

C. S. C. our desire to preserve the connection with that nation, and that we are driven from that inclination by their wicked councils, and the eternal laws of self preservation, Resolved, unanimously, that the delegates appointed to represent this colony in General congress be instructed to propose to that respectable Body to declare the united colonies free and independant states, absolved from all allegiance to, dependence upon the crown or Parliament of Great Britain; and that they give the assent of this colony to such declaration, and to whatever measures may be thought proper and necessary by the Congress for forming foreign alliances, and a confederation of the colonies, at such time and in the manner, as to them shall seem best provided, that the power of forming Government for, and the regulations of the internal concerns of the colony, be left to the respective colonial Legislatures: Resolved unanimously, that a committee be appointed to prepare a declaration of Rights and such a plan of Government as will be most likely to maintain peace and order in this colony, and secure substantial and equal Liberty to the people:

Edm^d Pendleton Pres^t

C. S. J.

Thursday 23^d May 1776

Council met. Present as on yesterday.

Ordered That Treasurer of Western Shore pay to Col^o John Steell eighteen Pounds for three Months Pay of his Adj^t

Ordered That said Treasurer pay to Captⁿ Fulford one hundred and one Pounds, nine shillings for Gun Carriages.

Ordered that Commissary of Stores at Baltimore Town deliver to Mess^{rs} Dan^l and Sam^l Hughs whatever Quantity of Powder that may be necessary for the Proof of Cannon to be supplied the Province according to his Contract.

Commss^{ns} iss^d to Stephen Hyland app^d Captⁿ W^m Veazy 1 L^t W^m Mauldin 2 L^t and Nathan Arrants Ensign of a Comp^y of Militia in Cæcil County.

Also to W^m Clayland app^d Captⁿ in Joseph Bruffs Comp^y of Militia in Talbot Co^{ty} belonging to 4th Battalion.

Also to Robert Hall app^d Ensign of Captain Jacob Gibson's Comp^y in same County and bel^g to same Battalion.

Also to Jon^a Abell app^d 1 L^t Perry Benson 2 L^t & Jon^a Gibson Ensⁿ of a Comp^y of Militia in Talb^t Co^{ty} bel^g to 38th Battalion.

Also to John Impey Dawson app^d 2 L^t and James Lowe Ensign of Captⁿ Haddaman's Comp^y of Militia in same Co^{ty} bel^g to same Battalion.