number of watchmen engaged in their respective districts, what duties are performed in addition to their regular duties as watchmen, and whether any are employed for the purpose of attending only to perform services in the watch house. I take pleasure to inform your honorable body that in the Western district we have thirty two regular watchmen – thirty one to attend to the duties in their respective wards and one to attend to the duties of the watch house which are numerous and trustworthy. In the first place his duty is to open the watch house in the evening, about five oclock, sweep it out split enough wood to burn in three large stoves one in the office and two in the prisoners rooms, trim six lamps, one of which is a large camphine lamp, bring a sufficiency of water to last through the night, and take charge of the prisoners, if any until the officers come then he generally goes to his supper, and gets back in time for roll call; after that he attends to putting the prisoners back, keeping their fires up giving them water through the night ringing the alarm bell in case of fire, (which is done by going into the street and entering a hall or passage door, and ascending three flights of steps gaining the roof of the house and then the bell) and in consequence of a ward becoming vacant during the night by sickness or disability of an outside watchman, his duty is to fill such ward and do the duties thereof until morning; then return to the watch house in time for roll call; give out the oil and lamp wick to the watchmen, clear the watch house and close it, and if any prisoners are left for the alms house, it is his duty to deliver them to the alms house wagon when it calls for them through the day. The reason why I enter into such a general detail of this mans duties, is that I consider them equivalent to any other watchmans duties, – and which office in my humble opinion, could not be dispensed with

With respect I have the honor to remain yours &c

Joseph Carson, Captain of Western District

The President this day presented to the Mayor for his approval, a resolution in favor of the Columbian Rifle Company.

The following communication was received from the city commissioners and read,

Office of the City Commissioners
Baltimore February 12th 1849

To the President and members of the
Second Branch of the City Council
Gentlemen

In answer to the resolution adopted by your branch on the 5th instant, the city commissioners would respectfully state that their attention was directed,

during the past year, to the condition of the footway on Eden street at the Eastern Fountain, – but in the absence of any appropriation the board did not conceive themselves authorised to incur the expense consequent upon the paving of said footway.

The probable cost of paving said footway, would be $324.50

Respectfully submitted
A R Blakeney
Talbot Gosnell
I Wesley Watkins
City Commissioners

The following communication was received from the Mayor by the hands of V H Kalkman Esq Secretary to the mayoralty and read;

Mayors Office
Baltimore February 12th 1849

To the President and members of the
Second Branch of the City Council
Gentlemen.

I have approved and signed "a resolution providing for the erection of a fire plug in front of the Deptford Engine House on Gough street." – which originated in your branch

Respectfully
Elijah Stansbury, Mayor.

The following report and resolution were received from the joint committee on police read a first and by special order a second time and adopted;

The joint committee on police, to whom was referred the communication of J Mardin, on the propriety of passing an ordinance to regulate the sale of milk, by prohibiting the use of wine measures as now used for that purpose, substituting one of larger size, presume and are of opinion, that the price of milk was established according to the size of the measure, and if it be altered to one of larger size, the vender would accordingly increase the price in proportion to the enlargement of the measure, which would result to no advantage to the buyer or vendor. – they would beg leave to submit the following resolution.

Frederick Pinkney	A E Warner
A J Dushane	John T Farlow
R C Wells	Joseph J Stewart
First Branch	Second Branch

Resolved, that the committee be discharged from the further consideration of the subject.