

Questionnaire response from Peter Rubino

To: Peter Rubino,

1) What are your motivations and aspirations to run for SCS city council?

Answer: *My motivation began with the attempt to extend the waste contract without bidding. The economy was beginning to falter and the writing was on the wall. I then witnessed a wide range of no-bids and no bid extensions. A lot of them given to political donors. Enough was enough. It was time to put my money where my mouth was and throw my hat in the ring. I aspire to see an ethics clause added to the charter. I would also like to see much more stringent guidelines when it comes to all bidding. Especially service bids. All non-essential spending should be put on hold immediately.*

2) What do you like about our beautiful City of St. Clair Shores?

Answer: *The people. People and only people are what make a city great. That is why I make St. Clair Shores home.*

3) What do you see as the greatest challenges for our city in the future?

Answer: *Easily the greatest challenges have to do with a declining tax base and an escalating budget. SCS is an older suburb that is now seeing signs of wear and tear. We have to make sure we can keep up with an aging infrastructure. The city also has to be concerned with legacy costs. We must do as much as we can to insure promises made to employees. I am a major advocate of a strong Fire Dept. and Police Dept. The difficulty comes when demographics out ways the cities ability to maintain itself. This is why all nonessential spending must cease immediately. When the economy truly recovers we can then and only then begin to look at purchases like citywide water meters and Epoke salting systems.*

4) The treatment of some of our residents has been appalling here in Saint Clair Shores. What can be done to improve government and resident interactions?

Answer: *ANY city employee who mistreats a resident should be reprimanded immediately. I do believe the majority of city workers are fair hardworking people. Those few who seem to think they are above the residents need to be reminded that every city job is focused on one thing. Serving the taxpayers to the best of their ability. A higher degree of service is one way to earn job security. If the residents are going to pay more taxes they will expect more. Top-notch service is a start.*

5) Would you take political donations from individuals and businesses that have contracts with the city? And if so, state your reason.

Answer: *No. It goes against every principle of ethics in politics.*

6) With declining property values and decreased state revenue sharing, what would you do to balance our city's budget?

Answer: *Once again eliminate all nonessential spending. Good faith negotiations with employees. I believe we could also reduce a few department heads. We will also be searching for a new City Manager over the next year. This will be key. We will need the best and brightest available. The city manager is the captain of the ship.*

7) Do you believe millages are a way to balance the budget? And if so, state your reason.

Answer: *No, mileages are not a way to balance a budget. Mileages are nothing more than a band-aid. One nice thing about mileages is that the people vote them on. It does give the voters the right to have a say in tax increases for certain areas of city business.*

8) Our recent Snow enforcement was a Public Relations nightmare for our city. With what we know now, what direction would you take this ordinance next year?

Answer: *Like I said to council last January. Put a red sticker on the violator's door give them 24 hours to comply then return to clear the snow. If we are paying \$30+ for contractors to remove snow from the city sidewalks I am sure they would comply with this request.*

9) Would you support and uphold a comprehensive Ethics policy to be put into our SCS charter?

Answer: *Absolutely 100%*

10) Would you change the city's charter to allow a greater number of candidates to maybe prevent another \$40,000 primary election just to eliminate one candidate?

Answer: *Yes, it seems quite silly for the taxpayers to pay \$40,000 to eliminate one person.*

11) Public participation in government has been a fundamental right to every citizen. Do you encourage the current 2 minute public participation at the beginning of each city council meeting and the 5 minute public participation at the end of the agenda, and all online summaries and minutes of all governmental documents?

Answer: *Yes. I believe we should take transparency as far as we can. Transparency will give the residents the assurance that our city government has absolutely nothing to hide.*

Thank you,

Pete Rubino