

Council takes step toward possible takeover of property where animal shelter is located

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The city council on Tuesday took a step toward a possible takeover of the land on which the animal shelter sits.

Currently, the city owns the building and the Humane Society owns the land.

At a previous meeting, Mayor Gordon McCoy stated that a section of the agreement between Forrest City and the Humane Society states that if the land is annexed, the land then becomes city property.

There has been controversy between the Humane Society and the city over the way the shelter is operated. McCoy has stated he wants to cut all ties with

the Humane Society and force them out of the shelter altogether.

Also at a previous meeting, City Attorney Alan Cline advised that since property rights might be involved, the city council would need to vote at some point.

At Tuesday's meeting, McCoy said that after meeting privately with Cline, he had decided that Cline was right, and that the city council needed to vote "to allow him (Cline) and myself to bring about a resolution. I think it would be very fitting if the council would authorize us."

Council Member Cecil Twillie agreed. "It sounds like the right way to start,"

said Twillie. "We have an issue. And I think we need to arrive at whose property it is. And once we establish whose property it really is, then the owner of the property would naturally have to have some dialogue or something."

Twillie continued, "That's what I'd like to see happen and then follow through. Have the mayor and the attorney look into that — actually look into that and follow through on what the council said, when it said what it said. It's been stated that when the land was annexed, certain things were supposed to happen."

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