Council Kills Amendment For Dome Commission

It was a moot point, but the City Council defeated a measure last night which would have allowed Mayor, Dud Lastrapes to appoint former members of the Lafayette Municipal Auditorium Commission to the proposed Auditorium-Dome Commission as advisors.

With a 3-2 vote, Council members killed a proposed amendment to an ordinance which also would have enabled Lastrapes and USL President Ray Authement to submit one nominee to the Commission for approval instead of three.

But the ordinance was already dead, according to Councilman W.M. "Dub" Hudson.

"It's virtually, with one exception, the same ordinance the mayor vetoed," last week, Hudson said after yesterday's meeting.

On-Going Struggle

The issue involves an on-going struggle about who will appoint members to the Auditorium-Dome Commission which will oversee the operation of the Municipal Auditorium and Cajundome.

Several weeks ago, the Council voted to take away the mayor's customary privilege of submitting nominees for committee appointments.

That action came after the Council members disagreed with some of Lastrapes' recommendations and he refused to submit substitute names.

So the Council later approved an ordinance with an 3-2 vote which spelled out its sole authority, granted in the city's home rule charter, to appoint committee members.

Lastrapes vetoed the ordinance and there were not four Council votes to override his veto. So, the ordinance was killed.

Councilman Benny Ritchey is expected to take the next step. He has said he will propose a resolution which will allow the Council to create the Auditorium-Dome Commission without the mayor's approval. Resolutions cannot be vetoed by the mayor.

No Dates

The earliest that resolution can be submitted is May 10. The Council's regularly scheduled meeting next week has been cancelled because a majority of members will be out of town.

It is expected that Ritchey's resolution will say that the Council will name five commission members, USL President Ray Authement will name three, Authement and Lastrapes will name one, the Hotel-Motel Association will name one and the Convention and Visitor's Bureau will name one.

Councilmen have not named their proposed appointments and no date has been set for the commission to be named — if Ritchey proposes the resolution and it is approved.