



Clayton Heck

2.Campaign Email - For Public Distribution

claytonheck@telusmail.net

3.Campaign Website

<https://www.facebook.com/clayton.heck.3>

4.Campaign Social Media

<https://www.facebook.com/clayton.heck.3>

5.What are your top 3 priorities if you are elected?

1. Be invested and involved in the decisions that are being made. When I manage a project and hire subcontractors, I visit the jobsite and ensure that the contractors and subcontractors are qualified for their work. I would not have a third party pick the CAO and then not do any background search or even googling of the name and hire people that way. Mayor and Council need to be responsible and accountable for the people that they represent.

2. Transparency in governance and spending. It took way to long to be able to get any accounting on what BrooksNet has cost the taxpayers and the current minimal returns to date (>\$2,000/month). I would like to review where our hard earned tax dollars are being spent on what projects and what can be done to manage these costs and fund public "needs over wants". Through fiscal responsibility and transparency, the public office can gain back the trust of the public it represents.

3. I also want to focus on improving public safety and the quality of life in Brooks. One of my priorities is to have our bylaw officers take a more active role in the community by increasing foot patrols in public spaces, parks and green spaces. These places should be clean, safe and welcoming to everyone, so families can feel comfortable using our facilities here in Brooks. I would also like to review if another bylaw officer is needed to keep up with the demand.

6.City Council meetings are often held at inconvenient times for many to attend. How will you ensure you are available to your community and their concerns?

I believe being available and approachable is one of the most important parts of being a respected councillor. I attend many public events and I am involved in both summer and winter sports where I have the opportunity to have conversations with the constituents. I will also make myself available through the phone, email and social media, to ensure people can reach me about meeting concerns.

7.What do you consider to be your strongest qualities and how would it be an asset to you as a member of City Council?

I have been a small business owner in Brooks since 2005. In 2018, I graduated from SAIT with an Engineering diploma and through work, I have managed budgets from both Federal and Provincial grants close to \$70MM and completed the work underbudget and ahead of the timelines. Being able to understand large, long-term projects, budgets and the proper project management of those budgets to ensure cost effective completion is one of my many strong qualities.

8. Passion for the community is best shown through action. Please share volunteer work on clubs and committee's you've been on, and how long you were involved.

Big Country Oilman's Association 2022 - current - event volunteer
ASET 2018 - current - mentoring young technologists - class lectures
Frog Lake Cultural Centre Association - 2020 - current - restoring Indigenous culture and tourism
SAITSA Indigenous Student Alliance 2016 - 2018 - advocacy, organize events and activities, Indigenous MC for graduation ceremonies, community engagement and panlist

9. What is your vision for economic development and how do you plan to attract and retain businesses and jobs?

I will support the startup and growth of small business right here in Brooks. Small business are the cornerstone of a strong economy. When small business succeed, more of our community's money stays local. I want to make sure that entrepreneurs know where to access the funding, resources and training available to help them grow and create more jobs. By building this strong base of local small businesses, we can make Brooks a attractive place for larger companies to invest and set up shop.

10. Have you run or managed a successful business? For how long? Did you grow the business either by employees or profit?

I owned my own oilfield consulting business from 2005 - 2016. I went to SAIT and got an Engineering Technologist diploma in 2018. I started with a family run company in 2020 called Arrowhead Abandonments, where I am currently still the Senior Project Manager. I have managed budgets close to \$70MM, had over 300 subcontractors, abandoned over 1000 wells and fully reclaimed over 350 well sites in a 2.5 year program of the ASRP (Alberta Site Rehabilitation Program). the company grew from 2 people to employing four technical roles and 5 various administrative positions. If we can bring some larger projects to the city, then we can have a local workforce that can grow.

11. What does supporting local mean to you, and how do you plan to prioritize it within Brooks?

As mentioned before, supporting local means investing in our own community first, by choosing local businesses, local workers and local suppliers whenever possible and fiscally responsible to do so. Every dollar spent here in Brooks helps strengthen our economy, create jobs and keep families thriving. I will also encourage programs and partnerships that encourage residents to shop, hire and build locally.

12. We have seen many small businesses close in town over the past few years. Many leave and do not return. How can you prevent this from continuing?

We need to make Brooks a place where entrepreneurs can start, grow and succeed. That means ensuring they have access to the knowledge, resources and funding programs to help ensure they thrive. We also need to work with local businesses to identify the challenges they are facing, whether it is high operating costs, hiring issues or any regulatory red tape and find practical solutions that work for everyone.

13. There is currently a tax break for new homes, which will likely benefit newcomers or big business. What will you do for the 30-40 year tax payers that helped build this town?

To support long-time residents in Brooks, I would advocate for modest tax credits, freezes, or reductions for residents, seniors, or families who have lived here for 20+ years. I also want to see programs that help with home improvements and energy-efficiency upgrades, making it more affordable for these residents to maintain their homes.
I also believe that rental properties need stronger regulation and enforcement. By combining support for homeowners with accountability for rental properties, we can protect the backbone of our community while keeping Brooks a safe and welcoming place to live.

14. Vacant land in Brooks has a high contamination issue with the soil. What would you do to clean these up to sell for business?

