

Special Magistrate Hearing Minutes
November 19, 2024
5:30 p.m.
Council Chambers

1 Call to Order

Special Magistrate S. Taylor called the Hearing to order at 5:30 p.m.

2 Administration of oath to staff/ Respondents /Witnesses

Special Magistrate S. Taylor swore in all participants for the quasi-judicial segments of the meeting.

3 Red Light Hearing

3.1 Case #1012000000201069

Special Magistrate Taylor explained to the respondent, Mr. Tanner and Police Spry how the proceedings for this case would be.

Police Officer Spry proceeded to present the case on behalf of the city of Crestview. He then reviewed the video from the red light camera.

Special Magistrate Taylor then asked Mr. Tanner if he would like to testify on his behalf.

Mr. Tanner provided a written testimony that was added in the record as follows:

On 9/10/2024 at approximately 1744 Hours I was operating our 2021 Buick Encore GX for the first time in the City of Crestview, Florida. The weather this date was cloudy and overcast, and it had been raining through the daytime hours. I approached the intersection of S. Ferdon Blvd and E James Lee Blvd SB in the outside traffic lane, I was below the posted speed limit. I observed three traffic lanes at this location, a left turn lane, an inside lane, and my lane of travel, an outside lane. I observed only two traffic lights above the lanes, and it appeared from a distance that the lights were above the turn lane and the inside lane. I further observed that the only pavement markings present were a center turn lane arrow and a crosswalk across all lanes. I noted orange construction barrels straight ahead of my intended travel path, and it looked as if I were headed toward a possibly closed parking lot. I observed no pavement markings indicating a left turn lane onto Ferdon Road was still present. This distraction of a clear travel lane took my focus away from the traffic signals for a second. I then noted the traffic signals had changed to amber. I also observed a Ford Mustang behind me in the outside lane. I observed I was within approximately 75-80' of the crosswalk. All lanes of cross traffic were still stopped, and the traffic signal located between the right and left lanes was still amber. At 35MPH it takes approximately 80' to stop my vehicle on ideal dry paved road surfaces. Twice in my lifetime, while stopped on the roadway, I have been hit from behind twice by other vehicles. I tried to anticipate the Mustang accelerating through the traffic signal. I proceeded further, anticipating that I would have to stop in the construction area across the intersection and check directions. It was only after I was through the light that I could see that I could continue making a left turn. I contacted FDOT to ask about the traffic signals and the lack of pavement markings at this location. I have forwarded those emails to the Court via Clerk Girard. After a review of this intersection, FDOT advised they will be issuing a work order to complete pavement lane markings. I asked if the traffic signal could be moved over several feet over the outside lane to provide a clearer indication to drivers of the need to slow or stop. I did not get a clear answer on whether the signal would be moved or another added to avoid confusion and improve safety, but I was advised the current signal setup is within current code. I am asking the

Court that in light of additional markings being made by FDOT to reduce reaction times at this location, that my violation be dismissed. I have a clear driving history if the Court wishes to run it.

Mr. Tanner included that he was not a resident of Crestview so therefore he was not familiar with the roads.

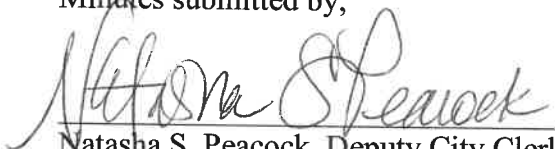
Special Magistrate Taylor then asked to review the video once more. Mr. Taylor surmised that there was a violation that occurred with Mr. Tanner running the light. He stated that since Mr. Tanner provided testimony to show mitigating factors that Special Magistrate Taylor dismissed the case.

4 Code Enforcement Hearings

5 Adjournment

Special Magistrate S. Taylor adjourned the Hearing at 5:45 p.m.

Minutes submitted by,


Natasha S. Peacock, Deputy City Clerk
Proper Notice having been duly given