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Friday, February 28th 1840.

The Branch met pursuant to adjournment — present Samuel Brady, Esq. President and all the members except Messrs. Hoofle and Walsh.

The following Communication from the Mayor was received and read.

Mayor's Office
February 28th 1840.

To the Members of the First Branch of the City Council.

Gentlemen:

I have approved and signed a bill entitled "a Supplement to an Ordinance to appoint City Commissioners, &c." and "an Ordinance relative to the inspection of white & red oak staves and heading in the City of Baltimore" each of which originated in your Branch.

Yours Respectfully
S. C. Leakin, Mayor.

The Second Branch returned the bill making appropriations for the year 1840 endorsed "Will pass with the proposed amendments" which amendment was read and concurred in.

Mr. Joseph Brown from the Committee submitted the following report and resolution, which were read a first & by special order the second time, concurred in and sent to the Second Branch.

The joint Committee on Ways and Means to whom was referred the Memorial of the Baltimore and other Insurance Companies of Baltimore, relative to their having been assessed by the Assessors for the amount of their respective Capitals, and praying the passage of an Ordinance releasing them from the payment of said tax, report, that having had the subject under consideration, and a difference of opinion existing as to the power of the City Council to impose a tax on the aforesaid Corporations in their Corporate capacities, the Committee believing the question involved one of importance both to this Corporation and the Corporations petitioning, respectfully recommend the adoption of the following resolution, requiring the written opinion of the City Counsellor on the question at issue.

Joseph Brown

Joseph Brown, } Committee of the
Charles M. Keyser, } First Branch.

Samuel Jones Jr. }
Samuel Harden, } Committee of the
W. J. Wright, } Second Branch.

Resolved, That the memorial of the several Insurance Companies be referred to the City Counsellor, who is hereby requested to present to this Council at as early a day as practicable his written opinion whether or not it is competent in the Councils to impose a tax on the Capitals of the aforesaid Insurance Companies and other Corporations in their Corporate Capacities.

The bill entitled "An Ordinance to prevent the keeping or confining Cows within the bounds of direct taxation" was read the second time. Mr. Powel moved to insert after the words "than" in the 4th line, 2d section, the word "twenty" — Mr. Yeates moved an indefinite postponement of the subject, which was concurred in by the following vote:

Yeas — Messrs. President, Lindeman, Monmonier, Handsbury, Prindell, Powel, Jackson, Hanson, Yeates, Meyer, Dallam, Donovan, Lucas, Ryder, Snyder, Bender, Brung, Keyser — 18.

Nays — Messrs. Pinkney, J. T. Brown, Watkins, Joseph Brown — 4.

A resolution requesting the Mayor to pay over to the Register the sum of $425, being the balance remaining of the appropriation of $1000 for killing dogs &c. was received from the Second Branch, read a first and by special order the second time, concurred in and sent to the Second Branch.

Mr. Keyser from the Committee, submitted the following, which was read a first and by special order the second time, concurred in and sent to the Second Branch.

The joint Committee on Fire Companies to whom was referred the petition of William Leffterman, praying permission to remove a frame house standing on his lot on Front Street to the rear of said lot, and binding on Jones' Falls, report, that having examined the premises, it is the opinion of the Committee, that the prayer of the Petitioner is reasonable and ought to be granted, and therefore recommend the adoption of the following resolution.

Charles M. Keyser, } Committee of the
Godfrey Meyer, } First Branch.
A. Prindell, }

Wm. Beaver