

1912, ch. 695, sec. 234.

646. All damages done, suffered or incurred by opening, closing, straightening or widening said streets, alleys or lanes, and any benefits or advantages accruing to any person by such opening shall be assessed and determined by three disinterested persons, resident of said town, to be appointed by the Mayor and City Council who shall within twenty days after their notification on their appointment, take an oath before a Justice of the Peace within the town, that they will faithfully, fairly and without partiality or prejudice value and assess the loss and damage to be suffered and incurred by and the benefits to accrue to any person interested in the property over which the streets, alleys or lanes are to be opened, closed, straightened or widened, and they shall give at least two days' notice, by notice posted in three public places in said town, and by notice inserted in some newspaper published in said town, if there be such a paper published, of the time and place of meeting for the purpose of executing their commission; and they shall, within ten days after such valuation or assessment, return the same in writing under their hands and seals, with a certificate of their qualifications before a Justice of the Peace, as hereinbefore provided, to the Mayor and City Council of the town, which said valuation and assessment shall be ratified or rejected by them as in their judgment may seem proper; and if any person shall feel aggrieved by the determination of the Mayor and City Council in ratifying or rejecting said award or returns, or in the amount of compensation awarded, or in any matter relating to the same, he may appeal within sixty days after said ratification or rejection to the Circuit Court for Prince George's County; and either party may be entitled to a trial by jury and the judgment of said Court shall be final among the parties; provided that the person taking the appeal shall within twenty days thereafter cease to be delivered to the Clerk of the Circuit Court the award filed with said Mayor and City Council, together with a copy of the order of said Mayor and City Council, ratifying or rejecting the same, and all other papers relating thereto; but this section shall not be taken or construed to deprive or deny the right of the Mayor and City Council of Laurel to accept any streets or alleys which may be opened or dedicated by the owner of the ground in said streets or alleys for the use of the public, but the same shall be deemed streets and alleys, whether heretofore or hereafter opened for public use, without proceeding in the manner herein indicated. No street or alley given or dedicated shall be considered to be under the control, or to be kept in repair by the Mayor and City Council at its expense, unless heretofore or hereafter accepted by it. The said Mayor and City Council may enact all ordinances, from time to time, not contrary to law, necessary and proper to the exercise of the powers granted in this section; provided, that before opening or condemning any street or alley, at least twenty days' notice shall be given by it of any application which may be made for the passage of any such ordinance, by notices posted in at least three public places, or by notice published in some newspaper in said town.