

alleys, and for abandoning, altering, straightening, widening, grading, improving or closing up in whole or in part any existing street or alley, and for removing trees, posts and other obstructions, and for laying out public squares, drains, sewers and watercourses; and all benefits conferred or damages done, suffered or incurred by laying out, opening and making of new streets or alleys, or by altering, straightening, widening, grading, improving or closing up in whole or in part any existing street or alley, and for removing trees, posts and other obstructions, and for laying out public squares, drains, sewers and watercourses; and all benefits or damages done, suffered or incurred by laying out, opening and making of new streets or alleys, or by altering, straightening, widening, grading, improving or closing up in part any existing street or alley or laying out public squares, drains and watercourses shall be determined and assessed by three disinterested persons, or a majority of them, residents of said city, approved by the Mayor and approved by the Council, who shall within ten days after notification of their appointment, take an oath before a justice 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 purpose 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 to 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