

Chapter 325.

AN ACT to incorporate the village of La Plata,
in Charles county.

Incorporated. SECTION 1. *Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Maryland,* That the citizens of the town of La Plata, in Charles county, be and they are hereby created a body corporate by the name of the "Commissioners of La Plata," with all the powers and privileges of a body politic and corporate, and by said corporate name may have perpetual succession, sue and be sued, plead and be impleaded in any court of law or equity in said county, and may have and use a common seal.

Limits. SEC. 2. The corporate limits of the town shall be as follows: Beginning at a tree at Mathews' gate and running south five hundred yards, thence northeast to a locust tree on farm of John Chapman's land, thence northwest eight hundred yards to a white oak tree at Farrall's mill; then across in a straight line to the commencing point.

Elections. SEC. 3. *And be it enacted,* That the citizens of said town, having resided therein six months, and in the state twelve months previous to any election, shall, on the first day of May next, or as soon thereafter as conveniently may be, and annually thereafter, on the same day of the week, elect five commissioners of La Plata to serve for one year, or until their successors shall be elected and qualified. The commissioners must be substantial citizens resident in said corporate limits, and must have resided therein for at least six months next preceding their

election; must be owners of real estate within said corporate limits, and continue to reside therein during their term of office.

SEC. 4. *And be it enacted*, That the five commissioners elected shall choose one of their number president, and all vacancies in the commissioners shall be filled by an election held after ten days' notice given by the remaining commissioners. Vacancies.

SEC. 5. *And be it enacted*, That the commissioners shall meet in some convenient place in said town on or before the first Monday of June next succeeding their election, and as often thereafter as may be necessary to discharge the duties of their office. Meetings.

SEC. 6. *And be it enacted*, That the commissioners shall annually, on or before the first Monday of April, appoint three judges, who shall conduct the election according to the election laws of the state, except that the polls shall be opened at two o'clock P. M. and closed at six o'clock P. M.; and the judges shall make their return to the commissioners, but shall receive no pay for their services. The first election shall be before J. Herbert Roberts, Thomas R. Farrall and Henry G. Robertson, who are hereby designated to act as judges for that purpose. Judges of election.

SEC. 7. *And be it enacted*, That the commissioners shall annually appoint a clerk, who shall keep the minutes of their proceedings in a well-bound book, procured by the commissioners for that purpose, which shall be open to the inspection of all persons interested therein, and shall perform such other duties as the commissioners may assign him. Appoint clerk.

SEC. 8. *And be it enacted*, That the commissioners shall annually appoint a bailiff. Bailiff.

SEC. 9. *And be it enacted*, That the commissioners shall allow their clerk and bailiff such compensation as they may think proper, not exceeding to each the sum of twenty dollars per annum. Compensation

SEC. 10. *And be it enacted*, That the commissioners and all other officers of the corporation shall before they enter upon the duties of their offices, make oath that they will diligently and faithfully perform the duties of their office, and Make oath.

shall file a certificate thereof of the officer before whom the same was made among the records of the corporation.

Give bond. SEC. 11. *And be it enacted,* That the clerk and bailiff shall give bond to the commissioners in such penalties and with such sureties as said commissioners may require, conditioned for the faithful performance of their respective offices.

May appeal. SEC. 12. *And be it enacted,* That the commissioners shall receive all returns of elections and determine all questions arising thereon; but any person feeling himself aggrieved may appeal from such decision to the circuit court for Charles county, which court shall hear and determine such appeal and decide who shall pay the costs thereof.

Duties of commissioners. SEC. 13. *And be it enacted,* That the commissioners shall pass such ordinances, not inconsistent with law, as they may deem beneficial to the town; may open and close streets, lanes, alleys, grade and pave the same, remove nuisances and obstructions therefrom; restrain all disorders and disturbances; prevent all congregations of disorderly persons in public places; apprehend and fine all tramps and vagabonds; impose a tax on dogs, geese, hogs and other animals running at large in the streets, or totally prohibit the same; and may impose fines, penalties and forfeitures for the violation of ordinances, and to commit all offenders to the county jail until the same be paid with costs.

