

tax roll, by the same officers; and that the petitioner is, or will be injured by such alleged illegality, inequality or erroneous assessment or classification. The petition of the Mayor and City Council of Baltimore shall set forth wherein the decision of said Court is erroneous and such other facts as may be necessary to inform the Baltimore City Court of the claim of the city. A summons shall issue for the respondent or respondents named in the petition of the city returnable on such a day as the Baltimore City Court may appoint for a hearing of the matter averred in such petition. All such appeals shall be taken within thirty days after an assessment, or classification, has been made as aforesaid, or within thirty days after the refusal to reduce or abate, modify, alter or change an existing assessment, or classification, or within thirty days after the action of said Court complained of by the city. On such appeals the Baltimore City Court shall appoint a day for hearing said appeals, which shall not be less than five nor more than thirty days after the expiration of the thirty days' limit for taking appeals as aforesaid; and shall direct the clerk of the said Baltimore City Court to issue a subpoena *duces tecum* to the judges of said Appeal Tax Court, requiring them to produce and deliver to said Baltimore City Court the record of the proceedings of the said Appeal Tax Court, and all maps, plats, documents and other papers connected with the said record; the said Baltimore City Court shall have full power to hear and fully examine the subject and decide on said appeals, and for that purpose it is hereby authorized and empowered to adjourn from time to time, and may cause all or any of such appeals to be consolidated, or may hear and decide them separately, and may require the said judges of the Appeal Tax Court, their clerks, surveyors or other agents and servants, or any of them, and all such other persons as the Baltimore City Court may deem necessary to attend, and examine them on oath or affirmation; and may permit and require all such explanation, amendments and additions to be made to and of the proceedings as the Court shall deem requisite. The person or the city appealing to the said Baltimore City Court shall have a trial before the Court without the intervention of a jury, and the Court, sitting without a jury, shall hear the case *de novo*, and shall ascertain and decide on the proper assessment, or classification, of the property for the year involved in the appeal; and neither the action, nor the record of the proceedings, of the judges of the Appeal Tax Court in the premises shall be held to be, or declared void for any reason whatsoever; provided due notice of the proceedings shall have been given to the parties entitled by said judges of the said Appeal Tax Court; and the said Baltimore City Court shall assess anew, or classify anew, as the case may be, the property forming the subject of the appeal; provided, however, that in the absence of any affirmative evidence to the contrary, the assessment or classification appealed from shall be affirmed. The said City Court shall cause the proceedings and decisions on said appeals to be entered in the book containing the record of proceedings of the said Baltimore City Court, certified by the clerk under the seal of the Baltimore City Court, and the book to be transmitted to the judges of the said Appeal Tax Court, which shall be final and conclusive in every re-