to secure the services of two gentlemen so eminently qualified for the high trust committed to them.

In the arrangement of the Standing Committees I have been influenced by no other consideration than that of the general interests of the town

In recognition of the valuable services rendered the Corporation by the Standing Committees of [Page 140] the old council I have kept them intact except when necessary to fill vacancies, But two changes have been made at all, and these were imperative—the necessity for which I think will be recognized by the Council.

I have as briefly as possible indicated my purposes and expectations, and it only remains for me in conclusion to again earnestly invoke your hearty support and co-operation in originating and carrying out such measures as will conduce to the welfare of our Town and the health and comfort of our citizens. [Page 141]

At an adjourned meeting of the Common Council of the Town of Fredericksburg held at the Council Chamber on Wednesday July 3^d 1872

Present R B Berrey, Mayor

J W Sener, Recorder

W P Conway, W A Little, J G Wallace, P McCracken, R H Coakley, H S Doggett, J G Hurkamp, C E Hunter, Benj'n Bowering, L O Magrath

The minutes of the last meeting were read, corrected and approved

Mr Doggett moved that the order passed yesterday requiring the present session of the Council to be held with closed doors be rescinded which was seconded and the vote taken and the motion was lost

On Motion, Mr McCracken, the subject of Compensation to Judges, Commissioners & Clerks of all elections was referred to the Finance Committee, who are authorized to draw on the Treasurer for the amount allowed

The Council then proceeded to the election of officers

Mess'rs L J Huffman, J E Stone & H C Sener were nominated for the office of Collector of Taxes. The vote being taken by ballot and the ballots counted it resulted as follows

For	L J Huffman	8
	H C Sener	3
	J E Stone	none

Mr Huffman having received a majority of the votes cast he was declared elected collector of Taxes for the present year

[Page 142]

On Motion of Mr Little, Chapter IV of the General Ordinance was so amended as that after the word "Council" in the 18th line of said Chapter there should be added the following words:

"And to perform all the duties pertaining to their offices in the preservation of the Peace, good order, and well being of the Town, or which may be required by the Mayor, or other Officers of the Corporation, and then are to be subject at all times to the Supervision and control of the Mayor and Council"

Mr James G Read was nominated and unanimously elected Surveyor of the Corporation for the present year.

Mr Roy Jones was nominated and unanimously elected Clerk of the Market for the present year

Mess'rs Morris Montgomery and Enoch E Rollins were nominated for the Office of Weigher and Measurer of Coal, Grain, Salt &c and balloted for and the vote being counted it resulted as follows:

For	Morris Montgomery	6
	Enoch E Rollins	5

Mr Morris Montgomery having received a majority of the votes cast, he was declared elected Weigher and Measurer of Coal, Grain, Salt &c for the present year

Mr Robert W Hart was nominated and elected Measurer and Inspector of Wood, Lumber &c for the present year

[Page 143]

Mess'rs James A Taylor, C A Gore, J S G Timberlake, C W Edrington, G A Rawlett & George Aler were nominated for police officers, the vote being taken by ballot and the ballots counted in resulted as follows

For	J S G Timberlake	7
	Charles W Edrington	6
	Charles A Gore	5
	James A Taylor	2
	G A Rawlett	1
	George Aler	1

Mess'rs J S G Timberlake and Charles W Edrington having received a majority of the votes cast they were declared elected police officers for the present year

The election of overseers of the poor was, on motion, postponed for the present

On Motion, Mr Conway

Resolved that the Offices of the present overseers of the Poor be and the same are hereby vacated

On Motion, Dr Wallace,

Resolved that the injunction of secrecy be removed from the proceedings of the present session of the Council

The Council then adjourned

Robert B Berrey, Mayor

[Page 144]

At a called meeting of the Common Council of the Town of Fredericksburg held at the Council Chamber on Saturday July 20 1872

Present R B Berrey, Mayor

J W Sener, Recorder

J G Wallace, Benj'n Bowering, W H Russell, R H Coakley, P McCracken, C E Hunter, H S Doggett, W P Conway, L O Magrath

The Minutes of the last meeting were read and approved

The Committee appointed by the Council to take into consideration the subject of Public Schools, submitted a written report through Mr H S Doggett, which was read and On Motion of Mr Conway, the report of the Committee was received and the Committee discharged

Mr Conway, Chairman of the Finance Committee to whom was referred the claims of Commissioners & Judges, Clerks for elections for settlement stated that the Committee had examined the law bearing upon

the subject and the compensation allowed by the Commissioners is two dollars each for their service as such and to Judges & Clerk each one dollar per day, and the Treasurer has been directed to pay the Commissioners, Judges & Clerks of the late election accordingly

Mr Conway from the Committee appointed at the meeting held on the 2nd inst to take into consideration the whole subject of provision to be made for the poor, submitted the following and recommended the adoption of the same Viz

Resolved that the Ordinance Chapter 34, entitled Poor House and Overseers of the Poor be, and the same is hereby repealed and in [Page 145] lieu thereof the following ordinance be adopted;

1st There shall be appointed by the Council annually in the Month of July or August two overseers of the poor for the Town of Fredericksburg who shall remain in office until the next annual appointment unless sooner removed by the Council, the Council may remove such overseers of the poor and fill all vacancies which may occur at any time.

