The second paragraph of the preamble says. — whereas ordinance No 51 of revised ordinances of 1850 authorizes the mayor to offer a reward for the apprehension of any party guilty of any misdemeanor therein named and the Mayor up to this time has not exercised his authority be it &c &c

The ordinance referred to does not contain the language quoted and cannot mean what the preamble sets forth. It is explicit and admits of a single construction, It reads thus That the Mayor be and he is hereby directed to issue his proclamation offering a reward of such a ammount as he in his discretion may deem proper for the arrest and conviction in any of the courts of any person who may be charged with the crime of murder Manslaughter &c &c. The evident meaning of which is that a person must be designated as the guilty party either by some strong evidence or a strong suspicion and no person having been charged before me with having committed the crimes alluded to and no one even suspected so far as I can learn and I have made inquiry concerning it I did not conceive that I had any authority under the ordinance to issue a proclamation offering a reward for the arrest of a party or parties who committed the offence

I leave this matter in your hands hoping that you will divest it of its objectionable features

Respectfully
Samuel Hicks Mayor

on motion of Mr Ridgely the Branch adjourned

By order
Edwd Clayton clerk

Appropriations

To March 7 1856.	$4.133.53
Dr C H Jones	10.00
For Rep the Jail	500.00
For Rep the House of Ellen Dunn	500.00
Total	$5.143.53

Monday March 17th 1856

The Branch met pursuant to adjournment

Present J T McKilton Esqr Prest and all the members except Mess Ridgely Harris & Moore

Mr Mullen presented the petition of R Nillhan & others remonstrating against the closeing of the Green Grocers stores which was read and referred to the committee on markets.

Mr Boyd presented the petition of John Frank and others remonstrating against the closeing of the Green grocers stores which was read and referred to the committee on markets.

Mr Tidy presented the petition of John Roundtree and others remonstrating against the closeing of the Green Grocers stores which was read and referred to the committee on markets.

Mr Pennington presented the petition of Jas C Manning and others remonstrating against the closeing of the Green Grocers stores which was read and referred to the committee on markets.

Mr Simms presented the petition of John G Spies asking the return of taxes levied in error which was read and referred to the committee on claims

Mr Delaney presented the petition of Jas Hodge and others asking for the erection of a fire plug at the Corner