PROBLEM WITH NOMINEES

Council Rejects Dome Commission; To Meet With Mayor, USL President

By MIKE HASTEN AND KATHLEEN THAMES

City councilmen, Mayor Dud Lastrapes and USL President Ray Authement are scheduled to meet this week to try to work out problems in the appointment of a commission to oversee the operations of the Cajundome and Municipal Auditorium.

A majority of the Council last night refused to appoint a commission and most said it was because they do not approve of some of the members nominated. Councilmen Bob Domingue, Benny Ritchey and W.M. "Dub" Hudson objected to the appointments, overruling the votes of Wilfred Pierre and Council President Al Simons.

Eleven names have been submitted by Lastrapes, Authement, the Lafayette Convention and Visitors Commission and the Hotel-Motel Association for appointment to the commission. Included are Gloria Knox, Louis Mann, Willis Ducrest, Dr. Kenneth Brown and Jeannie Rush (nominated by Lastrapes); Mario Mamasakis, Bill Broadhurst and Jim Caillier (nominated by Authement); Bill Buck (nominated by the Hotel-Motel Association); and Gerald Breaux (nominated by the tourist commission). Sid Ory was nominated by Authement and Lastrapes.

Some councilmen say they do not believe these are the best nominees the city could find.

Hudson, the most vocal in the opposition, said he believes the commission members should be "very strong businessmen." He pointed out that the Cajundome will be a major facility which will try to attract nationwide attention.

"We need a strong selling organization and a strong board that understands dollars and cents," he said.

Hudson added, "It's big business and it should be approached in a very, very business-like manner."

He would not name the nominees whom he does not consider suitable.

No Northside Nominees

Councilman Bob Domingue also told The Advertiser: "I don't have any representation on the northside."

Councilmen have delayed the appointment several times since September, reportedly because funding for completion of the facility had not been secured from Gov. Dave Treen. Last week, Treen announced he will push for the funding, virtually guaranteeing that it would be supplied.

Simonsaid last night that the money was just a part of the delay. The Council's objection to the nominees was a major factor, he said, and signals were sent to the mayor's office that some changes might be needed before the issue came to a vote.

'An Embarrassing Situation'

Lastrapes said last night the city is "at a point of having an embarrassing situation."

The "obvious disagreements with some of the names would be hard to air publicly," he said, so closed-door meetings with the Council and Authement will be called to discuss the problem.

If necessary, interviews with the disputed nominees will be held to see if the problems can be taken care of, he said.

When Simons called for discussion on the nominations, the Council sat silent. He asked twice and then urged the Council to act on the proposals because "it is very, very important to pass this resolution this evening."

Knew Beforehand

Simonsaid he knew before the meeting that a majority of the Council was opposed to the appointments and urged members "not to let petty, personal differences interfere."

The vote was split 2-2 when it came time for Hudson to vote. Before casting his nay vote, he said he resents "the implication that petty and personal differences might influence my decision, because that's not true."

Simonsaid later in the meeting that he did not say specifically that there were any personal differences between the Council members and commission nominees. But, he added, "If the shoe fits, wear it...I did not imply that anyone had any personal differences."

"We'll listen to the tape (of the meeting)," Hudson snapped.

Simonsaid after the meeting: "I don't know if they (the councilmen) think they (the nominees) are incompetent or incapable of serving on such a commission, but I believe they're good, qualified citizens."

Lafayette Civic Center