

1856
January 15th

Robert Graham and John Wills sworn into office as Fire Wards in presence of His Worship the Mayor

Fire Constable Sworn

William Trider sworn into office as Fire Constable in presence of his Worship the Mayor

16th
Fire Ward Sworn

Martin P. Black and Wm. P. West sworn into office as Fire Ward in presence of His Worship the Mayor

Inspector of Fish Sworn

17th
William Newcombe sworn into office by His Worship the Mayor as inspector and Weigher of Fish & Beef

Wm. P. West

(At a Special Meeting of City Council held this day present His Worship the Mayor, Alderman Pugsley, Young, Murray, Cochran, Evans, Pollock, Conway)

There not being a quorum to do business Council use to meet on Monday next at Two o'clock

Wm. P. West

1856
January 21st

At a Special Meeting of City Council
held this day present His Worship the Mayor Alderman
Pugsley, Stairs, M^r. Heath, Young,
Morison, Bell, Cochran, Evans, Kops, Wills, Pollock,
Conroy, Sutherland and King.

Read over proceedings of 14 & 15 January

Alderman Morison Submits -
Memorial of Clerks of Market on Motion same is received

On Motion the opinion of His Honor
the Recorder called for at last meeting is read. (Copy)

Opinion of His
Honor the Recorder
as to Street Funds

In reply to this question, and presuming "Street Funds"
to mean the monies received under the Statute Labour acts on
referring to the Acts, Rev Stat C 44 & 45. I find the duties
to be carried on by Commissioners of Streets, are specially defined
embracing the removal of incumbrances from the Streets,
the repairs, alterations and improvements thereof &c

I should presume that any special survey rendered, necessary
by circumstances would be properly an incidental expense, which
upon a liberal interpretation of the acts might be properly
defrayed out of such funds such for example as the Survey
made sometime since in Banacks Street by W^m. Freeman,
and so I think of a local Survey preparatory to any special
expenditure. But however important or advisable a General Survey
and plan of the whole City embracing streets, Roads &c may be

I conclude that grave doubts may be entertained - whether the
Statute fund could be legally appropriated to such an expense.
The only reference made in these acts to a Survey is in 15th
Section Chap 44 where the charge of such Survey in fixing
a line for building is expressly imposed on the private proprietor
if it were possible to appropriate legally sums which are devoted
to ordinary expenses transferring them to matters of improvement
and amelioration, the danger would be that the ordinary
expenses intended principally by the law to be secured might
fail in being carried out.

All of which is respectfully submitted

Halifax 14 January 1856

Benish Mundock
Recorder.

(Alderman)

1856

January 21

Mem. H. G. Cannon
rel to His Taxes

Alderman M^o Heath submits a
Memorial of Henry G. Cannon relative to his Taxes on
Action same is received, read and ordered to be referred to the
Committee on Assessments

Council next take up Alderman Cross
motion of reconsideration of resolution passed at last meeting
when following resolution No 1 is introduced

Resolved that the resolution past last meeting
relative to the expenditure of Two Hundred Pounds by the
Committee of City Property be now reconsidered. Moved by
Alderman Evans seconded by Alderman King.

The resolution No 4 passed at last meeting on
Motion is read

Resolution this day submitted is next
put when there appeared for the same 5 against it 9 the same
is therefore lost and the names being called for there appeared thus

For the Resolution	Against Resolution
Alderman Stairs	Alderman Pugsley & Young
King	Pollock & Morrissey
Evans	Wills & M ^o Heath
Ros	Conway & Bell
Sutherland 5	Lockman 9

Council next take up Alderman Cross
Motion of reconsideration of Alderman Stairs resolution passed
at last meeting, when following resolution is introduced

Resolved that the resolution passed
at last meeting relative to one Superintendant of Streets
and which Superintendant to have the appointment of
Officers be now reconsidered. Moved by Alderman Evans
seconded by Alderman King.