2nd The Overseers of the Poor shall (subject to the supervision of the Council) make provision for the poor in accordance with the laws of Virginia and shall report monthly to the Council, the names of the paupers relieved, and the amount expended on each one, with such information as they may deem necessary.

3rd The expenses for providing for the poor after having been passed upon by the Finance Committee shall be paid by the Treasurer upon the order of said Finance Committee

On Motion, Mr Sener, The Report of the Committee was unanimously adopted, so Chap 34 of the Gen'l Ordinance is repealed and the ordinance reported and recommended by the Committee is adopted in lieu thereof

An Application in writing from Mr John F Pitman was presented by Mr Doggett asking permission of the Council to erect a shed in front of his store on William Street, promising that in the erection of said shed there should be not obstruction to the side walks.

On Motion, Mr Sener, The application of Mr Pittman was granted

Mr Doggett presented a petition signed by many citizens, residents [Page 146] of the upper ward setting forth that in the recent election of Policemen by the Council they are subjected to great inconvenience and may be seriously damaged growing out of the fact that the two policemen elect reside in the lower ward and at a great distance from the upper ward, and as at present located are of no practical use to their ward. And asking the Council to provide for the distribution of the services of the policemen in all parts of the town alike or adopt such other measures in the premises as they may deem best.

Mr Doggett moved that the action of the Council at its session of the 2^d Instant fixing the number of policemen at two be reconsidered, which was seconded and put to the vote and carried.

Mr Conway, moved that an additional policeman be appointed and that the Council now proceed to the election of the same, which motion was seconded and put to the vote and carried.

Mess'rs Charles A Gore and James A Taylor were nominated to fill the office of policeman as ordered by the Council. The candidates being balloted for and the ballots counted, the vote resulted as follows

For	Charles A Gore	8
	James A Taylor	2

Mr Charles A Gore having received a majority of the votes cast he was declared elected to the office of policeman for the remainder of the present year.

Mr McCracken submitted the following,

Resolved that the Chairman of each Committee report to the Council at every regular meeting the amount expended by them for each Month, which was seconded and the [Page 147] vote on same taken by Ayes & Noes, it was lost by the following vote,

Ayes	Mess'rs Sener, Hunter, McCracken	3
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The Council then adjourned

Robert B Berrey, Mayor

[Page 148]

At a regular meeting of the Common Council of the Town of Fredericksburg held at the Council Chamber on Tuesday July 23^d 1872

Present R B Berrey, Mayor

J W Sener, Recorder

Wm H Russell, R H Coakley, Benj Bowering, J G Wallace, P McCracken, C E Hunter, L O Magrath, J G Hurkamp

The Minutes of the last meeting were read and approved

Present: H S Doggett

A petition signed by F T Forbes, J K Anderson, L Morgan Mills and E M Crutchfield, Clerks of the late election asking the Council to make such an appropriation as will in their judgment compensate them for the arduous, laborious performances they deeming the amount allowed by law inadequate for the service required, was presented and read by the Mayor

Mr McCracken moved that the Clerks of election be allowed the sum of three dollars each in addition to the pay allowed by law and already ordered, which was seconded.

Dr Wallace moved as a substitute that the petition be referred to the Finance Committee which being seconded and put to the vote it was carried

Mr Russell stated that Mr John Howison, Supt of Public Schools was present and desired to be heard in reference to the Public Schools of the Town

On Motion, Mr Howison was allowed to be heard, Mr H made a report setting forth [Page 149] the number of Public Schools in operation within the City, the number of scholars white and colored on the Rolls, the average daily attendance and the progression the education of the children, also the cost of maintaining the schools now in existence. Mr H stated that the amount so far received from the State was inadequate to meet the demands upon the Trustees for the payment of the teachers and that he had been disappointed in receiving the \$300 promised from the Peabody fund and he was now compelled to ask the Council for a further appropriation of two hundred and fifty dollars in order that the teachers may be paid the balance of their claims to July 1st

On Motion Dr Wallace, Resolved that the Report of Mr Howison, Supt of Public Schools be received and placed on file and that the request of the Superintendant be complied with

Mr McCracken submitted the following resolution

Resolved that the Mayor appoint a Committee of three to make the best arrangement they can to have 500 copies of the Treasurers report published in hand bill form to be distributed for the information of the tax payers, giving the items as much as possible [blank] which was seconded and the vote taken by Ayes and Noes, the resolution was lost by the following vote

Ayes Mess'rs Hurkamp, Hunter, McCracken 3

Noes Mess'rs Bowering, Wallace, Sener, Russell, Coakley, Doggett, Magrath 7

The Council then adjourned

Robert B Berrey, Mayor

[Page 150]

At a called meeting of the Common Council of the Town of Fredericksburg held at the Council Chamber on Friday August 9th 1872

Present R B Berrey, Mayor

J W Sener, Recorder

L O Magrath, J G Wallace, C E Hunter, P McCracken, R H Coakley, W P Conway, Benj'n Bowering, J G Hurkamp

The minutes of the last meeting were read and approved

Mr Conway, Chairman of the Finance Committee submitted the following ordinance imposing taxes for the year 1872, which on Motion was adopted.

