

CITY OF HARTWELL
SPECIAL CALLED MEETING
June 13, 2017

PRESENT: Mayor Brandon Johnson, Councilmembers Billy Ethridge, Mike MacNabb, Tony Haynie, Tray Hicks, and Bill Griggs. Also present were City Manager David Aldrich, City Attorney Robert Leverett, City Clerk Jean Turner, Representatives from the Press/Media, and interested citizens.

ABSENT: Councilmember Arthur Craft

The Hartwell City Council met in special called session on Tuesday, June 13, 2017 at 3:00 p.m. in the council chambers of city hall. Mayor Brandon Johnson called the meeting to order and stated the purpose of the meeting was to review the proposed lease with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers regarding Hart State Park.

Councilman/Mayor Pro Tem Tray Hicks reported that the proposed lease of Hart State Park had been worked out with the Corps of Engineers, but the lease would not yet be signed by Council until all details are finalized. The following objectives contained in the lease, which the City had discussed and requested, were read and explained by Councilman Hicks:

- Lease would be in the City's name
- Lease would be a state-form lease
- Lease would need to be financeable (for private sector)
- Term – would need to be a 50-year lease, which could be amended
- Cost – any funds that the City brings in would have to go back into the Park
- All uses for the Park are included in Exhibit "B" of the lease (including a hotel)

Councilman Hicks continued to explain that the proposed lease would now go to the National Environmental Protection Agency, and from there, to each agency involved that may have an issue with what has been put together, which could take from 30 to 90 days. This would also be put out for public review. During the next 60 days the City will begin negotiations with the two preliminary vendors who went through the Request for Proposals (RFP) process for subleasing all or portions of Hart State Park. Other vendors would also have an opportunity to go through the RFP process. The annexation process and planning for infrastructure will also begin.

In expressing appreciation to those involved with assisting the City in the lease process, Councilman Hicks thanked Representative Alan Powell, who has been involved from day one, the Corps of Engineers, Joel Katz of Congressman Doug Collins' office, Edward Tate of Senator Johnny Isakson's office, and Mr. Shawn Davis of Breakpoint Consulting.

Councilman Hicks moved that the City accept the concept of the lease, as it is written, regarding Hart State Park. Motion was seconded by Councilman Haynie. As Councilman Griggs stated he felt the lease needed to be looked at further, Councilman Haynie agreed that all Councilmembers needed to be comfortable with the lease before signing, but this action to approve the concept was needed to keep the process moving. As the vote was called, motion carried 4 to 0 to accept the concept of the lease as written, with Councilman Griggs abstaining. As stated by Mayor Johnson, the lease would not be signed until all details are worked out and put in final form.

There being no further comments, a motion was made by Councilman Hicks to adjourn the meeting at approximately 3:20 p.m. Motion was seconded by Councilman Ethridge and carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Jean Turner
City Clerk