

The charter itself begins by reciting the provisions of a previous charter, which had been granted to the inhabitants of St. Mary's City under the Great Seal, November 3, 1667, but had become void and of no force and effect by reason of non-user. Under the charter of 1667, St. Mary's was to be an incorporated city with precincts one mile square, and the city officials were designated by name. Philip Calvert was to be mayor, John Morecroft recorder, and the six aldermen were to be William Calvert, Jerome White, Daniel Jenifer, Garrett Vansweringen, Mark Cordea, and Thomas Cosden, with power given them to select ten inhabitants of the city to serve as common councilmen. Thereafter the mayor was to be annually elected in November by the members of the corporation, from among the aldermen, and vacancies among the aldermen were to be filled from among the common councilmen. The recorder was to be a person learned in the law. The recorder, aldermen, and common councilmen were to serve during good behavior. The mayor, recorder, and aldermen were given the power within the city precincts of justices of the peace, and they were to execute the laws and ordinances relating to the city, to appoint constables, to pass ordinances for the preservation of peace and order, to regulate trade within the city by reasonable rules and by-laws, to hold a weekly market, and an annual market-fair every February, together with a Court of Piepowder at fair time for the determination of all controversies and quarrels. The method of removal of a member of the corporation for misbehavior and of filling vacancies was provided for in detail.

The charter of 1671, after reviewing the terms of the original charter as just given in brief outline, and which had become void, then recites the provisions of the new charter, which revised and strengthened in certain details the powers conferred in the older instrument. It also names the officials who are to hold the various offices. Philip Calvert and John Morecroft were to be mayor and recorder, respectively, under the new charter as under the old, and the aldermen named were William Calvert, Edward Fitzherbert, Thomas Notley, Daniel Jenifer, Garrett Vansweringen and Mark Cordea, the names of Fitzherbert and Notley replacing those of Cosden and White in the charter of 1667. The number of common councilmen, which was ten under the early charter, was now reduced to seven. Under the older charter these were not named but were to be elected by the other members of the corporation, while in the 1671 charter those who were to hold office for the first year were designated as Thomas Dent, Richard Moy, William Brooke, Daniel Clocker, Thomas Innes, Thomas Winn and Thomas Griffin. Other differences between the two charters need not be elaborated here. For students who are interested in these details there is printed in full in the Appendix the first charter of St. Mary's