Be it ordained by the Mayor and Commonalty of the Town of Fredericksburg that the taxes on persons, property, licenses and subjects required to be listed for the year 1872 in the said town shall be assessed levied and paid as follows

- | | |
|---|------|
| 1 st On every male person over 21 years of age (not exempt by law) fifty cents | 50¢ |
| 2 nd On all real & personal property on every one hundred dollars assessed value | |
| One dollar and fifty cents | 1.50 |
| 3 rd On Bankers, Brokers and Real Estate Agents 50 percent of the license tax imposed by the State | |
| 4 th on all other persons required to be licensed by law (excepting theatrical & other exhibitions | |
| And such persons as are taxed by a special ordinance, 75 percent of the license tax, | |
| Imposed by the State | |
| 5 th On all monies Capital employed in any [Page 151] business, Incomes, Gross profits, Salaries, and other subject of State taxation, other than the taxable property and subjects herein before mentioned –fifty cents on every one hundred dollars of the assessed value thereof –This item shall be deemed to include the Stock of the National Bank of Fredericksburg, which shall be assessed and paid by the Cashier of the said Bank to the Collector of Taxes in the same manner and under the same provisions that the State tax is assessed and paid under the provisions of the act of Assembly passed March 28 1871 | |
| 6 th On all male Dogs one dollar and on all female dogs two dollars | |
| 7 th One third of the said taxes shall be paid in National Currency of the United States, and two thirds in past due Coupons, or past due interest on the Registered Bonds of the Town of Fredericksburg or the Tax payer may at his option pay the said two thirds of his taxes in National Currency of the United States at the rate of sixty cents (60) in the dollar. | |
| 8 th A deduction of ten percent will be made on all taxes paid on or before the 15 th day of September; of five percent on all payments after that date and on or before the 15 th day of October, and of three percent on all payments after the last named day and on or before the 15 th day of November 1872. | |
| 9 th On all taxes remaining unpaid after the 15 th day of November, there shall be added five per cent and interest until paid, and the same shall be collected by the modes prescribed by law and the ordinances of the town | |

Mr Conway from the special committee appointed by the Council on 2nd July to take into consideration the whole subject of provision to be made for [Page 152] the poor, submitted the following report, which on Motion was unanimously adopted.

The Committee on the subject of the provision for the poor of the Town, respectfully report that they have given much thought to the subject, Grave evils existed for some years in maintaining the poor.

The superintendancy has been inefficient and the system unnecessarily costly; calling for reform in both, under our present ordinance and be accord between the overseers of the poor and the Finance Committee & monthly statements of expenditures your committee have strong hopes that the poor will be maintained better than formerly and at less costs.

Your Committee are decidedly of opinion that the present poor house ought to be discontinued as unnecessary and costly, there being at this time but three inmates involving large outlays for rent, fuel, & wages.

Secondly, we think the overseers ought personally to furnish nothing to the Poor, but obtain what is needful from others at the lowest practicable cost.

Your Committee will not make any other specific recommendations, a great deal will depend on the intelligence and the fidelity of the overseers to be appointed by your body.

Your Committee hopes much from that new departure from the old system. The expenditures for the month of July which were audited by the Finance Committee and ordered to be paid were greatly less than for the corresponding month of last year and about one half of the average for the year. It is too much to suppose that the expenditures will continued to be at this rate, but we confidently expect a decided change for the better.

Signed, W P Conway, Chs E Hunter, L O Magrath

[Page 153]

On Motion Mr Conway,

The Ordinance passed July 20 1872 was amended by striking out, in the first section the word “two” and inserting therefore the words “one or more” and after the word “August” in same section inserting the words “or such other time as the Council may deem expedient”

The Salary of the Overseer of the Poor was fixed at one hundred dollars per annum

Mess’rs Edwin Carter and R G Swift were put in nomination for the officer of Overseer of the poor and the vote being taken by ballot and the ballots counted it resulted as follows:

For	E Carter	7 votes
	R G Smith	2 votes

Mr Carter having received the largest number of votes was declared elected “overseer of the poor”

An account of J J Berrey & Co, amt’g to \$8.00 for a lock for the Jails was presented and on Motion Dr Wallace, the account was referred to the Public Property for investigation and report

Mr Sener, Chrmn Public Property Com, having reported favorably upon the claim of J J Berrey on motion the account amt’g to eight dollars was ordered to be paid

The Council then on Motion adjourned

Robt B Berrey, Mayor

[Page 154]

At a called meeting of the Common Council of the Town of Fredericksburg held at the Council Chamber on Wednesday August 21st 1872

Present R B Berrey, Mayor

J W Sener, Recorder

W P Conway, J G Hurkamp, Benj’n Bowering, J G Wallace, W H Russell, P McCracken, H S Doggett, L O Magrath

The minutes of the last meeting were read and approved

Present: R H Coakley

The mayor stated that since the last meeting he had been compelled for sufficient cause to suspend two of the Police Officers, viz Mess’rs C A Gore and C W Edrington, he had since reinstated Mr Gore, subject however, to the approval of the Council, he was not unwilling that Mr Edrington should also be reinstated but preferred to refer the matter to the Council for their consideration

The subject being discussed, it was suggested that as the Mayor had the power of suspending the Police Officers the matter of re-instating had better be left with him, whereupon the Mayor reinstated Mr C W Edrington as police officer and declared his action to the council.

