

Morton is weighing his election options in selecting a team

By Chris Sykes
Staff Writer

As the electoral clock winds down to the March filing deadline for Orange City Council candidates, two of the three incumbents have found their proverbial seats when it comes to the shifting sands of political alliances. One incumbent, however, appears to still be looking for a partner with whom to team.

At Large Councilman Rayfield Morton is still weighing his options, as he has yet to ally himself with other candidates.

"In two more weeks I will let everybody know who I am supporting," Morton said on Tuesday night. "There are still things on the table when it comes to the logistics of running a campaign for the council that are still being worked out. I like to play things pretty close to the vest, but I know that there are a lot of my constituents and supporters out there who are waiting to hear what I am going to do. I'm asking them to bear with me a little longer."

Morton said the May election is going to be very important to Orange's future. Because of that significance, Morton said he has taken matters slowly in order to ensure he plots the best path for him and the city.

Morton's incumbent colleagues, Elroy Corbitt and Donna K. Williams, have already announced they will be running as part of a slate of candidates that is headed by a mayoral candidate. Corbitt said he is running with attorney Dwayne Warren while Williams has teamed with longtime Zoning Board member Janice Morrell to take a two-pronged approach to holding her seat while helping to defeat Mayor Eldridge Hawkins Jr.

"I'm not linking up with anyone, but I'm dangerous because I'm a good organizer," Morton said. "I've had four functions in the last three months. I had four fish fries and did a Super Bowl party."

As a result of those old-school "soul food" fundraisers, Morton said he believes he is primed to make a move when the time is right. If nothing else, Morton said, this is going to be a "very interesting election."

"People want to look at you as a candidate and see themselves, but other people try to play down the fact that having a true Orange connection is important. It really is deep," Morton said. "I'm trying to make a statement this time: I'm in it to win it."