The Committee to whom was referred the petition of Saml Swetzer &c and who was instructed to enquire into the expediency of applying to the Legislature of Maryland for a law authorizing the Mayor and City Council of Baltimore to charge and collect toll on the Long Bridge over the mouth of Gwynns Falls, have had the same under consideration and take leave to report. That after mature deliberation on the subject matter of an application to the Legislature for the purposes specified in the resolution instructing the committee to apply to the Legislature for a law &c is of opinion that it would be inexpedient to make such application. Your Committee offer the following reasons for its determination on the subject: That it would not only be unfair but exceedingly oppressive, to lay and collect toll on one bridge out of the limits of direct taxation, whilst others similarly situated should be exempt: That there are many articles, such as wood and vegetables, which are brought in, whilst manure and other substances are carried out of the City which if taxed by the imposition of a toll, would be unable to sustain it; and that it is evident the City derives great advantage from the articles brought in, as well as those carried out of the City. That if a law to collect toll on the bridge in question was obtained from the Legislature, in order to place all bridges out of the limits of direct taxation on an equal footing, it would be necessary to apply to the Legislature for an Act, empowering the Mayor and City Council to lay and collect toll on all bridges within the limits of the City, but out of direct taxation. This could not be done with any degree of propriety, unless the principle was more extended and included all bridges within the limits of the City. Your Committee see no reason why bridges out of the limits of direct taxation should be subject to toll and those within the limits of ~~the City~~ direct taxation exempt from an equal burthen. It will then be perceived that in order to do justice to all of the Citizens, it would be necessary to apply for a general law to lay and collect toll on all bridges within the limits of the City.

This in the opinion of Your Committee would not only be inexpedient and almost impracticable, but in many instances the amount of toll which would be collected by imposing a fair toll on each Bridge would be inadequate to defray the expenses of keeping the bridge in repair or to discharge the salary of a toll gatherer.

With respect to the claim of Samuel Swetzer &c Your Committee believe that it ought to be referred to the proper Committee on the subject. inasmuch as from the view of the subject of the

application to the Legislature &c taken by your committee, it is disconnected with the object of the application. The following resolutions are therefore respectfully submitted.

Geo W Williamson, Isaac Munroe, Mrs H Hanson. Com

Resolved by both branches of the City Council that the petition of Samuel Swetzer &c be and the same is hereby referred to the Committee on Claims.

Resolved by both Branches of the City Council that the committee on the petition of Samuel Swetzer &c who were instructed to enquire into the expediency of applying to the Legislature for a law &c be and the same is hereby discharged from the further consideration of the subject committed to it.

Mr Thomas presented a petition from James Parker and others relative to the widening of Bridge street; which was read and referred to Messrs Thomas, Baer and Dushane.

Mr Dushane asked and obtained leave to bring in a Bill to alter the Ordinance respecting Swine running at large within the limits of direct taxation; Messrs Dushane, Mellholland and Diffenderffer were appointed to bring in the same.

The Bill entitled An ordinance for the erection of Gas lamps was read a second time, passed and sent to the Second Branch.

On motion by Mr Carroll a message was sent to the Second Branch proposing the appointment of a Joint Committee on the Mayors communication relative to the City Hall, and appointing Messrs Thomas, Henby and Dawkins; the Second Branch appointed Messrs Moore and Keany and informed this Branch by message.

Mr Ridgely from the Committee delivered the following report and 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 the Mayor and City Council of Balt that Nah Ridgely Esq a member of the First Branch be deputed to convey the Port Wardens book of record to Annapolis for the use of John Scott Esq as early as practicable and that he returns it to the Register.

The following communication was recd from the Mayor.

Seat of the First Branch, Feb 8. 1831

I have approved and signed An ordinance to open Cypress alley.

Respectfully Jacob Small, Mayor