"by all conservative and order loving citizens, has been kept up for two years past, by the partizan press, against the organized government of the City. Its authorities have been misrepresented and traduced; its police brought into contempt, and its efforts to reform abuses, made the favorite theme of ridicule and reproach. The executive arm has found itself paralized at times when the moral support of the entire community was necessary to give it vigor. The good name of our city has felt the blighting influence of this unnatural condition of the public mind. The smallest outbreak has been magnified into startling enormities, shaking the very foundations of our social system. The stranger has been led to fear the terrible penalty of a passage through our streets, or a sojourn at our hotels even for a night; letters have appeared in distant journals, portraying a condition of society from which the stoutest heart might well shrink with alarm"

And Whereas, there exists some doubts as to the constitutional power of the city government to establish such tribunals as are necessary for the correction of these evils. Therefore be it

Resolved, That a message be sent to the First Branch proposing the appointment of a joint special committee, to whom shall be referred that part of the Mayor's message, which has special reference to this subject, and who shall inquire into the premises and report the causes of these evils, and the best and most practical remedy for them.

Mr Sewell moved that the preamble and resolution, and the substitute be laid on the table, which was determined in the affirmative

On motion of Mr Musselman the Branch adjourned until next Monday afternoon at 5 O. Clock

By order

Isaac Coriell Clerk

Monday November 29. 1858

The Branch met pursuant to adjournment.

Present- Mr. McPhail Esq. President, and all the members.

Mr McComas called up the resolution relative to providing for the construction of a Police and Fire alarm Telegraph, which was read.

Mr Ellicott proposed the following amendment:

Provided the said proposition embraces a distance of sixty miles, and two alarm bells suitable for the striking machines proposed to be erected.

Which was adopted by the following vote, the yeas and nays being required by Mr Sewell.

Yeas- Messrs President, Vannostrand, Colton, Taylor, Ellicott and Musselman — 6.

Nays, Mess. Cathcart, Cook, McComas and Sewell — 4.

Mr Sewell moved to lay the resolution, as amended, on the table, which was determined in the affirmative.

Mr Colton submitted the following resolution, which was read and referred to the joint standing Committee on Highways

Resolved by the Second Branch of the City Council, that the City commissioner be and he is hereby directed to place a gas lamp on East Pratt street, near Bethel street, in front of Thomas Wilder Lodge of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows.

Mr McPhail submitted the following resolution, (Mr Cook in the chair) which was read and referred to the joint standing committee on Fire Companies

Resolved by the Mayor and City Council, That the sum of Twelve Hundred and Fifty Dollars is hereby appropriated for the use of the First Baltimore Engine and Hose Company, to enable them to keep in active service their steam fire engine; and a like sum be appropriated for the use of the Washington fire Company, Mechanical fire Company, and Vigilant fire Company, each, for the aforesaid purposes; the same to be provided for out of the levy for 1859.

Mr Colton called up the ordinance, entitled "an ordinance supplementary to an ordinance" entitled "an ordinance relating to public Schools," approved June 5. 1858, which was read a second time.

Mr Colton moved to refer the ordinance to the joint standing committee on Education, which was determined in the affirmative.

A report from the joint standing Committee on Highways, on the petion of Francis H. Grupy, with a resolution permitting him to erect a foot bridge across Hollingsworth Street, in the rear of his ware-house, was received from the First Branch and read

On motion of Mr Colton the resolution was read a second time by special unanimous consent.