

STREETS.

837. The mayor and city council of Baltimore shall have full power to provide for laying out, opening, extending, widening, straightening or closing up in whole or in part, any street, square, lane or alley, within the bounds of said city, which in their opinion the public welfare or convenience may require; to provide for ascertaining whether any, and what amount in value, of damage will be caused thereby, and what amount of benefit will thereby accrue to the owner or possessor of any ground or improvements within or adjacent to said city for which such owner or possessor ought to be compensated, or ought to pay a compensation, and to provide for assessing and levying, either generally on the whole assessable property of said city, or specially on the property of persons benefited, the whole or any part of the amount of damages and expenses which they shall ascertain will be incurred in locating, opening, extending, widening, straightening or closing up the whole or any part of any street, square, lane or alley, in said city; to provide for granting appeals to the Criminal Court of Baltimore or the Superior Court of Baltimore city from the decisions of any commissioners, or other persons appointed in virtue of any ordinance, to ascertain the damage which will be caused or the benefit which will accrue to the owners or possessors of ground or improvements by locating, opening, extending, widening, straightening or closing up, in whole or in part, any street, square, lane, or alley within said city, and for securing to every such owner and possessor the right, on application within a reasonable time, to have decided by a jury trial whether any damage has been caused, or any benefit has accrued to them, and to what amount; to provide for collecting and paying over the amount of compensation adjudged to each person entitled, or investing it in stock of the said corporation, bearing an interest of five per centum per annum, for the use of any such persons who, because of their infancy, absence from the city, or any other cause, may be prevented from receiving it, before any street, square, lane or alley, in whole or in part, shall be so opened, extended, widened, straightened or closed up, and to enact and pass all ordinances from time to time which shall be deemed necessary and proper to exercise the powers and effect the objects above specified.

838. Before the mayor and city council shall pass any ordinance under the preceding section, at least sixty days' notice