

Okeechobee County Code Enforcement Special Magistrate Hearing

July 20, 2021, Minutes

The hearing of the Okeechobee County Code Enforcement Special Magistrate, Deborah M. Hooker, took place at the Okeechobee County Health Department Auditorium on Tuesday, July 20, 2021.

ROLL CALL:

The following county staff members were present for the morning session:

Beth Albert, Code Enforcement Supervisor
Jennifer Kinard, Code Enforcement Officer
Roy Griffin, Code Enforcement Officer
Lakisha Gilchrist, Code Enforcement Officer

ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS:

1. **Call to Order:** The Meeting was called to order by Special Magistrate Hooker at 9:05 am on Tuesday, July 20, 2021, after which Special Magistrate Hooker led the Pledge of Allegiance.
2. **Swear in Code Enforcement Officers:** Special Magistrate Hooker swore in the following Code Enforcement Officers: Beth Albert, Jennifer Kinard, Roy Griffin, and Lakisha Gilchrist.
3. **Cases in Compliance:** Officer Albert stated that the following cases are in compliance:

New Business: Paulino S. Valdez and Isidra Valdez	Case Number: CE2011-0093
New Business: Hanlex Okeechobee 3 LLC, Registered Agent, Hans B. Pistor	Case Number: CE2104-0170
New Business: Maurece J. Williams	Case Number: CE2102-0079
Old Business: Taylor Creek Ranch LTD (Owner)	Case Number: 1902-0054
Old Business: Willie W. Tindell and Kaitlin Ecker	Case Number: CE2005-0095
Old Business: Vergie M. Ledford (Estate)	Case Number: CE2009-0004

The following cases were tabled:

Old Business: Christopher Amsden	Case number: CE2103-0066
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4. **Minutes:** No minutes were approved at this hearing.
5. **Public Comment:** Special Magistrate Hooker invited public comment. There were no public comments.

Cases may have been called out of order of the agenda due to the presence of certain parties.

NEW BUSINESS:

Case number CE2008-0002 for Rene Mauricio Lopez Aguilar was called.

Karilee Bowers, tenant, was present for this case and sworn for testimony.

Officer Kinard presented the case for the property located at 8835 SE 67th Way, which was cited for trash and debris, 10.02.02D, dilapidated, unsafe structure 10.02.02E, outdoor storage or dumping, 10.02.02L. Ms. Bowers states she has repaired the garage door and will continue to clean up the other violations. Property remains in violation.

Officer Kinard offered several supporting documents into evidence, which were admitted into evidence by Special Magistrate Hooker.

Special Magistrate Hooker found the Respondent to be in violation of sections 10.02.02D, 10.02.02E, and 10.02.02L. Special Magistrate Hooker ordered Respondent to be in full compliance by removing cited violations by August 12, 2021 or be subject to a fine of up to \$250.00 per day thereafter.

Case number CE2003-0035 for Jesus Plascencia was called.

No parties were present for this case.

Officer Griffin presented the case for the property located at 1095 NE 361st Court, which was cited for abandoned/inoperable vehicles, 10.02.02B, trash and debris, 10.02.02D, dilapidated, unsafe structure, 10.02.02E, overgrowth, 10.02.02K, outdoor storage or dumping, 10.02.02L, unsafe structure, 8.00.00 G (108.1.1), unauthorized occupancy of RV, 7.08.05, deterioration of property due to negligence, 10.01.00A, condition which provides for vermin, 10.02.03J, and parking, storage, use of certain vehicles, 2.07.00A. Property remains in violation.

Officer Griffin offered several supporting documents into evidence, which were admitted into evidence by Special Magistrate Hooker.

Special Magistrate Hooker found the Respondent to be in violation of sections 10.02.02B, 10.02.02D, 10.02.02E, 10.02.02F, 10.02.02L, 10.02.02K, 7.08.05, 10.01.00A, 10.02.03J, and 2.07.00A. Special Magistrate Hooker ordered Respondent to be in full compliance by removing cited violations by August 12, 2021 or be subject to a fine of up to \$250.00 per day thereafter.

