

New kind of thinking needed

I read with great interest the mayoral candidates' responses to the question of

Port St. Lucie debt and how they would balance the city budget. What is interesting and very compelling is only candidate Greg Oravec mentioned involving the citizens of Port St. Lucie in the budgetary process by having a budgetary advisory committee.

Others mentioned finding "new money" (JoAnn Faiella) and "more revenue" (Joe Edge). This is just political-speak for increasing taxes and fees. Before long, you will need to buy a permit to blow your nose.

Yes, selling Digital Domain and getting taxes paid on the City Center is needed and must be a high priority, but that is not a strategy to manage the city budget long-term. Only Oravec gives thought to seeking advice and counsel from the very people and stakeholders who fund this city and pay the taxes.

This is the kind of thinking that we need. We need elected officials who listen and are open to new and fresh ideas. We need officials who are constantly asking the questions: How can the city do things better and smarter and more efficiently? Sure, it would be nice to have, but do we need it? Not just thinking about how do we find new money or more revenue. That is why we need Greg Oravec in the center seat.