

The City of Wauchula Code Enforcement met for its regularly scheduled hearing on Thursday April 28, 2022 at 10 a.m.

Special Magistrate Elliott Mitchell called the hearing to order and administered the oath to those testifying.

Also present at the hearing were Code Enforcement Officer Raina Bergens and City Clerk Holly Smith.

NEW CASES:

New Case – 22-019-NA 711 Green Street Jose Sergio Gonzales & Carla Renee Gonzales

CE Officer Bergens testified and presented photographic evidence which Special Magistrate Mitchell accepted. Bergens stated the case was opened on March 8th and explained the issues were the white car in the backyard and the blue chevy truck. Sergio Gonzales addressed Special Magistrate Mitchell and explained he did not live there and those vehicles were his tenants. Special Magistrate Mitchell stated his findings were there was a violation and Gonzales had 45 days for total compliance and if not a fine of \$100 a day until brought into compliance.

New Case – 22-031-L 111 N 10th Avenue Mary McClenithan (Est of) Charles McClenithan

CE Officer Bergens testified and presented photographic evidence which Special Magistrate Mitchell accepted. Bergens stated the case was opened on March 23rd and was a repeat offender. Bergens stated William McClenithan had made some progress but had not been completed. McClenithan addressed Special Magistrate Mitchell and informed him that he would have the property cleaned up within the next couple of days. Bergens noted McClenithan was a repeat offender. Special Magistrate Mitchell stated his findings were there was a violation and McClenithan had 30 days to remedy the problem and if not in compliance after the 30 days a fine of \$100 a day until brought into compliance.

New Case – 22-082-L 820 S 8th Avenue (21) Librada P Corpus

CE Officer Bergens testified and presented photographic evidence which Special Magistrate Mitchell accepted. Bergens stated the case was opened on March 28th and was a repeat offender. Bergens advised this was a duplex and rental property and progress had been made but was still not compliant. Bergens advised the property owner (Corpus) and the tenant needed to have the front of the property cleaned up and remove all tires not being used for planting. Librada Corpus addressed Special Magistrate Mitchell and asked what a repeat meant. Bergens explained this problem had been continual over the years. Special Magistrate Mitchell stated his findings were there was a violation and gave 30 days to remedy the problem and if not in compliance after the 30 days a fine of \$100 a day until brought into compliance.

FINE/LIEN FORGIVENESS REQUESTED:

21-107-NA 712 N 9th Avenue Ricardo G Martinez

21-108-Z 712 N 9th Avenue Ricardo G Martinez

CE Officer Bergens testified and presented photographic evidence which Special Magistrate Mitchell accepted. Bergens informed Special Magistrate Mitchell the case was opened August 25, 2021 and did not comply within the time allowed and fines started accruing September 27, 2021. Bergens noted the property had become compliant. Special Magistrate Mitchell stated the problem had been remedied and asked Bergens what was the City's request. Bergens stated Martinez was asking for fine forgiveness. Bergens noted the fines were \$5,100 for each case and the City did not have a problem reducing the fines. Bergens stated Martinez had started a payment plan with the City and had paid \$50. Special Magistrate Mitchell stated the property had been brought into compliance at the fines of \$5,075 per each case totally \$10,150. Special Magistrate Mitchell entered and order reducing the fines to \$200 per case (\$400 total) for administration fees and gave 30 days to pay in full.

APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS HEARING MINUTES:

Special Magistrate Mitchell approved the February 24, 2022 minutes.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

There was no one in the audience to speak.

With no further business to discuss, Special Magistrate Dawson adjourned the hearing at 10:21 a.m.

Special Master Elliott Mitchell

City Clerk Holly Smith