City Council members may change a deal with USL so that USL must put earnings from the Cajundome into improving the Cajundome or into any other agreed project. That issue is up for introduction Tuesday. It would be available for final adoption by Feb. 25.

USL President Ray Authement said he has no problem with changing the deal. He puts earnings from the Cajundome back into community improvements already, he said.

Currently, USL gets 20 cents for every dollar less than $500,000 the Cajundome needs to operate each year. The city gives the dome up to $500,000 a year in subsidies. The 20 percent incentive to USL is part of a contract with USL for reducing the subsidy.

Last year, the subsidy was reduced to $279,215. The city wrote a check Oct. 30 to USL for $44,157, which is 20 percent of the $220,785 the dome’s management didn’t need to keep the facility’s doors open in 1990.

Authement said he put that money into fixing the basketball floor at the dome. A check in 1990 was put into improving the nearby USL Track and Field facility, which hosted a national meet last spring. City and parish governments also contributed improvements to the facility for the meet.

Authement said he had a verbal agreement in the past with city officials to use USL’s checks from City Hall for community improvements. “Some council members thought that was kind of loose,” he said.

As for putting it in writing, “I have no problem with that,” he added.

The contract currently says only that the city is to write USL a check for 20 percent of the reduced subsidy amount.

The proposed change says “the city agrees to pay into a special Cajundome fund, which shall be under the control of USL, (the money)... which ... shall be used exclusive for Cajundome capital projects and/or any joint project” USL and the city agree to.

Council members had complained that the checks to USL increase city subsidies to the dome even when dome management reduce the subsidies.

The 1990 subsidy, for example, totalled $323,379 after the check to USL was written.