Dr Wallace offered the following resolution which was unanimously adopted

Resolved that the thanks of the Council be and they are hereby tendered to R B Berrey, Mayor, for the prompt action taken by him in suspending the two police officers, said suspension not being without good and sufficient cause

Resolved further that the Council approve of the action of the Mayor in re-instating [Page 155] C A Gore and C W Edrington to their former positions as police officers of the town

Mr Sener submitted the following resolutions which were unanimously adopted

Resolved that the Council in the name of this community tender to Mayor Berrey their acknowledgement of the prompt, firm and courageous discharge of his duty in the suppression of the disorderly scenes of Tuesday night 13th inst

2nd that a like acknowledgement is hereby made of the efficient services of the police force both regular and special, on the same occasion.

3rd That the Clerk spread the foregoing resolutions upon the record of the proceedings of the Council

A petition signed by many citizens of the lower end of the Town, asking the Council to have placed at the lower end of Main Street a pump for the convenience and accommodation of the citizens of that part of the town was presented and read by the Mayor

On Motion,, the petition was referred to the Pump Committee

Mr Bowering moved that the public property be authorized to have a gas lamp placed at the front door of the Town Hall which was seconded

Dr Wallace moved as a substitute that the subject be referred to the Public Property Committee which was seconded and put to the vote and adopted

The Council then adjourned

Rob't B Berrey, Mayor

[Page 156]

At a regular meeting of the Common Council of the Town of Fredericksburg held at the Council Chamber on Tuesday August 27th 1872

Present J W Sener, Recorder

J G Wallace, Benj'n Bowering, P McCracken, L O Magrath

A quorum not being present the Council stood adjourned

At a called meeting of the Common Council of the Town of Fredericksburg held at the Council Chamber on Tuesday September 3^d 1872

Present J W Sener, Recorder

W P Conway, J G Wallace, Benj'n Bowering, P McCracken, H S Doggett, R H Coakley

On Motion Dr Wallace the fines for non-attendance of members at the last meeting were remitted.

Mr Conway, Chrmn of the Finance Committee to whom was referred the memorial of F T Forbes and others stated that the Committee were not unanimous upon the subject of the petition and preferred to have further time in which to make their report

Dr Wallace, a member of the Committee stated that he was in the minority but was prepared to act now.

Mr Doggett, moved that the Committee have further time in which to make their report which motion was seconded and the [Page 157] taken by Yeas & Nays and the motion was lost by the following vote

Ayes Mess'rs Conway, Bowering, Doggett 3
Nays Mess'rs Wallace, Coakley, McCracken, Sener 4
Present: Mr L O Magrath

Mr Conway submitted a written report in which he states that the Council had no legal right to pay more for the services of Clerks of Election than had already been allowed them, and that it was inexpedient to grant the prayer of the memorialists.

Dr Wallace, from the same committee made a verbal report favoring the application of the memorialists and recommended the adoption of the following resolution.

Resolved that the Treasurer of the Corporation be and he is hereby instructed to pay to the Clerks of the late election in accordance with their petition three dollars each in addition to the amount already allowed by State laws, as a due compensation for their labours on the occasion of said election

Present: Mr C E Hunter

Mr Conway moved that the subject under consideration be postponed until the next meeting of the Council which being seconded and the vote taken by Ayes & Noes, the Motion was lost by the following vote

Ayes Mess'rs Conway, Bowering, Hunter, Doggett 4
Noes Mess'rs Wallace, Magrath, Coakley, McCracken, Sener 5

Mr McCracken moved the adoption of the [Page 158] report and resolution presented by Dr Wallace which was seconded and the vote taken by Ayes & Noes, and the motion was adopted by the following vote

Ayes Mess'rs Bowering, Wallace, Hunter, Coakley, Doggett, Magrath, McCracken, Sener 8
Noes Mess'r Conway 1

The Trustees of the Public Schools through Mr Conway, submitted a written statement setting forth the number of schools that had been put in operation and stating that the amount necessary to be appropriated by the Council for the support of the Schools in the scholastic year would be about \$1500, fifteen hundred dollars

Mr Conway, submitted the following ordinance which was unanimously adopted

Be it ordained by the Mayor and Commonalty of the Town of Fredericksburg that the Tax on Foreign Insurance Companies whose agents do business in this Corporation shall be eighteen dollars and seventy five cents each, to be assessed, levied, collected and paid as other taxes of the Corporation.

