LAFAVETTE — The Lafayette City Council, with a 3-2 vote and no discussion, refused Tuesday to grant members of the defunct Auditorium Commission any advisory role for the Cajundome Commission.

The measure was proposed as a compromise between Mayor Dud Lastrapes and three councilmembers at loggerheads over the appointments to the Cajundome Commission.

Lastrapes contends he has the authority to make the five appointments and that the council has the right only to approve or reject the nominations.

Council members W.M. “Dub” Hudson, Bob Domingue and Benny Ritchey oppose the mayor on his recommended appointments, some of whom are from the old Auditorium Commission. The three councilmen contend some of his appointees are too unqualified or inexperienced for overseeing the Cajundome, a civic center to be completed in 1984.

Lastrapes is supported on the issue by council President Al Simon and Councilman Wilfred Pierre.

So far, the council has refused by consistent 3-2 votes to approve the mayor’s recommendations.

An ordinance was approved 3-2 earlier this month by the council, granting the council authority to make the appointments. However, Lastrapes vetoed that ordinance.

As a countermeasure, the council is considering a resolution to provide itself with authority to make the appointments. The mayor can reject an ordinance, not a resolution.

Without a special meeting, the earliest the council could decide on such a resolution would be May 10, since the May 3 meeting has been canceled.

In other action, the council approved electricity sales to three cities and two electricity groups.

In addition, the city is negotiating to make power available for sale to the municipalities of St. Martinville and Abbeville, both currently served by Gulf States Utilities Co.

The council agreed to sell excess power to New Roads, Alexandria and Plaquemine, along with Cajun Electric Power Cooperative and the Municipal Energy Agency of Mississippi.

Domingue questioned a provision of the power contract with Plaquemine, complaining that the agreement forces Lafayette to pay $233,000 in transmission costs.

But Ritchey argued that the contract provides that Lafayette will be compensated after the second and third years of the contract for the cost deferment.

The provision to Plaquemine was necessary to make Lafayette’s offer competitive with other offers, Ritchey said.

Abbeville and St. Martinville officials are looking for alternative power sources after last year’s utility rate increase by Gulf States.

Louie Ervin, in charge of Lafayette’s outside power sales, said Lafayette would provide electricity to Abbeville and St. Martinville through the Louisiana Electric Power Authority, a consortium of municipalities aimed at obtaining low-cost electricity.

Eventually, LEPA would have to look to another source for electricity, he said.

The power sales approved Tuesday will generate about $2 million in profit, Ervin said. The sales are for electricity left over after servicing Lafayette residents and businesses.

The city will use the profit to preclude the need for increasing its rates to Lafayette residents and also to provide some general fund revenue, he said.

Lafayette’s half-interest in the Boyce power plant is providing 80 percent of the electricity for outside sales, while natural gas plants in Lafayette provide the remainder, he said.

Domingue, the only councilman to vote against the Plaquemine sale, said he approves the sale of electricity to the city but he is against the transmission cost deferment.