

shall constitute a Commission to examine and report on the proposed improvement; and if the said Commission or a majority of them shall certify to the Mayor and City Council that any land, building, material or other property of any kind or description belonging to any person or corporation, or the removal thereof shall be necessary or convenient for the construction of the proposed improvement, the Mayor and City Council may acquire such property, attempting to agree with the owner or owners thereof as to the terms of the purchase, use, occupation or removal of the same, and if they cannot agree with the owner or owners, or if there be some legal disability to contract their agreeing, then the Mayor and City Council may acquire the same by condemnation proceedings, which, if not otherwise provided for, shall be conducted in the manner following, that is to say: A petition shall be filed in the Circuit Court for Harford County in the name of the Mayor and City Council of Havre de Grace setting forth a description of the property proposed to be acquired, together with a statement of the purpose for which the same is desired, and that the board, commission, agents, agent, persons or person authorized to acquire the same are unable to agree with the owner or owners thereof, or that one or more of said owners are under age, non compos mentis, the unknown heirs of some deceased person or persons, non-residents of Harford County, under some legal disability to contract, or are unknown, whichever may be the fact or facts that cause the condemnation proceedings, and said petition shall contain the prayer that the court will have the said property condemned, the court shall thereupon pass an order requiring a summons issued for the owner or owners, or supposed owner or owners of the property, and the husbands and wives respectively of those who may be named, to be served by the Sheriff and to be returned by some day to be named in said order, not less than ten nor more than twenty days from the day of the filing of said petition; and if the owner or owners, or any of them, be not summoned before the return day of the said summons, the same may be renewed from time to time as often as the court, in its discretion, may think proper, or, if the said owner or owners, or any of them, are non-residents of Harford County or are unknown or cannot be found upon reasonable inquiry, the Court shall order the Sheriff to set up a copy of the summons upon the property, and shall order a notice to said non-resident or non-residents, or unknown owner or owners, or unknown heirs of such deceased person or persons, or the owner or owners who cannot be found and served with summons, to be published once a week for four successive weeks in one or more newspapers