

tice of the peace of Somerset County that they will faithfully and fairly, and without partiality or prejudice value and assess the loss and damage to be suffered and incurred by any person or persons interested in said property over, through or by which the said street or alley, square, drain or watercourse is to be opened, closed, extended, widened, graded or improved, and also to estimate the benefits that may accrue therefrom to any such property over, through and by which the said street or alley, drain or watercourse is to be opened, closed, extended, widened, graded or improved, or any property adjacent thereto, or any other property injured or benefited by said street, alley, drain, square or watercourse; they shall give at least ten days' notice, in one or more newspapers published in said city of their purposes to lay out, open, extend, close up, widen, straighten, grade or improve the street or alley, square, drain or watercourse so directed to be laid out, opened, extended, closed up, widened, straightened, graded or improved, and of the day, hour and place of meeting for the said purpose; and they shall meet at the time and place mentioned in said notice given by them, and proceed to exercise the power and perform the duties assigned to and required of them, and to ascertain whether any and what amount in value of damages will be caused thereby, for which the owner or occupant of any right or interest in any ground or improvement ought to be compensated over and above the amount in value of benefit which will thereby accrue to such owner or occupant thereof, and ascertain what amount in value of benefit will thereby accrue to any lot or parcel of land by or through which the same may pass or improvements be made, or any other property, or to the owner or occupant thereof, which the said lot or parcel of land, or the owner or occupant thereof ought to pay. They shall locate boundaries and prepare an explanatory map giving descriptions of the street or alley opened, closed, extended, widened, straightened or improved, with each separate lot or parcel of land deemed to have sustained damages or received benefits, and they shall within twenty days return to the Mayor and Council such maps, together with the amount of damages awarded to such owner or occupants and the amounts of benefits assessed to any lot or parcel of ground, or the owner thereof, together with a certificate of their qualifications, which may be ratified, or rejected, or altered and amended, in whole or in part by said Mayor and Council; provided that the Mayor and Council shall give ten days' notice, at least, by publication in one of the newspapers published in said city, or by ten days' notice, at least, in writing to each property owner so interested, of the time set for final action on return of said examiner; and said Mayor and Council shall act on said return within twenty