Mr. Seidenstricker moved the following amendment, which was adopted. In section 4th 5th line after the word "received" insert for the use of the State and the fees for opening licenses."

Mr. Barnard moved to fill the Blank in the 4th Section with "$1000." Mr. G. Myers moved "$1500." the last motion prevailed. Mr. Watkins moved to fill the blank in the 5th Section with "$1000." determined in the affirmative. Mr. Barnard moved to fill the Blank in the 6th Section with "Two Dollars" which was concurred in. The Bill as amended was then passed, and sent to the Second Branch.

The following communication from the Mayor, was received and read, and the Act of Assembly therein referred to, ordered to be printed in Bill form.

Mayors Office April 17th 1839.

Gentlemen of the City Council –

I have written for and procured a certified Copy of "An Act to vest certain powers in the Corporation of the City of Baltimore in relation to Streets", which Copy I send.

Yours Respectfully
T. C. Leakin Mayor.

Mr. Brown from the Committee, submitted the following report and resolution, which were read a first time.

The Joint Committee on Claims, to whom was referred the petition of James W. Colliday and others, and the Communication of the Counsellor of the City in relation to the expenses incurred under the Ordinances and Laws authorizing the opening and widening of Rum Alley, have had the same under consideration and beg leave to report the following facts.

On the 12th of March, 1835. the Legislature of Maryland passed An Act authorizing the Mayor and City Council of Baltimore to provide for increasing the width of Rum Alley, and for straightening the said Alley from Fayette Street southerly to Park Lane, and for continuing the said Alley thus widened to Baltimore Street, and to change the grade of the same and the adjoining St., and to provide for the compensation of the owners of the property, to be taken for such purposes, and to ascertain the damages, subject to appeal, as is usual in such cases: the said Act to be of no force or effect, unless it be approved by the Mayor and City Council of Baltimore, at its then, next Annual Session.

(On)

On the 12th of February 1836. the Legislature passed an Act directing that the Mayor and City Council of Baltimore shall provide for ascertaining the amount of damages to be sustained by the opening and widening of said Alley.

On the 19th of April 1836, the Mayor and City Council by Ordinance appointed Commissioners and provided for the opening of said Alley in the usual way, and to change the name to that of Benton Street.

On the 27th of January 1837. the Mayor and City Council, by Ordinance, provided that the owners of property condemned, may, instead of removing the same, claim to be compensated for the whole of the property condemned, which was afterwards to be sold at public auction by the Commissioners.

The Petitioners whose names are annexed to the petition before your Committee, were duly appointed Commissioners by the Ordinance to open said Alley, and entered upon the discharge of their duties, & on the 3d day of July 1837. made due return according to Law. The amount of damages ascertained was $21.988, to defray which assessments were levied upon 347 lots to that amount, in sums varying from two dollars to Seven hundred dollars. The Commissioners also, according to the provisions of the Law, proceeded to make sale of certain parts of the lots and improvements, as were not required for the widening, straightening, and extending of said Alley, amounting to the aggregate sum of $1659. and received bonds for the payment of the purchase money.

On the 2d August 1837. upon the application of Joshua Medtart, and others, composing a large number of the inhabitants and property holders, intended to be affected by the opening of Rum Alley, the Mayor and City Council, passed an Ordinance providing that if the said Petitioners should pay into the City Treasury the sum of $1525.92. the amount of the costs and charges aforesaid, before the second Monday in January 1838. and if all those persons, whose property was proposed to be taken for the opening of said Alley, and the purchasers of the property sold, file their assent in writing to the provisions of the Ordinance, on or before the second Monday in January 1838. in the Office of the Register, then the original Ordinance for opening said Alley shall be forever repealled.

Before any said second Monday in January 1838. and before the payment of the said sum of $1525.92. and before the assent of the property holders had been filed, the Legislature of Maryland on the 3d day

(of)