Mr Beck submitted the following report and resolution,
The Joint Committee on Fire Companies to whom was referred the petition of Messrs Burns & Shan, have had the same under consideration, and beg leave to report the following resolution,

Joseph Beck — Hugh Bolton
Joshua T. Turner — Daniel Bender
Wm A Fisher — Geo M Gill
Committee of the First Branch. — Committee of the Second Branch

Resolved by the Mayor and City Council of Baltimore, That Burns & Shan are hereby authorised to erect on the lot at the North east corner of Paca street and Cider Alley, a brick stable, with the gable end of wood - provided they first file in the office of the City Commissioners, a copy of their petition, together with the assent of the property holders next adjoining said lot, whereon they intend erecting said stable, and provided also, that the said stable shall be removed whenever so ordered by the Mayor.
Read a first and by special order the second time, and adopted
Mr Blackburn offered the following resolution,
Resolved, That the City Commissioners inform this Branch what is the condition of the fence around Franklin square and Eastern Fountain, whether the same needs repair, and if so, what sum in their judgement will be necessary to repair the same,
Which was laid on the table,
The following communications were received from the Mayor and read,

Mayors Office
Baltimore March 15, 1844

To the First and Second Branches
of the City Council,
Gentlemen

I beg leave respectfully to call your attention to a subject which if not early attended to, may involve the Corporation in very considerable difficulty and loss. I allude to the sales of property made by the City Collector, under the provision of ordinance 1842 No 13 page 35. Under the power given by that ordinance, the collector proceeded and did sell certain lots for arrearages of taxes in June and October, 1842. At that time there was no provision in the ordinances authorizing the employment of a surveyor

to define the lots, and the collector proceeding to sell the lots as they were described upon the assessment books in his office, I am apprehensive that some lots may have been sold which actually have no existence, and others again, the taxes on which have been paid by the proper owners. This latter error has arisen from the circumstance, that the property has been more than once assessed, having been assessed in the name of the proper owner, and then to owners unknown. The ordinance alluded to gives the owner of lots thus sold, the privilege of redeeming them within two years from the date of the sale, upon certain conditions, if they fail to redeem them then the collector is required to give a deed to the purchaser. The period when the privilege of redemption will expire will be for the sales made in June 1842, in June next. It must therefore be apparent that unless the Councils take some action in reference to this subject, by authorizing the Register to redeem the property thus erroneously sold, and placing the corporation in the situation of owners of these lots, we shall be subjected to much difficulty and trouble and involved in suits of law with those who have made purchases of them. You will find that the collector alludes to this subject in his annual report on page 55 of the appendix.

I have honor to be
Very respectfully
Your obedient servant,
Jas. O. Law Mayor,

Mayors Office
Baltimore March 15th

To the First and Second Branches
of the City Council
Gentlemen

On the 6th March I addressed a communication to the Register in reference to certain important documents on file in his office, some of them of great importance to the city, and suggesting the propriety of having them recorded and preserved in a more durable form, I now enclose his reply, in which he coincides in opinion with me. The subject is of much importance and I hope the councils will give it their consideration,

I have the honor to be
Very respectfully
Your obt Servant,
James O. Law, Mayor