BREAK UNTIL AFTERNOON SESSION

OLD BUSINESS:

Case number CE2012-0158 for Donald George Bradford Harris was called.

Donald Harris was present for this case and sworn for testimony.

Officer Kinard presented the case for the property located at 1614 SW 10th Court, which was previously heard during the June 15, 2021 hearing and cited for abandoned/inoperable vehicles, 10.02.02B, trash and debris, 10.02.02D, overgrowth, 10.02.02K, outdoor storage or dumping, 10.02.02L, obstruction of right of way, 7.03.03C. Mr. Harris stated he would come into compliance and will contact Officer Kinard regarding the driveway. Property remains in violation.

Officer Kinard offered several supporting documents into evidence, which were admitted into evidence by Special Magistrate Hooker.

Special Magistrate Hooker found the Respondent to be in violation of sections 10.02.02B, 10.02.02D, 10.02.02K, 10.02.02L, and 7.03.03C. Special Magistrate Hooker ordered Respondent to be in full compliance by removing cited violations by August 12, 2021 or be subject to a fine of up to \$250.00 per day thereafter.

Case number 1910-0124 for Allen A. Rochefort was called.

Allen A. Rochefort was present for this case and sworn for testimony.

Officer Griffin presented the case for the property located at 19467 NW 294th Street, which was previously heard during the June 15, 2021 hearing and cited for trash and debris, 10.02.02D, unauthorized use of land and/or building, 10.02.02F, outdoor storage or dumping, 10.02.02L, parking, storage, use of certain vehicles, 2.07.00A, and parking, storage, use of certain vehicles, 2.07.00A. Mr. Rochefort stated that he would have the outdoor storage removed to come into compliance. Property remains in violation.

Officer Griffin offered several supporting documents into evidence, which were admitted into evidence by Special Magistrate Hooker.

Special Magistrate Hooker found the Respondent to be in violation of sections 10.02.02D, 10.02.02F, 10.02.02L, 2.07.00A, and 7.09.01B. Special Magistrate Hooker ordered Respondent to be in full compliance by removing cited violations by August 12, 2021 and if not in compliance a fine would start at \$25.00 per day beginning August 13, 2021 and continuing per day thereafter.

Case number CE2006-0060 for Eddie James Neal Jr and Sheila Neal was called.

Eddie Neal and Jefferson Davis II were present for this case and sworn for testimony.

Mr. Neal provided his mailing address as 1224 NE 16th Ave, Okeechobee FL 34972. Officer Albert presented the case for the property located at 701 NE 13th Avenue, which was previously heard during the June 15, 2021 hearing and cited for unsafe structure, 8.00.00G (108.1), 8.00.00G (108.1.3), and 8.00.00G (110.1). Mr. Neal stated he will obtain a licensed contractor for the demolition of the building. Property remains in violation.

Officer Albert offered several supporting documents into evidence, which were admitted into evidence by Special Magistrate Hooker.

Special Magistrate Hooker found the Respondent to be in violation of sections 2.07.00A and 10.02.02F. Special Magistrate Hooker ordered Respondent to be in full compliance by removing cited violations by August 12, 2021 or be subject to a fine of up to \$250.00 per day thereafter.

Case number 1902-0125 for Jo Ann Barton was called.

No parties were present for this case.

Officer Kinard presented the case for the property located at 16008 NW 308th Street, which was previously heard during the May 18, 2021, hearing and cited for trash & debris, 10.02.02D, condition which constitutes a safety hazard, 10.02.02E, overgrowth, 10.02.02K, unsafe structure, 8.00.00G, (108.1.1), (108.1.3) and (110.0). Property remains in violation.

Officer Kinard offered several supporting documents into evidence, which were admitted into evidence by Special Magistrate Hooker.

