Friday February 4th 1831

The Branch met pursuant to adjournment, present Mr B Morris Esq President, and all the members.

Mr Thomas presented a petition from Edward I Alcock and others and Mr Cohen a petition from Edward Jenkins and others for Gas lamps, which were read and sent to the Second Branch with a message proposing to refer them to the Committee on lighting the City. The Second Branch concurred by message.

The President presented a memorial from Robert Oliver, praying the repayment of certain taxes paid by him in error; which was read and sent to the Second Branch, with a message proposing to refer it to the Committee on Claims. The Second Branch concurred by message.

A message was received from the Second Branch assenting to the appointment of a Committee of Conference on the bill to regulate Elections and appointing on their part Messrs Moore and Grafton.

The President being about to retire for the evening called Mr Carroll to the Chair.

The Second Branch returned the Bill entitled An Ordinance to lay and collect a direct tax for the repairs of Highways and Bridges &c, endorsed "Will pass".

Mr Cohen from the committee delivered the following report and resolution which was read a first time and laid on the table.

The Committee on Fire Companies by leave to report, that the annual Returns from the several Fire Companies referred to them, have been particularly examined, and they have much satisfaction in stating the general good condition of the apparatus belonging to the respective companies, and that their effective force has been encreased during the past year by additional pieces procured without the special aid of the Corporation. The Committee have also the gratification to notice amongst the returns, that of the Howard Fire Company an association formed during the last year, and which encreases the number of the companies to fifteen. These associations possess in the aggregate 29 Engines (10 of which are spouting, 17 are suction and forcing, and two combining both principles) 22 Hose carriages and 13926 feet of superior leather (copper rivetted) Hose, and 900 feet of sewed hose in good order, besides all the

necessary and auxiliary articles, which renders the apparatus very complete.

Considering the prosperity of these associations as intimately connected with the safety and welfare of the community, and that they continue in an eminent degree, to merit the protection and aid of the Corporation the Committee present, and recommend the passage of the accompanying resolution.

respectfully submitted.

Feby 4. 1831 J J Cohen Jr, Chas Diffenderffer, Fred Seyler.

Resolved by the Mayor and City Council of Baltimore that a sum not exceeding Four Thousand two hundred and seventy five dollars be and the same is hereby appropriated for keeping in repair, the apparatus belonging to the Mechanical, Union, Friendship, Deptford, Liberty, Independant, Vigilant, New Market, Columbian, First Baltimore Hose, United Hose, Franklin Hose, Washington Hose, Patapsco and Howard Fire Companies; and the Register be and he is hereby authorised and directed to pay in the month of next, to each of the said Companies a sum not exceeding Two hundred and Eighty five dollars, to be drawn for by their respective Presidents on their producing to the Mayor satisfactory vouchers for the expenditure thereof.

The Bill entitled An Ordinance to open Cypress alley was read a second time passed and sent to the Second Branch.

The following communication was received from the Mayor.

Balt Feby 4th 1831

Gentlemen of the First Branch of the City Council.

I have approved and signed the resolution relative to a bridge at Centre Fish Market Space.

Respectfully Yrs Jacob Small, Mayor.

The resolution relative to boring for water was read a second time Mr Meeter offered the following amendment which was concurred in viz. Strike out "Holiday street" and insert "Centre Market Space north of Pratt street". The resolution as amended was concurred in and returned to the Second Branch.

Mr E Stansbury offered the following resolution which was read a first and by special order the second time, concurred in and sent to the Second Branch. The Second Branch returned the same endorsed "Concurred in". Resolved by both Branches of the City Council that the Joint committee on streets be instructed to enquire into the expediency of repairing or grading that part of Britain street from the foot of Gallows hill to the top of the same; and that part of Exeter street from the foot of Gallows hill to the top of the same; and to examine the present water course at the foot of Gallows hill for the purpose of ascertaining whether it can be changed as it at present annoys some of the property very much in that neighbourhood.