Friday April 7, 1854

The Branch met pursuant to adjournment.
Present - John B. Wilkenson Esq. President, all the members except Mr Sutton.
The President laid before the Branch a communication from the City Commissioner in answer to a resolution of the Council relative to the claims of Barzillai Merritt and Timothy Dempsey against the City, which was read & laid on the table.
On motion of Mr Parlett a message was sent to the First Branch informing that when the Council adjourn this evening, it stand adjourned till Monday afternoon at 5 o'clk.
The First Branch by message concurred.
The following message was received from the Mayor, read & laid on the table;

Mayor's Office, Baltimore April 7, 1854

To the Honorable the First & Second Branches of the City Council, Gentlemen; An Ordinance in execution & fulfilment of the provisions of the bill entitled "An Act for certain relief of the City of Baltimore" is herewith returned to the Branch in which it originated, without my approval, for the reasons that the manner of appointing the officers and commissioners is in conflict with the Charter of the City, depriving the Chief Magistrate of a most important prerogative, and virtually conferring on the First Branch of the Council a power that should not be, and was never intended to be entrusted to any one Branch of the City Government. Although such power is not expressly granted by the ordinance, yet as that Branch will have in the Convention provided for twenty votes of the thirty one composing it, the entire control will in effect be possessed by them, and held so long as they may be disposed to exercise it, as it will require their concurrent action with the other Branch to annul the objectionable ordinance, and inaugurate the legitimate and correct mode of election.
I feel it my duty therefore to refuse my sanction to an ordinance so entirely at variance, in my opinion, with the policy & spirit of our government.

Jas. Wilkins, Mayor.

On motion of Mr Stewart, the ordinance referred was considered & laid on the table.
Mr Griffith presented a petition from Peter Ball & others, in behalf of the Wells & Co. Refiners, which was referred to the joint Committee on Ways & Means.
Mr Hill, Chairman of the joint Committee on Health, reported the following resolution, which was read & laid on the table;
Resolved, that Michael Schantz have permission to erect his slaughter house on his lot on Hampstead hill, providing the health of the surrounding neighborhood be not affected by the stench that may arise therefrom by the erection of said slaughter house, and if said stench should affect the health, then the said Michael Schantz shall not use the same for slaughtering.
The First Branch returned the resolution to authorize the appointment of a clerk to the Board of Commissioners of Finance, and the resolution of inquiry to A. Miltenberger Esq. respectively endorsed "concurred in".
The First Branch returned the bill entitled "A Supplement to an ordinance entitled An ordinance for the erection of the Richmond Market, 1853" endorsed "will not pass".

Mr Parlett, from the joint Committee on Highways, reported the following resolution on the subject of the petition of John McDonnell & others, which was read a first & second time & adopted;
Resolved that the Committee be discharged from the further consideration of the subject.
A resolution in relation to the erection of certain fire plugs, and a resolution in favor of the Asylum of Refuge, were received from the First Branch, respectively read a first & second time & concurred in.
A resolution of instruction to the Clerk of the Belair Market, was received from the First Branch, read a first & second time.
Mr Richardson moved to strike out the word "and" in 5th line, & insert the word "and Mrs Bertha Hauer" after the name of "F. Wagthman", in 5th line (Mss) which was determined in the affirmative.
The resolution was concurred in with the proposed amendment.
A resolution on the petition of Alfred Small was received from the First Branch read & laid on the table.
Mr Parlett presented a petition from A. S. Abell & others, praying compensation for sundry services, which was read & referred to the joint Committee on Claims.
Mr Webster, Chairman of the joint Committee on Claims, reported the following resolution which was read & laid on the table;
Resolved by the City Council of Baltimore, that the Register be and he is hereby authorized & pay to the Hon. John Nelson the sum of three hundred & fifty dollars for professional services rendered the City.
Mr Webster, Chairman of the joint Committee on Claims, reported the following resolution, which was read a first & second time & adopted;
Resolved by the City Council of Baltimore, that the petition & claim of Charles F. Mayer for return of taxes paid in error, be and the same is hereby referred to the Auditor of the City, with instructions to examine and adjust the same.
On motion of Mr Griffith the Branch adjourned till Monday afternoon next at 5 o'clk.

By Order
Jas Griffith
Clk