Read Alderman Stairs resolution
as passed at last meeting

Read Alderman Cross amendment
there to introduced same day

Resolution this day submitted
Moved by Alderman Cross seconded by Alderman King
now submitted to the Council when there appeared for
the same 2 against it 12 resolution lost

Resolution rel to
Streets

1856

January 21st
continued -ced

Resol. rel to Sup
Streets

The following resolution is next introduced

Resolved that in the practice of the
Census of the Street Labour, That the Superintendent
of Streets shall require all Foremen of Work appointed
by him to give with the ordinary Workman their own
and Special labour. Moved by Alderman Stairs
seconded by Alderman Pugsley which on being put is
carried 11 voting for it and 2 against it.

Council next proceed to take up
Special report of Committee on Streets

Read A. C. clause as far "as above suggested"
when following resolution is introduced

Resolution rel
transport of Com-
on Streets.

Resolved that the recommendation
contained in the report of Street Committee with reference
to the construction of side Walks be adopted extending the
application of the principle to any section of a Street
from corner to corner as well as to a whole Street,
Moved by Alderman Bell seconded by Alderman
Rofs which resolution being put there appeared for the
same 11 against it 3 resolution carried, and the names
being called for they appeared thus

For Resolution	Against Resolution
Alderman Pugsley	Ald. Morrissey
Stairs	King
Wills	Evans 3
Mc. Theate	
Conway	
Bell	
Pollock	
Rofs	
Young	
Sutherland	
Cushman	" "

Alderman Evans gives notice of reconsideration
of above

Motion is made that Council
adjourn until Wednesday next at 2 o'clock which on being
put is carried 9 voting for it and 5 against it

Wm. Pitt Mayor

1856
January 23

(At an adjourned Meeting) of City Council held this day present His Worship the Mayor Alderman Pugsley, Stairs, Murray, McHeath, Young, Monisey, Bell, Cross, Rofs Wills, Pollock, Conway, Sutherland, King and Longard,

The City Council were summoned to appoint five constables to consider the Special report of Committee on Streets and the transaction of other business

Read over proceedings of 21st January

His Worship the Mayor being engaged in the Mayors Court Alderman Sutherland takes the chair The following appointments are next made to the Office of Five Constables

Appointments of Five Constables

Peter Mc Nab	for Ward 1 st One
William Gould	Sub st
Thomas Wallace	" " No Two
Archibald Graham	Thos. Mc Donald, John Lecain, Five Constables for Ward 2 nd 3
William Henderson	for Ward 3 rd 4
Peter Horgan	" " " 5
Walter Sherlock	" " " 6

Council next take up Alderman Cross notice for reconsideration of resolution passed at last meeting when following resolution is introduced

Resolution re to Side Walks

Resolved that the resolution passed at last meeting relative to the construction of Sidewalks of Brick be now rescinded Moved by Alderman Cross seconded by Alderman Monisey which resolution being put there appeared for the same 3 against it 9 resolution lost and the names being called for they appeared thus

For Resolution
Alderman Monisey
Cross
Longard 3

Against Resolution
Alderman Pugsley, Stairs
McHeath, Murray
Wills " Rofs
Conway, Bell
Pollock 9

The Council next proceed with the report of Special Committee on Streets when resolution 2nd is introduced

1856
January 23
Resolution re to
Statute Labour
Law

Resolved that the 5 clause in the report of the Street "committee" be deferred until the nature of the resolution of the Statute Labour law be considered. Moved by Alderman Pugsley seconded by Alderman Conway to which the following amendment is introduced

Resolved that the opinion of His Honor the Recorder be requested as to the resolution now before the Council. Moved by Alderman Evans seconded by Alderman Mills which amendment being put there appeared for the same 5 against it 7 amendment lost

The 2nd amendment is introduced

Resolved that the Report of Committee on Streets do lie on the Table until this day three months. Moved by Alderman Evans seconded by Alderman Longard which on being put there appeared for the same 2 against it 10 amendment lost, the original is then put and carried 7 voting for it and 3 against it

Read re to
Report of Committee
on Streets.

