

We could reasonably assume that the two nominated Aldermen would already have expressed their willingness to stand, but the Journal records fourteen occasions when the successful candidate then refused to serve, thereby incurring a 'reasonable' fine, the amount to be set by the Council, but not to exceed £5; the selection procedure had to be gone through again. The details of these refusals, as recorded in the Journal, are as follows:

*1723 – 2 September.*

Candidates: Anthony Haines, Blgrave Gregory.

Vote first taken on whether each should stand.

Then vote to decide which shall be Mayor:

Mr Haines chosen (16 votes), Mr Gregory (8) [39].

Mr Haines refused to serve and submitted to fine of 2 guineas.

Vote then taken whether Thomas Stokes should stand and agreed he should.

In deciding vote Mr Gregory elected (24), Mr Stokes (0) [40].

*1724 – 7 September.*

Candidates: Thomas Stokes, James West.

Mr Stokes elected (25-0); refused to serve and fined 3 guineas [he served as Mayor 1730/1 and 1737/8].

Agreed Richard Thompson should stand with Mr West.

Mr West elected (20-6) [43].

*1725 – September.*

Candidates: Richard Thompson, William Goodwin.

Mr Thompson elected (20-6); refused to serve, paid fine of £5.

Francis Goodwin then voted to stand [Mayor 1708/9, 1718/9].

Mr William Goodwin elected (23-4), but refused to serve and fined £5.

Thomas Wardd voted to stand.

Mr Francis Goodwin then elected over Mr Wardd [47b, 48, 48b].

*1729 – September.*

Candidates: Anthony Haines, Blgrave Gregory.

Mr Haines elected but refused to serve and fined £5.

Thomas Stokes voted to stand.

Mr Gregory elected (25-1) [64b, 65].

*1735 – September.*

Candidates: Foulk Rainbow [Mayor 1720/1, 1726/7], Thomas Stokes.

Mr Rainbow elected (13-11), refused to serve and fined 3 guineas [Candidate for Mayor in 1737 and 1740, but defeated by Thomas Stokes and Edward Box].

Henry Clarson [sen.] voted to stand.

Mr Stokes elected (15-10), refused to serve [Mayor 1730/1, 1737/8] and fined 3 guineas.

James West voted to stand.

Mr Clarson elected over Mr West (19-6) [109b, 110].