Lafayette mayor vetoes Cajundome vote

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LAFAYETTE - The controversy between Lafayette Mayor Dud Lastrapes and three members of the City Council over appointments to the Cajundome Commission was protracted Wednesday with the mayor's veto power.

Lastrapes gave notice that he has vetoed the council's action made on April 5, when the council voted 3-2 that it should make the five of 11 appointments to the Cajundome Commission.

Lastrapes noted in his required reason for the veto that the council may appoint commission members.

"However, I do feel that precedent and tradition should carry some weight in future consideration of this authority," the mayor said in Wednesday's explanation of the veto.

When the council refused to affirm the mayor's appointments. Several successive times, the council refused the mayor's request.

Hudson said at the April 5 council meeting that the mayor refused to budge on the council's complaints, so the council took the matter into its own hands.

Lastrapes noted in his required reason for the veto that the council may appoint commission members.

"Furthermore, I believe that the other names submitted to the council provide a well-rounded representation of the facets of our community and they, likewise I feel, would serve the commission and city well," he said.

The other commission members would be suggested to the council by the local tourist commission, motel association and a joint recommendation by the mayor and the president of the University of Southwestern Louisiana, Ray Authement.

Authement has three appointments not requiring council approval.