Alderman Pugsley submits following No. 3 as Tax for road Service which is read by Alderman Pugsley seconded by Alderman Conway

His Worship the Mayor resumes the Chair

Read Alderman Pugsley's resolution as a Tax for Road Service

Whereas it is the opinion of this Council that the Citizens of Halifax should be assessed in money in equitable proportions for the future road service

Resolution re to
Tax for Road Service

Clause 1 Be it therefore resolved that every person the owner of Real and Personal Estate within the City of Halifax to the value of Ten hundred pounds currency of the Province of Nova Scotia shall pay annually Twenty shillings of said currency, and for every hundred pounds over and above ten hundred pounds, six pence currency

Clause 2 Every person the owner of Real or Personal Estate within the City of Halifax to the value of five hundred pounds and less than ten hundred pounds shall pay annually ten shillings currency, and every hundred pounds over and above five hundred pounds Six pence currency

Clause 3

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January 23
Continued

Clause 3 Every person the Owner of Real or Personal Estate within the City of Halifax to the value of Four hundred pounds and less than five hundred pounds shall pay Annually eight shillings. Currency.

Resolution relative
Road Tax
Clause 3rd

Clause 4 Every person the Owner of Real or Personal Estate within the City of Halifax to the value of Three hundred pounds and less than four hundred pounds shall pay annually six shillings. Currency.

Clause 5th

Clause 5 And every other Male Citizen able of body resident within the City of Halifax between the ages of twenty one and sixty years not being the Owners of Real or Personal Estate to the value of three hundred pounds shall pay annually five shillings. Currency and every person in the Receipt of twenty pounds yearly income shall for every such income pay an additional tax of three shillings. Currency.

Clause 6th

Clause 6 Every Male person resident within the City of Halifax, not able of body between the ages of Twenty one and sixty years not being the owner of Real and Personal Estate to the value of three hundred pounds shall pay for every twenty pounds yearly income two shillings. Currency.

Clause 7th

Clause 7 Every person residents within the City of Halifax owning property real or personal to the value of Three hundred pounds and upwards in the receipt of a yearly income not derived from such real or personal estate - shall pay for every such income of thirty pounds - four shillings. Currency annually in addition to the Tax on his or her personal estate.

Clause 8th

Clause 8 Every person whose residence is out of the City, having a place of business within the City of Halifax of the yearly value of eight pounds and upwards the personal rateable Property in such shop or place owned and occupied or held by the occupier as agent, and being of less value than three hundred pounds such occupant shall pay to the City annually for every eight pounds rental, four shillings. Currency.

Clause 9th

Clause 9 Every Minor able of body above the age of sixteen years shall pay annually four shillings. Currency.

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Clause 10th

Clause 10 Every owner or owners of Houses kept within the City of Halifax shall pay for such House annually as follows. To wit. for One House seven shillings and for every other House five shillings Currency

Clause 11th

Clause 11 As soon as the Assessment for the year is approved by the City Council the Clerk of Streets shall in a book to be kept by him. make from the book of City Assessment. a true Copy of the value of Real and Personal Estate from two hundred pounds and upwards. Also opposite each and every persons name severally to be assessed the amount of their road tax, to be collected as hereinafter prescribed. Such book to be yearly inspected and audited by two members of the City Council who shall be annually appointed for such purpose

Clause 12th

Clause 12 The following form to wit.
You are hereby notified that you are assessed and taxed for the road service for the current year to pay the sum of _____ pounds _____ shillings and _____ pence in Ward number _____ unless the amount be paid at the office of the City Treasurer within Thirty days of this notice Ten per Cent will be added thereto besides all charges and costs of collection Notice shall be delivered by the Clerk of Streets to all persons rateable under this provision of this Chapter. The number of persons rateable under sections 5. 6. 7. 8. 9 and 10 of this Chapter to be shown by the Clerk of Streets in his Book for each Ward respectively

Clause 13th

Clause 13 Every Officer holding a Commission in the army or navy, while engaged in the Military or Naval Service of Her Britannic Majesty and all soldiers and sailors while engaged in such service shall be exempt from the provisions of this Chapter. Also all Firemen and Engine men within the City of Halifax

Clause 14th

Clause 14 The provisions of this Chapter is also designed to extend to such as are named in Chapter 2nd of Assessment of the City of Halifax

Clause 15th

Clause 15 Monies and forfeitures under this Chapter shall be received in the name of the City in the same manner and with the like costs as private debts And the proceeds shall belong to and be appropriated for Street improvements
Moved by Alderman Pugh
seconded by Alderman Conway