Mr Conway stated the executor of the late Mrs Margaret Phillips had about \$200 which had been devised by Mrs Phillips to the Corporation for the benefit of the destitute widows of the town, and he desired to pay over the same and he "Mr Conway" offered the following resolution which was unanimously adopted.

Resolved by the Mayor and Common Council of Fredericksburg Va that they accept the trust reposed in them by the will of Mrs [Page 159] Margaret Phillips deceased, and being informed that there remains about \$200 of funds in the hands of W H Fitzhugh Esq'r admr of Margaret Phillips ready for investment under said trust, they hereby authorize and request the said administrator to invest the same in the Bonds of the Corporation of Fredericksburg and deliver said Bonds to the Treasurer of the Corporation for safe keeping, who will pen and account with the "Phillips Trust funds" and place said bonds to the credit of said account.

An account of Hart & Hayes amt'g to \$50.00 for coal for Court House was presented and ordered to be paid.

Mr Doggett, Chrmn of the Pump Committee to whom was referred the petition of citizens for the location of a pump at the lower part of Main St, submitted a written report to the effect that it was inexpedient to grant the prayer of the Memorialists.

The report was on motion received and the Committee discharged form further consideration of the subject

A petition signed by F Bauman & others calling the attention of the Council to the miserable condition of Charles Street in the vicinity of Mr Bauman's residence and asking that such steps be taken as they may deem advisable to place said street in condition for use was read by the Recorder, and on Motion the petition was referred to the Street Committee.

[Page 160]

A communication from J G Read surveyor of the Corporation stating that the house occupied by J A English, corner of Main St & Fauquier St and the house occupied by Wm Cole on the opposite corner projected over the West line of Main St, also that a small frame house on Fauquier St below Miss Lucas' corner project several feet into said street—was read and on Motion the communication was referred to the Street Committee

On Motion, Mr Conway, Ordered that the salary of the Commissioners of the Revenue for the present year amounting to two hundred and fifty dollars be paid

On motion, Dr Wallace

Ordered that Chap 18, Section 7 of the Gen'l Ordinance be so amended as that after the word pay in the third line of said section there shall be added these words "not less than once nor more than" so as to read "any person offending against this section shall forfeit and pay not less than one nor more that five dollars for every offence."

The official Bond of L J Huffman, Collector of Taxes for this Corporation in the penalty of ten thousand dollars with Christopher Armat and Edwin Carter as security was presented to the Council approved and ordered to be placed in National Bank for safe keeping.

The Council then adjourned

J W Sener, Recorder

[Page 161]

At a regular meeting of the Common Council of the Town of Fredericksburg held at the Council Chamber on Tuesday September 24th 1872

Present R B Berrey, Mayor

J W Sener, Recorder

J G Wallace, W H Russell, L O Magrath, W P Conway, H S Doggett, Benjn Bowering

The minutes of the last meeting were read and approved

Present: P McCracken

Mr Russell, Chairman of the Street Committee to whom was referred the memorial of sundry citizens of the Lower Ward and also the Communication of J G Read, Corporation Surveyor, submitted the following report which on Motion, was received and unanimously adopted to wit:

To the Mayor and Common Council of Fredericksburg, Gentlemen

Your Committee on Streets to whom was referred the report of the Corporation Surveyor Mr Read beg leave to offer the following report of their action.

In compliance with the request of Mr Read we went with him and examined the lines of Ferdinand and Dunmore Streets which we found as reported by him to be undefined. After running several lines and making numerous measurements, Mr Read satisfied your Committee that the width of Dunmore St was intended to be and should be forty feet and the width of Ferdinand Street 57 2/10th feet. This Street we supposed had been laid out originally 60 [Page 162] feet wide, but owing to the fact of their being a good brick house on either side of it, your committee thought it best to leave it at 57 2/10ths feet as it now measures, Running the lines of the two streets at these ascertained widths, a corner was found at their intersections which your surveyor and Committee agreed upon as the proper place for it.

Your committee beg leave to report also upon the petition of sundry citizens and property holders of the lower ware as to the condition of Charles St. Having viewed that portion of the Street complained of your committee decided to put a trunk in the street there so as to make a good crossing at all times and give as much improvement to the Street as the condition of our treasury would admit of

Signed Wm H Russell, L O Magrath, Benj'n Bowering, Street Committee

The Mayor read a communication from Chas E Bragdon, Harbor Master, calling the attention of the Council to the unsafe condition of Grinnan's wharf, the property of the late Dr B R Wellford and intimating that unless the property is soon repaired the wharf would in his judgment give way and serious damage would be done thereby to the navigation of the River.