Special Magistrate Hooker found the Respondent to be in violation of sections 10.02.02D, 10.02.02E, 10.02.02K, 8.00.00G, (108.1.1), (108.1.3) and (110.0). Special Magistrate Hooker ordered the Respondent to be in full compliance by removing the cited violations by September 16, 2021 or be subject to a fine of up to \$250.00 per day thereafter.

Case number CE2007-0011 for James Russell Foster, Patricia Jean Foster, and Kyle Mitchell Foster was called.

No parties were present for this case.

Officer Griffin presented the case for the property located at 16584 NW 296th Street, which was previously heard during the June 15, 2021 hearing and cited for abandoned/inoperable vehicles, 10.02.02B, and parking, storage, use of certain vehicles, 2.07.00A. Property remains in violation.

Officer Griffin offered several supporting documents into evidence, which were admitted into evidence by Special Magistrate Hooker.

Special Magistrate Hooker found the Respondent to be in violation of sections 10.02.02B and 2.07.00A. Special Magistrate Hooker ordered Respondent to be in full compliance by removing cited violations by August 12, 2021 and if not in compliance a fine would start at \$50.00 per day beginning August 13, 2021 and continuing per day thereafter.

Case number CE2001-0079 for Chris Flora was called.

No parties were present for this case.

Officer Griffin presented the case for the property located at 8394 NW 189th Avenue, which was previously heard during the June 15, 2021 hearing and cited for abandoned/inoperable vehicles, 10.02.02B, trash and debris, 10.02.02D, outdoor storage, overgrowth, 10.02.02K, outdoor storage or dumping, 10.02.02L, parking, storage, use of certain vehicles, 2.07.00A. Property remains in violation.

Officer Griffin offered several supporting documents into evidence, which were admitted into evidence by Special Magistrate Hooker.

Special Magistrate Hooker found the Respondent to be in violation of sections 10.02.02B 10.02.02D, 10.02.02K, 10.02.02L and 2.07.00A. Special Magistrate Hooker ordered Respondent to be in full compliance by removing cited violations by August 12, 2021 and if not in compliance a fine would start at \$50.00 per day beginning August 13, 2021 and continuing per day thereafter.

Case number 1911-0048 for Jason Farruggia and Dawn Strollo was called.

No parties were present for this case.

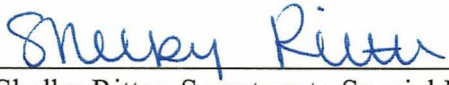
Officer Griffin presented the case for the property located at 16798 NW 302nd Street, which was previously heard during the June 15, 2021 hearing and cited for abandoned/inoperable vehicles, 10.02.02B, trash and debris, 10.02.02D, unauthorized use of land and/or building, 10.02.02F, outdoor storage, 10.02.02L, parking, storage, use of certain vehicles, 2.07.00A. Property remains in violation.

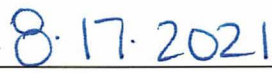
Officer Griffin offered several supporting documents into evidence, which were admitted into evidence by Special Magistrate Hooker.

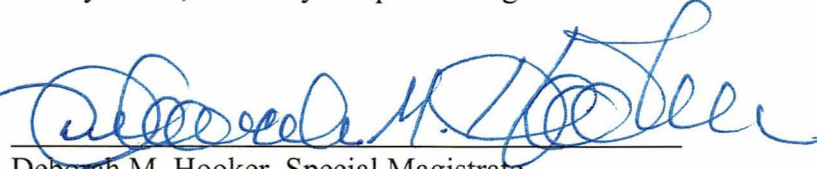
Special Magistrate Hooker found the Respondent to be in violation of sections 10.02.02B 10.02.02D, 10.02.02F, and 10.02.02L. Special Magistrate Hooker ordered Respondent to be in full compliance by removing cited violations by August 12, 2021 and if not in compliance a fine would start at \$50.00 per day beginning August 13, 2021 and continuing per day thereafter.

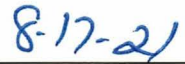
ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business, Special Magistrate Hooker adjourned the meeting.


Shelby Ritter, Secretary to Special Magistrate


Date


Deborah M. Hooker, Special Magistrate


Date