Alderman Goung comes in

The

1856
January 23
continued

The following amendment No 3 is introduced

Resolution as to
Road Tax

Resolved that hereafter each Inhabitant of the City of Halifax be taxed for Road and Street service the sum of Two shillings and sixpence currency each that each Cab, Truck Cart, Team or Working Horse which is used exclusively for the support and maintenance of the owner thereof be taxed the sum of Seven shillings and that each Saddle or Carriage Horse be taxed the sum of twenty shillings currency which amendment being put there appeared for the same 4 against it 11 same is therefore lost and the names being called for they appeared thus

In Amendment
Alderman King
Longard
Kirk
Sutherland 4

Against Amendment
Ald^{rs} Wills & Bell
McQuate & Stairs
Pugsley & Morrison
Wollock & Evans
Conway & Murray
Young 11

Communication
of Sec^y of Axc Co
rel to app^t Captain

Read communication from Secretary of Axc Company as to the appointment of Richard J. P. Ross as Captain of Axc Company in place of John Hull resigned
Appointment Confirmed

A Motion is put that Council adjourn until tomorrow at Two o'clock 10 Voting for 5 against it

Robt^d May

1856
January 24

At an adjourned Meeting of City Council held this day present His Worship the Mayor Alderman Fugley, Murray, Ross Pollock and Sutherland

There not being a Council to do business of the Council rise

Subjct Mayor

25th
Fire Constables appointed

William Bauld Junr Archibald Buchanan Thomas Mc Donald, William Henderson, Peter Morgan sworn into office as Fire Constables in presence of His Worship the Mayor

26th
Sealers of Leather appointed

James Sawwood and William Jenkins sworn into office as Sealers and Weighers of Leather

Surveyors of Lumber appointed

James Dickinson & Henry Spink sworn into office as Surveyors of Lumber

Inspector of Mason Work appointed

James Read sworn into office as inspector & measurer of Masons work in presence of His Worship the Mayor

Inspector of Painters Work appointed

John J Smith and Maurice Downey sworn into office as Inspectors and measurers of Painters Work

Weighers of Hay appointed

Thomas Keating & Michael Doran sworn into office as Weighers of Hay

Appointment Fence Viewers

John Hogan sworn into office as fence viewer, all in presence of His Worship the Mayor

Subjct Mayor

1856
January 28

At a Special Meeting of City Council held this day present His Worship the Mayor, Alderman Pugsley, P. Stairs, Mowsey, Cochran, R. S. Wills, Pollock, Conway, King.

The City Council were summoned to proceed with the business standing over from last Meeting and the transaction of other business.

There not being a quorum to do business Council stands adjourned ~~at present~~ until to morrow at Two o'clock.

Shepley May

January 29th

Burt sworn into office as Fire Constable in presence of His Worship the Mayor.

Shepley May

1856
January 29

At a Special Meeting of City Council held this day present His Worship the Mayor, Alderman Pugsley, Anderson, Stairs, Murray, Mc. Theath, Young, Morrissey, Bell, Cochran, Evans, Ross, Harvey, Pollock, Conway, Gutherland King and Longaud.

Read over proceedings of 23rd, 24th and 25th January

Petition of Clementina Preston relative to Taxes

Alderman Pollock presents Petition of Clementina Preston relative to her taxes - on Motion same is received and ordered to be read, same is read, a Motion is made that said Memorial stand over until this day three months which on being put is passed by voting 7 against it.

Report of Special Com^{tee} rel to - Assessment

Alderman Mc. Theath Chairman submits report of Special Committee on Assessments, same is read

Report of Special Committee rel to New Engine House

Alderman Evans Chairman Submits report of Special Committee relative to Plans and Specification for location of a New Engine House on Mr. Nicholas Wright's property in Ward St. Joes

Read entries of 3 December on the matter, on Motion Council proceed with the business of the day Council take up the resolution.

Resolutions rel to Streets

Resolution No. 3 introduced at last meeting relative to Streets is now before the Council when following amendment No. 1 is introduced.