On Motion, Mr Sener,

Resolved that the Mayor be requested to communicate with the representatives of the late Dr B R Wellford upon the subject of the condition of the wharf property referred to in the Communication of the Harbor Master, and request that immediate steps be taken to place the wharf in a safe condition.
[Page 163]

A communication from J G Read, Surveyor of the Corporation was read by the Mayor, in which he makes certain suggestions in order that the corners and lines of the streets may be better defined—referred to the Committee on Streets

Mr Conway stated that the attorney for the owners of the lost Bonds, known as the "Hazel River Navigation Bonds" and to which the attention of the Council had been called previously desired now to have duplicate bonds issued in place of those lost, he having taking the necessary legal steps in the premises by advertising &c

By consent of the Council, Mr C W Wallace, owner of the Bonds was heard upon the subject Mr Conway submitted the following, which was seconded

It appearing that the Bonds known as the Hazel River bonds amounting to the sum of \$10,000 as numbered and described in the advertisement hereinafter mentioned have been lost and that the loss of the same has been duly advertised for three months in the *Virginia Herald*, the liability of the Corporation for their payment having been ascertained in a suit and judgment for interest, it is hereby ordered that there be issued duplicates of said bonds, payable to Hazel River Company; and to be signed by the Mayor and Treasurer, but before the same are issued, the said Hazel River Company, or some one for them shall give a bond with security to be approved by the Finance Committee in the penalty of \$15,000, conditioned to protect and save harm by the Corporation of Fredericksburg, and all other parties interested from any legal loss or damages resulting from the re-issue of said bonds, But the Treasurer shall endorse as a credit all interest which has been paid or recovered by judgment or otherwise.

The vote being taken upon the passage [Page 164] of the order it was adopted by the following vote
Ayes Mess'rs Conway, Bowering, Wallace, Sener, Russell, Doggett, Magrath, & McCracken

Noes none

The Mayor having reported favorably, it was ordered that the salaries of the police officers for the present quarter ending October 1st be paid

On Motion, Dr Wallace

Ordered that Chapter 46 of the Gen'l Ordinance be amended in this, that the words "and fifty cents" in the 6th line of said Chapter be stricken out, so that the last clause of the same shall read, "and for every such attestation a tax of one dollar shall be paid to the Mayor for the use and benefit of this Corporation."

Mr Doggett presented an application of the "Greeley and Brown Club" of this place for the use of the Court House for two nights in each week rented 5ht November, for the consideration of twenty five dollars.

Mr St Geo R Fitzhugh, being present he was by consent of the Council heard in advocacy of the application.

On motion, Mr Conway, the subject was postponed until Monday evening next 30th Inst.

On motion Mr Sener the Council the adjourned until Monday 30th Inst

Robert B Berrey, Mayor

[Page 165]

At a called meeting of the Common Council of the Town of Fredericksburg held at the Council Chamber on Thursday, September 26th 1872

Present J W Sener, Recorder

W P Conway, Benj'n Bowering, P McCracken, W H Russell, H S Doggett, L O Magrath, C E Hunter, J G Wallace, J G Hurkamp

The minutes of the last meeting were read and approved

The Council having been convened to consider the application of the Greeley and Brown Club, for the use of the Court House for the consideration made in their application

Mr Conway offered the following

Resolved that the Resolution adopted September 21st 1871 amending the ordinance passed Aug 22^d 1871 concerning the use of the Court House be and the same is hereby rescinded and that the ordinance as adopted on the said 22^d August 1871 continue in full force as adopted, which being seconded

Mr McCracken moved as a substitute that three dollars be inserted in place of five which was also seconded & whereupon Dr Wallace moved as a substitute for the whole

That the ordinance concerning the use of the amendment passed Aug 22d 1871 and the amendment passed Septm'r 21 1871 be repealed and the whole matter indefinitely postponed which being seconded and the Yeas & Nays called for the substitute of Dr Wallace was lost by the following vote

Yeas Mess'rs Wallace & Magrath 2

Noes Mess'rs Conway, Hurkamp, Bowering, Hunter, Russell, Doggett, McCracken, Sener 8

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The vote was then taken upon the substitute of Mr McCracken by Ayes & Noes and it was lost by the following vote

Ayes Mess'rs Russell, Doggett, MrCracken, Sener 4

Noes Mess'rs Conway, Hurkamp, Bowering, Wallace, Hunter, Magrath 6

The question recurring upon the resolution of Mr Conway, Mr McCracken offered the following which was seconded

Resolved that the rent of the Court Room during the present campaign (to be used only two nights in each week by either party renting) be fixed at twenty-five dollars and the party renting to be held responsible for any damage to furniture &c

The vote being taken upon the resolution of Mr McCracken by Yeas & Nays it was lost as follows

Yeas Mr McCracken

Noes Mess'rs Conway, Hurkamp, Bowering, Wallace, Russell, Doggett, Magrath, Hunter, Sener

Mr Conway withdrew his resolution and offered the following which was seconded

Resolved that the ordinance concerning the use of the Court House passed Aug 22d 1871 and amended September 21st 1871 be rescinded and the following ordinance be adopted:

That hereafter the Court House shall not be opened for public meetings by the keeper thereof until permission to use the same shall be obtained in writing from the Mayor by the person or persons desiring to use the same and also a certificate from the Town Treasurer showing that the said person or persons have paid into the Town Treasury the sum of Four dollars to pay for gas and cleaning for each night the Court House may be so used, and any [Page 167] person or persons obtaining such permission shall be responsible for all damages by such usage

