

GREG PAWLICA

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

I am running for Council because I want to continue to support our community at a higher level. Many Ferndalians may be aware of my extensive history of working on non-profit and city boards and commissions, and my dedication to helping on fundraising events within the city. I would like the opportunity to serve our community at an even higher level by becoming an elected official. Citizens have the best and easiest opportunity to direct government at the local level, and I look forward to working with our residents, business owners, city staff, and other elected officials to keep Ferndale on our progressive path.

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

Regardless of the length of time it takes, I will support the continued growth of Ferndale into an inclusive and diverse community, where there is a place for everyone to live, do business, and raise a family. But, we cannot not always look to government for all the answers.

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

I will work to strengthen partnerships between government, businesses, non-profits, and neighborhood entities, which will continue Ferndale on the path of growth and prosperity. I will also work with Council to ensure that we hire, develop, and retain the highest caliber of city employees available.

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

There is a lot of work that needs to be done over the next several years to keep Ferndale moving forward. The most important is maintaining a fiscally responsible budget that allows our city to provide the highest quality of service to our citizens without gouging taxpayer pockets.

Aging inner-ring cities, like Ferndale, continually require investments in the infrastructure. Streets, lighting, parking, sidewalks, buildings and parks need to be upgraded or replaced to ensure safety and value to the community. Allowing broken or dilapidated structures to remain creates an opportunity for injury, and it reduces the value of the community as a whole. Home and business owners are less likely to invest in a community that is falling apart, and that causes property values to decline.

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"?

First - Do it! Second – Don't be afraid to inquire. There are so many opportunities to help in our community. Non-profit organizations, community events, fundraisers, and city boards and commissions are always looking for people who want to contribute to the growth and prosperity of our community. Events, organizations and boards are looking for variety of people to fulfill a variety of tasks and duties. Decide what your interests are and how much time a week/month you are willing to volunteer and start asking those organizations that align with your interests or beliefs how you can help.

- 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.

There are many resources available to investigate volunteer opportunities. The Ferndale City website (www.FerndaleMI.gov) is a great resource of information regarding city boards and commissions. City boards and commissions allow Ferndale citizens the opportunity to use their skills and experience to help shape our community.

Many non-profit organizations announce their events at bi-monthly City Council meetings. City Council meetings are broadcasted 3 times a day on both Comcast and WOW cable channels, as well as, on the City of Ferndale website. This is a great way to hear more about organizations and events, and individuals interested in volunteering can contact these organizations through the contact information these organizations announce at the meetings.

Ferndale Friends is a print publication that is delivered to every home and business in Ferndale. Many organizations list their events and activities in this publication, and Ferndale Friends prints an annual directory that list all the businesses and non-profit organizations operating in the city.

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 believe that over the past several years Council has established strong lines of communication with our school leaders, organizations, and other municipalities across the region. The important thing now is to maintain those strong connections, and that is achieved through continued interaction with these entities. Only through attending meetings and engaging directly with these groups are able to find common interests and areas of collaboration.

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?

A city's Master Plan is a guide for decision-makers regarding the future development of the city. The plan includes elements related to the geographical area, the location of municipal buildings and city-owned property, and the identification of commercial, industrial, and residential zones, and more. It provides the basis for preserving Ferndale's unique character, supporting investments, and ensuring diversity.

The Master Plan is established to cover about a 10-year period and should be reviewed every 5-10 years for modifications due to social, economic, or governmental changes through a series public forum. Regardless of the economic climate, a Master Plan is essential to the continuity of the city's future development. The Master Plan establishes short-term policy and direction, and is always relevant.

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 am fortunate to have had that honor of working with CFF on the Civility Project over the past year. The best way to promote the message of civility is through one's own actions; promote through example. It is easier said than done, because you are forcing yourself to become aware of your behavior before taking action. The other side is making others aware when their behavior is less than civil, which again can sometimes put yourself into an uncomfortable situation. But, the reward is creating an environment where people can openly share a dialogue where there is no threat or fear of criticism.