Whereas the Statute Labour Law now in force being inadequate to the requirements of the ward service and a money payment for such Road service being expedient

Resolved 1st of

That every

1856

January 29th1st Resolution
rel to Streets

Firstly That every hired servant, minor, above sixteen years of age - apprentice, journeyman, day labourer, and whosoever of the male Citizens shall not be rated in the general assessment for the year, for real and personal estate in himself or jointly with others greater than £100 pay an annual Road Tax of nine shillings - nothing in the form of hired servant to include any Clerk or Employe - whose Salary shall be greater than £150 per annum.

Resolution 2nd

Secondly All Male Citizens who are rated in the general assessment of the year for Real and Personal estate in himself or jointly with others, more than one hundred and less than Four Hundred pounds shall pay eighteen shillings Road Tax per annum.

Resolution 3

Thirdly Every other male Citizen shall pay twenty seven shillings per annum

Road - Fourth

Fourthly Every licensed Truckman shall pay for himself and a Horse thirty shillings and for each additional Horse ten shillings. All licensed proprietors of Hackney carriages, and omnibuses shall pay for himself and a Horse forty shillings and for each additional horse seven shillings and sixpence, all other owners of Horses shall pay ten shillings for each Horse

Road - Fifth

Fifthly The following persons shall be exempt from the payment of Road Tax.

Military persons and persons holding Commissions from her Majesty in the Civil or Military departments ~~also~~ of the Army and the Officers, Clerks, and persons employed and borne on the books of Her Majesty's Ordnance, Naval yard, Victualling Establishment and Naval Hospital in Halifax, the latter clause of exemptions not to extend to more than forty persons male whose names shall be from time to time furnished by the heads of departments also Fire men and Engine men and such persons as have actually served as Fire men and Engine men for a period of sixteen years and shall have obtained a Certificate of such Service from the Captain or Lieutenant of the Company, countersigned by the Secretary, such exemption of Fire men and Engine men shall not extend to the Tax as respects Horses, and being Truckman or Cab proprietors and also all persons who have arrived at the year 60 prior to 1856

1856
January 27th
continued

The Clerk of Streets shall prepare and serve all notices of Tax the form of which shall be

Halifax N.S.

No. _____ Ward
No. _____

Form of Notice

You are hereby notified that you are assessed for the road service for the current year the sum of _____ Pounds _____ shillings and Pence. If the amount be not duly paid at my office within 30 days it will be put in suit and ten per cent added for the delay.

Signed

City Treasurer

Resol. Seventh

Seventhly The Clerk of Streets shall from time to time ascertain what persons have failed to pay their Tax, and shall transmit lists of such persons defaulters to the Clerk of the Mayors Court, with the sums due by each and ten per cent added in a separate sum in order that the amount so due may be put in suit without delay.

Resol. Eighth

Eighthly The Clerk of the Streets shall require of the heads of families & employers, and of any other persons, such information as they possess as may be necessary for him to serve notice of Tax on. And should such information or return not be satisfactory to the Clerk of the Streets he shall summon such persons before the Mayor or an Alderman, when they shall answer upon oath to such questions as may be asked to elicit their knowledge respecting their own or the liabilities of others known to them to taxation under the acts governing such taxation. Penalty for non appearance being not less than \$1 and not more than \$5.

Resol. Ninth

Ninthly All taxes due by minors may be recovered from the parents, Masters, or guardians of such minors with whom such minors reside, or who have a right to receive their wages

Tenthly

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January 27

Resol. Tenth

Tenthly All monies due for road Tax shall be recovered in the name of the City in the same manner and with like costs as private debts, and the proceeds shall belong to the Street funds of the City.

Resol. Eleventh

Eleventhly That the Clerk of the Streets shall be paid by a Commission of five percent upon sums collected for Road service provided such Commissions shall not amount to less than his present Salary of One Hundred Pounds and a further commission of five per cent upon all sums not larger than 9/- such Commission chargeable on the Street funds.

Twelfth Resol.

Twelfthly That Residence beyond the City will not exempt Rate payers from payment of City Road Taxes
 Moved by Alderman Stairs seconded by Alderman Amisey.

