Lafayette attorney William Broadhurst was elected chairman of the Cajundome Management Board yesterday at the group's first meeting at City Hall.

Jerry Brents, a local banker, was chosen vice chairman of the group.

The election of officers was the only official action taken by the new commission, which will oversee the operation of the Municipal Auditorium and Cajundome.

But board members agreed to meet next Tuesday for a briefing by city officials about the facilities.

Council President Al Simons told board members one of their most important duties will be to help hire a manager for the Cajundome. That assembly center is now under construction next to USL's Cajun Field on Congress Street.

One of the key issues to be decided by the board is whether the director should be hired through Civil Service.

Mayor Dud Lastrapes suggested that the board consider recommending that an economic analysis of the Cajundome convention facilities be conducted by the Real Estate Research Corporation of Chicago.

Such a study, the mayor said, would provide information about competitors, potential users of the Cajundome and the facility's economic impact on the community.

The analysis would cost $27,800 and take 12 to 14 weeks to complete.

RERC has completed similar studies in cities such as Indianapolis, Ind.; Denver, Colo.; Oakland, Calif.; Chicago; and New Orleans.

It is currently conducting a downtown study for the city of Lafayette.

The Cajundome Management Board was appointed May 17 after months of squabbling between the Council and Lastrapes.

Duties and powers of the board have yet to be specified.

City Council president Al Simons said an ordinance is in the works which would "spell out pretty carefully what the duties and responsibilities will be."