

CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE

Name: Darrin Michael Fentress

Completed Level of Education: Bachelor's Degree - Civil Engineering- Texas Tech University.

Years in San Angelo: Most Recent 4 years, but my wife and I grew up here and graduated from San Angelo Central in 1991.

If you're not a native San Angeloan, what brought you here? Why San Angelo? My wife and I married at Holy Angels Church in 1992. Business opportunities took us away in 1993. We tried to come back to San Angelo for 20 years to be with our family, but job opportunities always seemed to not work out. In 2013 my engineering company wanted to open an office in West Texas and I was able to convince them to put the new office in San Angelo.

Married Status: Married, Mrs. Lucy Cook Fentress

Spouse/Occupation: Teacher at Fort Concho Elementary

Number of years married: 25 years in November 2017.

Your Occupation Currently: Regional Manager for Bleyl Engineering, Licensed Engineer by the State of Texas, License No. 109866

Previous Position: Project Manager, Bleyl & Associates

What experience do you bring to the table to strengthen our City Council? My entire career has been focused on Municipal Consultation. I have assisted Municipal Utility Districts and Cities with all their fiscal, infrastructure and policy issues. I have worked closely with municipal attorneys to make sure our mutual municipal clients are in compliance with state laws; to do so I have to stay in tune with our State legislature regarding new or revised laws that govern our local governments. I have assisted my municipal clients in obtaining state and federal grants, creating bond applications and subsequent bond sales, preparing development contracts with local developers that benefitted the developer and protected the municipality's residents, as well as designed and managed the construction of water plants, sewer plants, utility infrastructure (new and rehabilitation) and roadways. I am an industry professional who is intimately involved with standard engineering and construction costs, which will give Council a better position to negotiate engineering and construction contracts.

Organization Membership: Name of Group / Position / Years Involved

*Use as much space as needed. List each group, affiliation, organization, board, etc. **Past/Present***

Fort Concho Board of Directors - 4 years - Board Secretary
San Angelo Zoning Board of Adjustments - 6 months - Board Member
Galilee Homes Board of Directors - 2 Months - Board Member
Leadership San Angelo - Currently attending classes.
Boy Scouts of America Texas Southwest Council - 1 month - Property
Committee Member
Boy Scouts of America Troop 36 - 3 years - Assistant Scoutmaster
Eagle Scout - Troop 36 - 1988

Church Affiliation: We do not have a church home at this time. My family is Christian and have worshiped in many different churches. My wife and I were raised Catholic but we have attended Baptist churches and non-denominational churches, the two most recent have been Southland Baptist Church and The Woodlands Church.

Position Held or Membership: N/A

What do you feel is your greatest accomplishment personally to date?

My marriage, period. And I really can't take the credit. My wife has done so much for me and our children. Let me give you one example of how great my wife is and how blessed I am to have her.

In 2003, my wife had just graduated with her teaching degree. So now I'm the dumb one in the family, right? So, we decided I would go back to school to be a math teacher. Half way through my second semester, I was making an A in Calculus II and my wife and father began to convince me to go on and get my engineering degree. At the end of my second semester I applied to TTU, was accepted and began taking classes there in the fall of 2004. Here's the catch, my family and I lived in Odessa, my wife had just started her career and we did not think it was good to move after a year of employment, so I traveled to Lubbock on Sunday afternoons and returned home Friday afternoons. This went on for three years! My wife was the rock our whole family clung to while I was in school. She did it all, was the bread winner, took care of our two young daughters and emotionally supported me while I was struggling not only with classes but being away from them.

My marriage is my greatest accomplishment, and it always will be.

What do you enjoy doing the most?

I enjoy doing a lot of things. Professionally I enjoy working with people to help them achieve their dreams and goals. Personally, I love spending time with my wife and family kayaking, fishing, camping, backpacking, etc.

Where's your primary focus or concern outside of city issues?

Professionally, outside of city issues my primary focus is promoting my company and working to make this office a viable engineering option for West Texas municipalities.

Personally, my focus is helping my young adult children achieve their dreams and goals.

As a Candidate for City Council/Mayoral position, what prompted you to run?

I have a lot of experience working with municipalities and I enjoy it. I mentioned my thought of running to a few close friends and they encouraged me to run, so here I am. I'd like to be a part of bringing fiscal accountability to our City. I want to be a voice for the other residents in SMD 1 and work to bring more businesses to San Angelo by stream lining our permitting process by being involved with issues our developers and potential businesses tell me they encounter with our City Staff.

What do you believe to be the biggest mistake this current Council has made in the last few years?

Not conducting an internal audit of Republic Services. It was promised in a Council Meeting, and it should have been done. The entire trash contract was handled very poorly from a public relations standpoint. Council did a poor job of informing the public of all the benefits of the contract.

How would you have handled the issue you stated above?

Once the negotiations were over and Council had decided which vendor to use, I would have pushed to be more open about all aspects of the contract, not just the cost and resources to the public, but also how it affected the City's liability with the landfill and its future. Basically, there needed to be more transparency.

What are your top 3 issues to address if you are elected to this office?

First and foremost, fiscal responsibility. I was very surprised that Council did not budget the pay increase for our police force when there was a contract in place to do so. We must also promote new business and existing business expansion. We must have more private business to help lower taxes and increase city revenues. Part of this can be done with utilizing local businesses for city contracts. Did you know that only one street improvement project was awarded to a local engineering firm last year, even though Council approved three local firms to be considered by city staff? City staff has sent millions in engineering fees to Fort Worth, Dallas, Lubbock and Austin in just the last 4 years since I have been home. These firms do not have offices here, which means they do not support our local economy; I will work to put a stop to this since we have reputable firms right here that are more than capable of doing the work.

Second, we must be looking forward to improve our current infrastructure. Our sewer plant is very old and needs major improvements, we must continue to increase our water supply, our roads are the worst in Texas, and our sewer and waterlines must be continually replaced, rehabilitated and improved to protect the public and the environment.

Third, I will work to increase budgets for our police and emergency services departments. We need more good people in these departments, we MUST keep up with current equipment and training needs.

Will your current occupation allow you to give the necessary hours to prepare for each council meeting, research issues, interact with constituents, attend the necessary meetings and community events that will be required of you, and actively move forward with seeing your top 3 issues accomplished?

I'm glad this is one of the questions because it was a big concern. I have discussed the time requirement issue with my company and they understand the time requirements of a City Council member. My company and I agree, that as professional engineers, we have an obligation to protect safety, health and welfare of the public. Therefore, I will blend my work and personal time to tackle my professional and city business.

What would you like to add to this questionnaire to stress the reason citizens should consider giving you their vote?

I am the only professional engineer running for city council, and as a professional engineer, licensed in the State of Texas, I have sworn to protect the Health, Safety and Welfare of the public. I became an engineer to serve and protect the public and will be in a better position to do so as Council Member for SMD 1.