Resolution 523 introduced at last meeting is again read, when following Resolution 521 is introduced

Resolution relative to Statute Labour

On reading the resolution and amendment before the Council, relative to the Statute Labour Law. Resolved that a Committee of One Alderman from each Ward be appointed to devise some scheme to amend the present Statute Labour Law and submit the same to this Council. Moved by Alderman Pollock seconded by Alderman Evans - which on being put is lost 3 voting for it and 13 against it.

Alderman Stairs amendment this day introduced is now before the Council which amendment being put there appeared for the same 7 against it 9 amendment is therefore lost and the names being called for appeared thus.

For Amendment
 Alderman Stairs - Bell
 Harvey - Kops
 Amisey - Sutherland
 Mundy - 7

Against Amendment
 Ald. Pugsley - Young
 W. Sheath - King
 Pollock - Evans
 Cochran - Longard
 Conway - 9

1856
January 29th

Motion is made that Council adjourn
until Monday next at Two o'clock.

Amendment that Council adjourn
until Friday at Two o'clock when then appeared for the
same 3 against 13 but the original is then put when
then appeared for the same 10 against it 6 carried

Council adjourn until Monday next at 2 o'clock

Substantive Mayor

1856
February 4th

At a Special Meeting of City Council held this day present His Worship the Mayor, Alderman Pugsley, Stairs, Murray, Goussing, Morison, Bell, Cochran, Cross, Ross, Wells, P. Sutherland, Longard.

The City Council were summoned to proceed with the business standing over from last Meeting and the transaction of the other business.

Read over proceedings of 27th January

Memo of John Dunphy
rel. to his assessment

Alderman Murray presents Memorial of John Dunphy relative to his assessment received and ordered to be read and on Motion referred to Committee on assessment

Memo of J. W. Archibald
rel. to his Taxes

Alderman Cochran submits Memorial of ~~John W. Archibald~~ John W. Archibald relative to his Taxes on Motion same is received read and referred to committee on assessment

Memo of R. Mc Carthy
rel. to his Taxes

Alderman Cochran submits Memorial of R. Mc Carthy relative to his Taxes same is received read and referred to committee on assessment

Memo of W. Hamilton
rel. to his Taxes

Alderman Morison submits Memorial of William Hamilton relative to his Taxes on motion same is received read and ordered to be referred to Committee on Assessment.

His Worship the Mayor brings to the notice of the Council the propriety of employing a Person to bring up the City Records

Warrants
Submitted

The following Warrants have been submitted to the City Council, the same are approved of. The City Clerk, The Assistant City Clerk, City Marshal, Keeper of Court, Keeper of Market, Underkeeper of Fish Market, William Egan, John Parker, Samuel Carter, and John Batters.

1856
February 4th
-used

The following resolution is next introduced

Resolution relative to Plans & Specification for an Engine House

Resolved that the Committee appointed to provide Plans & Specifications for the erection of an Engine House on property Rented from Mr. Nicholas Knight be authorised to advertise for Tenders in accordance with the Plans and Specifications now before this Council. Moved by Alderman Bell seconded by Alderman Longard

Council next proceed with business standing over from last Meeting viz resolutions 3rd 5 relative to Statute the first two clauses are again read when following amendment is introduced

Whereas it is deemed by this Council that it will be to the advantage of the Community to have the Statute Labour service of the City of Halifax allotted and a system introduced which will place Cash at the disposal of the authorities for Road and Street purposes

It is therefore the opinion of this Council that the Clause contained in the subjoined resolution should be adopted and embodied in a Bill to be proposed by His Honor the Recorder and sent to the Legislature for its sanction

First Be it therefore resolved that hereafter for Road and Street purposes within the City of Halifax every Male Inhabitant over the age of twenty years shall be subject to and pay a Poll Tax of eighteen shillings except such persons as come within the Proviso and Exemptions hereinafter contained.

Second And be it further resolved that every Male Inhabitant of the said City over the Age of twelve years and under Twenty one years shall be subject to a Poll Tax of five shillings, except when such Minor shall reside with and the Tax having to be paid by Parents or Masters, who own Real and Personal Property of less value than Two hundred pounds.