

ways, avenues, streets, lanes, alleys and parks; provided, however, that no franchise of the city shall be granted to any corporation or individual, unless notice of the same shall have been first published for at least two weeks in two newspapers of the City of Cumberland; and no franchise, right or privilege in relation to any highways, avenues, streets, alleys, lanes or parks, either on, above or below the surface of the same, shall be granted by the Mayor and City Council to any person or corporation for a longer period than twenty-five years.

67. The said Mayor and City Council are authorized to acquire by purchase from the owner or owners any land, real or leasehold estate, improved or unimproved, right of way, easement, water right or water course which they may conceive expedient or necessary to purchase and hold for the purpose of building sewers or drains or for the purpose of constructing and operating a general sewerage and drainage system for said city or for the purpose of carrying out or exercising any of the powers and privileges granted said Mayor and City Council by law, and if the said Mayor and City Council cannot agree with said owner or owners, or if said owner or owners, or any of them be absent from the State or unknown or without legal capacity to contract, by reason of infancy, coverture, insanity or otherwise, it shall be lawful for the said Mayor and City Council to secure by condemnation any such land, real or leasehold estate, improved or unimproved, right of way, easement, water right or water course which they may deem necessary for the purpose of building or operating any sewer or sewers, or drain or drains, or for a general sewerage or drainage system, or for any of the public purposes for which said Mayor and City Council are granted powers by law, in the same manner and by the same proceedings as are now provided for in condemnation by corporations under Article 23, Sections 399, etc., of the Code of Public General Laws of the State of Maryland.

68. The Mayor and City Council of Cumberland shall have the right to enlarge, improve, alter and re-construct the water works and system of the City of Cumberland, with power, from time to time, to contract for, purchase, lease and hold in fee simple or for a term of years any land, real estate, spring, brook, water and water course, and also the right to use and occupy forever or for a term of years any land, real estate, spring, brook, or water course which they may deem expedient and necessary for the purpose of conveying water into said