The vote being taken by Ayes & Notes, the resolution of Mr Conway was adopted by the following vote:

Ayes Mess'rs Conway, Hurkamp, Bowering, Russell, Hunter, Doggett 6

Noes Mess'rs Wallace, Magrath, McCracken, Sener 4

On Motion Mr Conway, the resolution adopted at the last meeting of the Council to meet on Monday night next was rescinded

The Council then adjourned

J W Sener, Recorder

[Page 168]

At a regular meeting of the Common Council of the Town of Fredericksburg held at the Council Chamber on Tuesday October 22d 1872

Present R B Berrey, Mayor

J G Wallace, W A Little, W P Conway, H S Doggett, C E Hunter, R H Coakley, Benj'n Bowering, P McCracken, L O Magrath

The minutes of the last meeting were read and approved

Present: J G Hurkamp

Mr St Geo R Fitzhugh on behalf of the Richmond, Fred'g & Poto Rail Road Co appeared before the Council and desired to be heard on the Memorial of said Company in reference to the taxes levied by the Corpo on the property of said company, and by consent, Mr F was heard

On Motion, Mr Conway

Resolved that the Memorial of the Richmond Fred'g & Potomac Rail Road Co be referred to a committee of three of the council for investigation and that the collector of taxes be directed to defer the collecting of taxes against said company until further orders

The Mayor appointed Mess'rs Conway, Magrath, & Little as the Committee

Mr Doggett, submitted the following which was seconded

Whereas the Legislature of Virginia at its last session granted a charter for the building of a free bridge across the Rappahannock River at or near Fredericksburg and the supervisors of Stafford [Page 169] have determined to submit to the voters of said county at the next regular election in November the question as to whether a tax shall be levied for that purpose,

Be it resolved by the Council of this Corporation that at the next regular election in November the question be submitted to the voters of this Corporation as to whether a like tax shall be levied in proportion of one third

Dr Wallace moved that the subject be postponed until the next regular meeting which motion was seconded and the vote taken by Ayes & Noes, it was adopted by the following vote

Ayes Mess'rs Hurkamp, Little, Conway, McCracken, Wallace, Bowering 6

Noes Mess'rs Magrath, Doggett, Coakley, Hunter 4

The Council then adjourned

R B Berrey, Mayor

[Page 170]

At a regular meeting of the Common Council of the Town of Fredericksburg held at the Council Chamber on Tuesday November 26th 1872

Present R B Berrey, Mayor

J W Sener, Recorder

J G Wallace, H S Doggett, L O Magrath, P McCracken, J G Hurkamp, R H Coakley, W P Conway, Benj'n Bowering, C E Hunter

The minutes of the last meeting were read and approved

Present: W A Little, Wm H Russell

Mr Conway, Chairman of the Committee appointed at the last meeting to whom was referred the memorial of Jno M Robinson President of the Richmond, Fredericksburg, and Potomac Rail Road Company asking that the Company be released from City taxes upon the property of the said Co necessary to the conduct of their business, submitted the following report

The memorial of John M Robinson, President of the Richmond, Fredericksburg, and Potomac Rail road Company asking to be released from the payment of City taxes on any property of the company used in connection with the purposes for which it was Chartered was presented to the Council at its last session and an order entered suspending the collection of all taxes assessed against the said Company until the subject could be investigated and it now appearing that the sum of seventy five dollars is assessed upon the depot and other buildings which are necessary to the company for their purposes under their charter, is exempt from taxation by law, it is ordered that the said sum be released [Page 171] and deducted for the tax account against the said company and that the collector of taxes do proceed to collect the taxes assessed upon the other property owned by the said company in this Corporation not used in connection with the purpose of the said Charter.

On Motion, Dr Wallace

Resolved that the report of the Committee be received and the committee discharged and that the clerk be directed to enter the report of the Committee upon the minutes of the Council

Mr Doggett by unanimous consent of the Council withdrew the resolution offered by him at the last meeting

The Mayor presented the following communication from Daniel E Davenport, Supt Fredericksburg, Orange & Charlottesville Rail Road Co, which was read and is in the following words, to wit:

To the Common Council of the Town of Fredericksburg

The undersigned Daniel E Davenport (acting for himself and for his associates who have contracted with the Fredericksburg, Orange, and Charlottesville Rail Road Company to build said Road to Orange Court House, and who will be the owners of all the Capital Stocks of said Company, when they have performed said contract) respectfully represent to your honorable body that in order to render said Rail Road when constructed a productive improvement in the way of inducing freight and travel upon it, it is desirable to

obtain such connections for the same both terminal points as well enable said [Page 172] to put both travels and freight in cheap, certain, and advantageous access to the Northern and Eastern cities. In pursuance of this obvious policy the undersigned have in view making a connection with a Rail road to be built from Fredericksburg to Mathias Point on the Potomac River; from a point opposite the Maryland side a rail road is already built and is now running to Baltimore.

