

No. 65.

A N A C T

To incorporate the village of Petersburg, in the county of Perry, into a borough.

SECTION 1. *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania in General Assembly met, and it is hereby enacted by the authority of the same,* That the village of Petersburg, in the county of Perry, shall be and the same is hereby erected into a borough, which shall be called the borough of Petersburg, and shall be bounded and limited as follows: Beginning at a corner, on the shore of the Susquehanna river, on the southern side thereof, and on the northern side of Washington street; thence along by the shore of said river south twenty-five degrees west fifteen hundred and forty feet to a corner; thence extending along said shore south thirteen degrees west five hundred and seventy feet to a stone; thence extending along by the Juniata creek north eighteen degrees west two thousand one hundred and twenty feet to a marked pine tree; thence extending by lands of Dr. Ebert north forty degrees east two hundred and seventy-seven feet; thence extending by said Ebert's land fifty feet to Pine alley, and extending along the corner of High and Mulberry streets one hundred and fifty feet; thence by said Ebert's land two hundred feet to Apple Tree alley, and along the southern side of said alley seven hundred and fifty feet to a corner; thence extending south sixty-eight degrees east two hundred feet to the place of beginning.

Borough erected.

Bounds.

SECTION 2. That the inhabitants of the said borough, entitled to vote for members of the general assembly, having resided within the bounds of said borough, at least ten days immediately preceding the election, shall have power, on the first Saturday of September next, to meet at the public school house in said town, and on the same day annually thereafter at the place aforesaid, and shall then and there, between the hours of one and seven in the afternoon, elect by ballot one respectable citizen residing therein, who shall be styled the chief burgess, and five citizens to be a town council, and shall also elect as aforesaid one citizen as high constable, all of whom shall be residents of said borough and entitled to vote for borough officers, agreeably to the provisions of this section; but previous to the opening of said election, such of the inhabitants qualified to vote as aforesaid, as are present at the said place of election, shall choose by ballot one citizen to act as judge, and two citizens to act as inspectors; the judge and one inspector shall also act as clerks of said election; the judge and one inspector to be voted for by each voter, and the election to be conducted throughout according to the general election laws of this commonwealth; and the officers of the election shall be subject to the same penalties for mal-practices as by the said election laws are imposed. The said judge and inspectors, before they enter upon the duties of their respective offices, shall take the same oaths or affirmations, before any justice of the peace of the county, as are prescribed by the existing election laws of this commonwealth; and after the said election shall be closed, shall declare the persons having the greatest number of votes to be duly elected. And in case any two or more candidates should have an equal number of votes, the preference shall be determined by lot, to be drawn by the two in-

First and annual election.

Mode of conducting the same.

spectors, in presence of the judge; whereupon duplicate certificates of said election shall be signed by the said judge and inspectors, one of which shall be transmitted to the chief burgess elect, and the other filed among the records of the corporation. And it shall be the duty of the high constable for the preceding year, (and in the event of his absence or inability to act, such person as the officers of the election may direct,) to give notice in writing to each of the persons so elected as aforesaid; and in case of the death, resignation, removal or refusal to accept any of the said offices, or if it should at any time happen that no election should be holden on the day and in the manner aforesaid, the corporation shall not on that account be dissolved; but the chief burgess, or in the event of his absence, death, resignation, removal or inability to act, the president of the town council shall issue his precept, directed to the high constable, commanding him to hold an election in manner aforesaid, to supply such vacancy, giving at least eight days notice, by six advertisements, set up in the most public places in said borough.

SECTION 3. That from and after the eighth day of September next, the chief burgess and town council, duly elected as aforesaid, and their successors, shall be one body politic and corporate, by the name and style of "the chief burgess and town council of the borough of Petersburg," and shall have perpetual succession; and the said chief burgess and town council, and their successors, shall be called in law, to have, get, receive, hold and possess goods and chattels, lands and tenements, in fee simple or otherwise; and also to grant, sell, let and assign the same goods and chattels, lands and tenements, not exceeding at any one time in value, two thousand dollars; and by the name and style aforesaid, they shall be capable in law to sue and be sued, plead and be impleaded in any of the courts of law of this commonwealth, in all manner of actions whatsoever; and to have and use a common seal, and the same from time to time at their will, to change and alter, until it be otherwise directed by law.