Preserve health. SEC. 14. *And be it enacted,* That the commissioners may pass such ordinances as they may deem necessary to preserve the health of the town, and remove all nuisances from or prohibit all business within the corporate limits thereof as shall in their opinion injuriously affect the sanitary condition of said town.

Assessment. SEC. 15. *And be it enacted,* That the commissioners may, as often as they may deem advisable, cause an assessment to be made of all the real and personal property within said town, or the corporate limits thereof, by their clerk, which assessment shall not exceed the assessment of the same for county purposes, and the commissioners may levy a tax thereon not exceeding

ten cents in the hundred dollars' worth of assessable property.

SEC. 16. *And be it enacted*, That any person may appeal from the valuation of the assessor of the commissioners, who shall meet on the first Monday of June after any such assessment and remain in session as long as may be necessary then, and determine such appeals; and shall give reasonable notice of any such meeting, and may increase or abate such assessment as they may deem best. May appeal.

SEC. 17. *And be it enacted*, That whenever the commissioners shall levy a tax they shall cause to be made out an alphabetical list of the persons charged therein, and shall cause to be affixed thereto the respective sums to be collected from such persons, and a warrant to the bailiff to collect same. Alphabetical list.

SEC. 18. *And be it enacted*, That the bailiff shall, within ten days after the receipt of said list and warrant, render to each person an account or tax bill showing the amount due by him, if he be a resident of the town; and if he be a non-resident, and in consequence thereof cannot be served with said account or tax bill, he shall publish such account or tax bill in some paper printed and published in Charles county at the expense of the taxpayer; and may, unless the same be paid within thirty days after the delivery or publication of such account, collect the same, with all costs, by distress and sale of the real and personal property of the delinquent at public auction, after giving at least ten days' notice of such sale in some newspaper published in said county. Shall render bill.

SEC. 19. *And be it enacted*, That the president of the commissioners shall execute and deliver to the purchaser a deed of the property so sold; and the same deed shall convey to the purchaser the said property, and shall be presumptive evidence that all the requirements of law have been complied with in making such sale and deed. Give deed.

SEC. 20. *And be it enacted*, That the bailiff shall make all collections required of him, and pay the same to the clerk within six months from the time the tax bill is placed in his hands. Collect and pay.

Duties of bailiff. SEC. 21. *And be it enacted,* That the bailiff shall attend the meetings of the commissioners, and shall perform such duties as they shall direct; shall preserve the peace and good order of the town, and for this purpose is invested with the same power and authority of any constable under the laws of the state.

Powers of president. SEC. 22. *And be it enacted,* That the president shall preside at all meetings of the commissioners, and shall have all powers of a justice of the peace in criminal cases where the commissioners are a party, and shall receive the same fees allowed justices of the peace in similar cases; and an appeal from his judgment, where the demand or fine exceeds five dollars, will be taken to the circuit court for Charles county, which shall hear and determine the matter as upon appeals from justices of the peace.

Fees. SEC. 23. *And be it enacted,* That the bailiff shall have the same fees for making distress for taxes as are allowed county collectors, and for making arrests or serving process for violations of any ordinances of the corporation the same as are allowed constables for similar services; and when the bailiff wilfully fails to discharge any duties of his office he may be fined, not exceeding ten dollars for any one offence.

Fines—how collected. SEC. 24. *And be it enacted,* That any fines, penalties and forfeitures imposed by this charter, or by any ordinance of the commissioners, may be collected by proceedings in the name of the commissioners; and the said commissioners shall have power to commit the offender to the county jail on failure to pay such fines and forfeitures until the same be paid with costs.

Shall not expend, etc. SEC. 25. *And be it further enacted,* That the commissioners shall not expend, or contract to expend, in any one year more money than the amount receivable from taxes, and obtained from all sources for that year.

Not applicable SEC. 26. *And be it further enacted,* That the commissioners for the county, justices of the peace, sheriff, constable, and all state and county officers shall have, hold and exercise their offices and jurisdiction in said town as if this charter had not been granted.

ELIHU E. JACKSON, ESQUIRE, GOVERNOR.

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SEC. 27. *And be it enacted*, That this act shall **Effective.**
take effect from the date of its passage.

Approved April 4, 1888.