In order to make this connection it is necessary for the Fredericksburg, Orange and Charlottesville R Rd Co to have the privilege of extending its Rail Road from its present depot at Fredericksburg to the Rappahannock River with a view to a Railroad bridge across said River at a point above the site of the present Rail Road bridge. The undersigned now respectfully request your honorable body to grant this right of way through one of the streets of Fredericksburg to the said Company under such provisions and policies regulations as are just and right.

The undersigned are willing to accept said privilege under reasonable limitations of time as to the actual building of the proposed extension. They will build and maintain their machine car, and other shops at Fredericksburg, which fact should be an inducement to grant the facilities asked,

Very respectfully

Yr obedient servant

Signed David E Davenport

Supt F O & C R R Co

Mr Little offered the following resolution which was unanimously adopted

Resolved that the Council will cheerfully grant to right of way asked for by the contractors of the Fredericksburg Orange and Charlottesville Company, through Prussia or [Page 172] one of the Streets of the town to the Rappahannock River upon proper terms and conditions guarding the interests of the Corporation and citizens and the petition of said contractors is hereby referred to a committee of the Council who are instructed to agree upon the terms and conditions of said grant, and to report said agreement to a future meeting of this Council for confirmation and final action

The Mayor appointed Mess'rs W A Little, H S Doggett & W H Russell as the Committee

The Mayor presented a plot and survey of a lot formerly owned by Robert Evan's Est, which was sold for taxes in the year 1868 to Mr John Tayloe and by him assigned on 16th September 1871 to Page Rollins, and it appearing to the Council that the said plot and survey is made out by the Corporation Surveyor in accordance with Section 7 Chapter 37 of the Ordinance of the Corporation, On motion of Mr Conway the same is ordered to be recorded.

An account of Mess'r Sener, Couse, & Hunt for services in the election in May last and for printing "usury tickets, amt'g to \$14.00 was presented by the Mayor and On Motion, Mr McCracken referred to the Finance Committee.

A Motion of Dr Wallace,

Resolved that the Pump Committee if in their judgment they deem it necessary be authorized to erect a new pump on Liberty Street at such locality as in their discretion they may consider it best for the accommodation of the citizens

[Page 174]

The following accounts having been passed upon by the Finance Committee were presented and ordered to be paid viz

Wm C Carter amt'g to	\$18.29
J B Sener (Ledger office) for advertising	\$4.00
S J Quinn Com'r Rev for assessing Dog Tax 1872	\$25.00

A K Phillips & Co for coal for Court House \$43.50

An account of C W Edrington for lighting and cleaning Court house amounting to \$20.00 was presented and on Motion of Mr Conway it was referred to the Public Property Committee for settlement with authority to draw on the Treasurer for the amount allowed by the following vote, the Ayes & Noes being called

Ayes Mess'rs Conway, Little, Bowering, Wallace, Russell, Coakley, Doggett, Magrath 9

Noes Mess'rs Hurkamp, Sener, McCracken 3

Mr Conway moved the following which was seconded

Resolved that the ordinance concerning the use of the Court House, passed September 26 1872 be rescinded and that the original ordinance amended and passed September 21st 1871 fixing the rate for the use of the Court house at ten dollars per night be re-enacted or adopted

Mr McCracken moved to amend the resolution by striking out the word ten and inserting the word five instead, which being seconded the vote taken by Ayes & Noes the amendment was lost by the following vote

Ayes Mess'rs Sener & McCracken 2

Noes Mess'rs Conway, Little, Hurkamp, Hunter, Bowering, Coakley, Doggett, Magrath 10

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The question recurring upon the resolution of Mr Conway and the vote taken it was adopted

On Motion Mr Conway

Ordered that the sum of five hundred dollars be and the same is hereby appropriated for the support of the Public Schools of the Town, subject to the order of the Board of Trustees

The Mayor stated that he had received a communication from the Mayor of St Louis also

Requesting the appointment of a Delegate from the City to the National Commercial Convention which is to assemble in St Louis on [blank] and that he had appointed Mr W H Russell as the delegate and hoped the appointment would meet the approval of the Council

Whereupon Mr Sener moved the following which was adopted unanimously

Resolved that the appointment by the Mayor of Mr W H Russell as a delegate to represent the City of Fredericksburg in the National Commercial Convention to assemble in the City of St Louis in December meets the entire approval of this Council

The Council then on Motion, Adjourned

Rob't B Berrey, Mayor

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At a regular Meeting of the Common Council of the Town of Fredericksburg held at the Council Chamber on Tuesday December 24th 1872

Present J W Sener, Recorder

R H Coakley, P McCracken, L O Magrath, J G Wallace, Benj'n Bowering, H S Doggett

The minutes of the last meeting were read and approved

On Motion, Dr Wallace

Resolved that all unfinished business be laid over and that not other business be taken up except such as necessary to be disposed of all the present meeting

The Recorder stated that the Mayor was absent because of indisposition, and was requested by him to inform the Council that the Police officers had performed their duties faithfully during the present quarter, Whereas on Motion, It was ordered that the Treasurer be directed to pay the Police Officers their salaries for the quarter ending 31st December 1872 upon the order of the Mayor
The Council then adjourned
J W Sener, Recorder.