SECTION 4. That if any person duly elected chief burgess, member of the town council, or high constable as aforesaid, and having received due notice thereof, as directed by this act, shall refuse or neglect to take upon himself the execution of the said office to which he shall have been elected, or having taken upon himself the duties of the said office, shall neglect to discharge the same, according to law, every person so refusing or neglecting, shall, for every such offence, forfeit and pay the sum of ten dollars; which fine, and all other fines, penalties and forfeitures incurred, and made payable in pursuance of this act, or any by-law or ordinance of the town council, shall be for the use of the said corporation, and shall be recovered by suit brought before the chief burgess, (to whom is hereby given the same power and authority in suits brought before him,) to recover the same as justices of the peace within the commonwealth by law have, where the demand does not exceed one hundred dollars, in the form and manner, and with the same costs of suits, that debts of like amount are by law recoverable; and the same, when recovered, shall be paid to the treasurer of the borough; and it shall be the duty of the officers of the borough, on receiving any money belonging to the corporation, to pay the same to the treasurer forthwith: *Provided*, That no person elected as aforesaid, shall be liable to a fine for refusing or neglecting to serve more than once in five years.

SECTION 5. That the chief burgess, members of the town council, and high constable, and all the other officers of the borough appointed by the town council, in pursuance of the further provisions of this act,

Name.

Liberties and powers.

Penalty for refusal to serve.

Oath.

before entering upon the duties of their respective offices, shall take and subscribe an oath or affirmation before the chief burgess, or any justice of the peace of said county, "to support the constitution of the United States and of the state of Pennsylvania, and to perform the duties of their respective offices with fidelity;" and the certificates of such oath or affirmation shall be filed among the records of said corporation.

SECTION 6. That the town council shall meet on the first Saturday next after their election in each year, at the public school house in said town, or such other place as they may determine upon, and choose one of their number president, who shall preside at their meetings; and in event of the absence, death, resignation, removal or inability to act of the chief burgess, shall possess all and singular, the rights, privileges, powers and authorities of the said chief burgess, given him in this act or elsewhere. And further to choose one of their number secretary of the town council, (whose salary shall be fixed by the said town council,) whose duty it shall be to take charge of all the papers, records and common seal of said corporation, and be answerable therefor, and also for the faithful discharge of the duties enjoined upon him by this act, or by the by-laws and ordinances of the town council; and shall keep a fair and accurate record of all the proceedings, minutes and resolutions, by-laws and ordinances of the said town council, open at all reasonable times for the inspection of every qualified voter of said borough; and the attestation of the said secretary, with the seal of the corporation, shall be good evidence of the act or thing so certified. And it shall be the duty of the said town council (three of whom shall be a quorum) to hold quarterly meetings, on the third Saturdays in September, December and March, in each year, and such other meetings as occasion may require; at which meetings they may make, erect, alter, revise, repeal and amend all such by-laws, rules, regulations and ordinances, as shall be determined by a majority of them, necessary to promote the peace, good order, benefit and advantage of the said borough, and particularly providing for the regulation, improving, repairing and keeping in order the streets, lanes, alleys and highways. They shall have power to assess and apportion such taxes, as shall be determined by a majority of them necessary for carrying the said rules, by-laws and ordinances, from time to time, into complete effect; and also to appoint a treasurer, street supervisor and collector annually, and such other officers as may be deemed necessary, from time to time, and the same officers from time to time to remove, for misdemeanors in office: *Provided*, That no by-laws, rules or ordinances of said corporation, shall be repugnant to the constitution and laws of this commonwealth; and that no person shall be punished for the breach of any by-law or ordinance of the said corporation, until ten days shall have expired after the promulgation thereof, by at least three advertisements, set up in the most public places in the said borough: *And provided also*, That in assessing such tax, due regard shall be had to the valuation of taxable property, taken for the purpose of raising the county rates and levies, so that the said tax shall not in any one year exceed one half cent on the dollar of such valuation, unless some object of general utility shall be thought necessary; in which case three-fourths of the qualified voters of said borough shall approve of and certify the same in writing, under their hands, to the town council, who shall proceed to assess the same accordingly: *Provided also*, That the town council shall lay such taxes upon dogs, and make such regulations respecting them within said borough, as they may see proper.

SECTION 7. That the chief burgess elected and qualified, agreeably to this act, or in the contingency aforesaid, the president of the town

President, officers, &c.

Quorum.

Meetings.

By-laws.

Taxes.

Provido.

Provido.

Provido.

Collection of
taxes.

council, is hereby authorized and empowered to issue his precept, as often as the occasion may require, directed to the collector, commanding him forthwith to collect all taxes so assessed, and the same to pay over to the treasurer; which said precept shall be signed by the secretary of the council, and to which the seal of the said corporation shall be fixed. And the said chief burgess, or president of the town council, is hereby authorized to carry into effect all by-laws and ordinances enacted by the town council, and whatsoever else shall be enjoined upon him, for the well ordering and governing said borough; and the town council alone shall have power to mitigate or remit such fines and forfeitures.

Treasurer.

