

**Citizens for a Fair Ferndale  
Candidate Forum  
Saturday, October 26, 2013  
12:30pm - 3:45pm  
Ferndale Public Library**

**Mayoral & Council Candidate Questionnaire**

**Name: Craig Covey**

**Address: 276 W. Breckenridge St.**

**Website: [coveyforferndale.com](http://coveyforferndale.com)**

**Phone: 248-721-6434**

**E-mail address: [craig@coveyforferndale.com](mailto:craig@coveyforferndale.com)**

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1. Why did you decide to run for Mayor/Council?

Having eleven years experience as Councilman and Mayor I wanted to bring back my knowledge and help manage the city in these critical times of rising costs and a stagnant economy, and help lead the city toward progress while keeping the city affordable for seniors, young families, singles and other working and middle class residents.

2. What is your vision for Ferndale? Over the next four years? Over the next ten years?

I would like to continue our progress as a city emulated by others because of our success at revival and rejuvenation through inclusion and community, while trying to hold down spiraling costs within our local government that results in high taxes, high water bills, and high parking rates.

3. What two (2) things are you going to do that will bring your vision to reality?

Freeze or lower our water rates, and add transparency to those charges and costs.

I will not support raising parking rates in our downtown, and will work to cut spending on studies, analyses, and consultants so that low and middle income families can continue to call Ferndale home.

4. Of all the issues facing Ferndale, what two (2) would you give top priority and why?

The parking system is very unpopular and dysfunctional and expensive. We need to figure out the best ways to support our businesses, raise funds for parking improvements, and provide shoppers and visitors with a pleasant, and efficient way to park.

I'm also concerned that deficits loom in our future which can result in years of higher rates, fees, and taxes. I would begin now to trim costs to provide for basic services while cutting back on frills, pet projects, and over spending on consultants and other costs.

5. Ferndale prides itself on an active citizenry.

A) What two (2) things would you tell someone who "just wanted to help", or who "just wanted to get involved"?

I have been answering this question for hundreds of people for the past 20 years. I would get them involved in the things I am involved in, or know about..such as Ferndale Blues Festival, Ferndale Pub Crawl, FernCare, Ferndale Youth Assistance, Ferndale Pride, the Rainbow Run, the Taste of Ferndale, or Affirmations.

B) Please list and briefly describe three (3) resources (print, electronic, or otherwise) that residents who want to get involved should go to for ideas, background, facts or figures.

[www.ferndalebluesfestival.org](http://www.ferndalebluesfestival.org) help support business and culture, while raising money for youth education.

[www.ferndalepride.com](http://www.ferndalepride.com) help support businesses and the LGBT community, while having fun and instilling pride in the community.

Ferndale Community Foundation. Join us to help dozens of other organizations in town through events, and fundraising. Or Join CFF, which I helped found in the mid 90's with Ann Heler, Mary Schusterbauer, and others.

6. How do you see the council and other city leaders continuing and enhancing communication and collaboration with other organizations, municipalities and our school district? Please offer specific examples.

I would re-institute the annual joint council/school board meetings that we used to have under Mayor Porter and myself. I would rejoin the Southeast Oakland County Mayors Association which I was a part of for three years which allows networking with area mayors.

I would continue my work with the gay organizations, HIV groups, Elks, and FCF and other groups that I have always supported in Ferndale including environmental groups.

7. Please explain the importance of the city's Master Plan. Is it still relevant in this economic climate? When and how should it be reviewed?

The Master Plan is always relevant if kept up to date and updated regularly. It is the blueprint, or set of goals, for the future look of the city. It sets targets, and is a map to the preferred future. It can include mass transit, green infrastructure, and bike paths, park trails, walkability, parking structures, etc.

8. The Ferndale City Council just passed a Good Neighbor Civility Resolution. How would you as Mayor/Council Member promote the message of civility in Ferndale?

I was taught always to be polite and honest and have tried to follow that all of my life. I demonstrated civility while on Council and as mayor, learning from my mentor Mayor Bob Porter. Respect all citizens and visitors to Ferndale, and support friendship and inclusion for all without regard to age, race, sex, gender, orientation, color, religion, nationality, and physical ability.