First, any contaminated lot needs a thorough environmental review, including a proper Phase 1 and Phase 2 ESA (Environmental Site Assessment). This will identify the type of contaminants, the affected areas, and provide the information needed to develop an accurate cleanup plan and budget. However, understanding how these lots became contaminated is also important. If the responsible parties can be identified, the city should explore avenues to recover costs for the cleanup. By taking a systematic, accountable approach, we can ensure these lots are safely remediated, making them available for business development and helping grow the local economy.

15. Since the cost of living and grocery prices have risen over 20%, what would you do to keep Brooks property taxes from rising as well?

To manage property taxes responsibly, I would start with a thorough review of the current city budgets to identify areas where smart reductions or efficiencies could be applied without compromising services. At the same time, I want to focus on growing small businesses in Brooks, which in turn can attract larger businesses. By expanding our local economy and broadening the tax base, we can help maintain our current property tax levels.

16. What steps would you take to address affordable housing in Brooks?

I would focus on encouraging the development of responsibly planned multi-family complexes in areas of the city that can support that type of growth. Proper zoning, infrastructure planning and collaboration with developers will ensure these projects meet the needs of residents while maintaining the established character and livability of our neighborhoods.

17. Rental prices have skyrocketed in Brooks (and everywhere) making it difficult for young people to get a start. What would you do to improve this in the future?

To help young people access affordable housing, we need to focus on increasing the supply of responsibly planned multi-unit complexes and rental units. Proper zoning and incentives for developers can encourage the creation of mid-level rental options that are attainable for young residents. At the same time, stronger regulation and enforcement of rental properties can ensure units are safe, well-maintained, and fairly priced. By combining increased supply with accountability, we can help retain young people in Brooks.

18. What is your position on allowing or limiting liquor stores or cannabis stores?

I believe liquor and cannabis stores should be thoughtfully managed in Brooks. Specific areas should be designated to ensure these establishments are appropriately distanced from schools, parks, and residential zones. We should regularly review their number and impact on the community, adjusting policies as needed to maintain balance.

19. How do you plan to bridge the current or perceived gaps between different cultures in our community?

Bridging the cultural gaps in Brooks starts the moment new Canadians arrive. We need to welcome them while sharing what makes our community unique — our traditions, values, and history. At the same time, we must respect the cultures and backgrounds they bring. I believe this can be achieved through programs and events that encourage full community involvement, creating opportunities for new and long time residents to participate together, learn from one another, and celebrate the traditions that have built Brooks into the great city it is today. By fostering understanding, respect, and participation, we can strengthen our sense of community for everyone.

20. How do you plan to support the well being and development of the youth in our community?

Supporting youth starts with providing safe, accessible spaces for recreation, learning, and social engagement. I want to ensure our sports programs, community centers, and public facilities are well-maintained, inclusive, and affordable for all young people. One way to do this is by building a first-class football field and soccer pitch at the Junior High. This would not only provide local youth with top-quality facilities, but also attract visitors for tournaments. We could also use the space for community events, like a “movie on the field” night using the scoreboard, bringing families and residents together to strengthen our community.

21. What are your plans to expand/attract events to Brooks? What are your plans regarding future fees to use our facilities?

My plan is to keep facility fees relatively stable while focusing on improving the overall experience for residents and visitors. This starts with enforcing minimum standards for cleanliness and hygiene, especially in high-use areas like waterparks and the JBS Centre. By supporting and holding facilities accountable and maintaining high standards, we can create an environment that encourages local membership and attracts visitors. Combined with effective advertising of these improvements, I believe more people will return to use our amenities, helping Brooks become a hub for community events and recreation.

22. Why does it seem like parking is not a concern with new developments? Is this something that can be resolved in the future?

Parking is an issue I would like to address as a councilor, especially in high-density residential areas. I propose implementing a system that ensures each residence has space for two vehicles. If a household has more than two cars, additional vehicles would need to park in designated areas or non-controlled zones, rather than blocking others. This policy wouldn't interfere with personal driveways, but it would prevent vehicles from obstructing neighbors' spaces. By enforcing rules consistently and responsibly, including towing when necessary, we can encourage respectful parking and ensure our streets remain safe and accessible for everyone.

23. What can council do to work with the 2 largest employers in our community -- Grasslands Public Schools and JBS?

Council should work closely with our largest employers to strengthen the local workforce. This means supporting programs that attract and retain high-quality employees while encouraging local hiring whenever possible. At the same time, we can partner with these organizations to ensure their employees are engaged in community activities and initiatives, helping build a stronger connection between our largest employers and the people of Brooks.

24. With 25 councilors and 5 mayors plus one Reeve for a population of 24,000, what is your position on possibly merging municipalities within the County of Newell?

As long as there is healthy competition and all roles are effectively filled, I would keep the municipalities separate. However, if there is a lack of representation or inefficiencies, adjustments may need to be considered. Regardless of structure, I believe it's essential that council members, mayors, and the Reeve work closely together to collaborate on initiatives that grow and strengthen the County of Newell. Cooperation and communication are key to ensuring our communities thrive.