Lastrapes vetoes Cajundome action

Mayor Dud Lastrapes has vetoed an ordinance taking away his power to appoint members of a Cajundome Commission.

City Council voted last week to take away the mayor’s power to appoint five of the 11 commission members with the council’s approval. The council and the mayor had been arguing for several months over the makeup of the board, especially the mayor’s recommendation that members of the recently-disbanded Auditorium Commission be appointed to the new Cajundome Commission.

The new ordinance gives each council member the right to appoint one commission member with the full council’s approval.

USL will make three appointments without council approval. The Lafayette Hotel-Motel Association and the Lafayette Visitors and Convention Bureau will each nominate three names, of which one will be approved by the council.

The eleventh appointment will be one of three names jointly submitted by the mayor and USL president Ray Authement.

In vetoing the ordinance, Lastrapes noted that the city charter gives the City Council appointment powers. But, he said, “precedent and tradition should carry some weight,” explaining that he makes most appointments.

Because most boards and commissions report to the mayor (who then recommends actions to the City Council), “I believe that process would basically necessitate such appointments coming from the mayor’s office.”

The mayor also vetoed the measure in an effort to get his nominees onto the commission. “Those members from the Municipal Auditorium Commission, which served this city so well for many years, should be brought on board this new commission in a transitional period of service,” he said.

It will take a 4-1 vote to override the veto. Because the original vote was 3-2, it is unlikely that the veto will be overridden at next week’s meeting.