SECTION 8. That the treasurer shall give sufficient security, to be approved by the town council, for the faithful performance of the duties of his office, and for the delivery of all moneys, books and accounts appertaining thereto, into the hands of his successor, upon demand made, for that purpose. And that the street supervisor, treasurer, high constable, and all other officers of said borough, shall, in the month of December yearly, render their accounts to said town council for settlement.

Appeal.

Tax.

Proviso.

SECTION 9. That the chief burgess, president and secretaries of the town council, or any two of them, shall constitute a court of appeal; and prior to the collection of any borough tax, the collector shall inform each inhabitant of the amount of his tax, and of the time and place of appeal: *Provided, nevertheless,* That the said court of appeal shall have no other power than to determine the justness of the apportionment of said tax, and to remedy any grievance that may occur in imposing the same: and that it shall be the duty of the high constable to give notice of the annual election of the said borough, to be held in pursuance of this act, by setting up five advertisements in the most public places in said borough, at least ten days previous thereto; he shall attend and see that the election is opened at the time, and in the manner directed by this act: *Provided,* That the constable of the township of Penn, for the time being, shall publish and superintend the election to be held on the first Saturday of September next, as hereinbefore directed.

Proviso.

Compensation.

SECTION 10. That the town council shall, from time to time, fix the compensation, and at their discretion declare the duties of all the officers elected, appointed or to be appointed under the several provisions of this act; which compensation shall be paid out of the borough treasury by orders drawn by them, signed by the president, and countersigned by the secretary; and the same shall not be increased or diminished during the time for which said officers were appointed respectively: *Provided,* That if any person appointed by the town council as aforesaid, shall neglect or refuse to take upon himself the duties of the office to which he has been appointed, he shall for the same forfeit and pay for the use of the corporation the sum of ten dollars, unless he can render to the said council satisfactory reason why he should be exonerated from said service: *Provided also,* That no person as aforesaid shall be liable to fine for refusing or neglecting more than once in five years.

Proviso.

Proviso.

Appeals for grievance.

SECTION 11. That if any person or persons shall think him, her or themselves aggrieved by any thing done by the chief burgess in his judicial capacity, or any thing done in pursuance of this act, except in what relates to the appointments made by the town council, he, she or they, may appeal to the next court of common pleas, to be held for the county of Perry, upon giving security according to law, in appeals from judgments, appeals from justices' of the peace to prosecute his, her or their appeal with effect: *Provided also,* That such appeals shall be determined in the same manner, and the proceedings therein shall be the same

Proviso.

as in appeals from justices of the peace; and that such appeal shall be allowed in cases where the judgment is given for a less sum than five dollars and thirty-four cents, as well as where it exceeds that sum.

SECTION 12. That no officer of said borough shall have any voice in Officers, prohibiting the legislature for said borough, but the same is hereby vested in the town council exclusively, who, as members, shall receive no compensation for their services.

SECTION 13. That all property, offices, professions and persons, made Taxable property taxable by the laws of this commonwealth for county rates and levies, shall be taxable after the same manner by the said borough; and all tax, rates and levies assessed, rated and levied therein, shall be recovered in the same manner as the county rates and levies of the county of Perry are by law recoverable.

SECTION 14. That the said council shall have full power to pave, or otherwise improve all, or any or every of the footways and gutters Improvements. within the borough, at the expense thereof: *Provided*, That every owner of property or ground shall have the right to pave the footways on the front of their own lots, at their own expense, according to the grade fixed by the commissioners, and approved by the town council: *Provided*, They have it completed within sixty days after due notice in writing, given for that purpose by the council or other agent: *And* Proviso. *provided*, That nothing herein contained shall be construed to give power to the council to compel any person to pave at his own expense.

SECTION 15. That the high constable shall give bond and security to the said corporation, in such sum as the said council shall approve, conditioned for the performance of all the duties enjoined upon him by this act, as by the ordinances and by-laws of the council, and that from and after the passage of this act the citizens of the borough of Petersburg shall be exempted from paying road tax to the township of Penn. High constable.

SECTION 16. That the officers of the said borough election are hereby entitled to receive the sum of fifty cents each, which shall be paid them by the treasurer upon an order signed by the president and countersigned by the secretary of the town council; and any qualified elector in said borough may be an officer at said election, any existing law of this commonwealth to the contrary notwithstanding: *And it is further enacted by the authority aforesaid*, That the writs for the recovery of fines and for forfeitures to be issued by the chief burgess or president of council, under the aforesaid contingency, and shall be in the form of writs of summons, capias, execution, and such other necessary writs as are issued by justices of the peace in pursuance of the laws of this commonwealth. Compensation.

JAMES ROSS SNOWDEN,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

WILLIAM BIGLER,
Speaker of the Senate.

APPROVED—The twelfth day of March, one thousand eight hundred and forty-four.

DAVID R. PORTER.