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Joint Session Proposed On Building Auditorium

A suggestion will be made to City Council Monday that Roanoke officials confer with the three other Roanoke Valley governments on the feasibility of jointly building a civic auditorium.

Councilman Willis M. Anderson will ask the mayor to name a committee to confer with representatives of Salem, Vinton and Roanoke County.

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ANDERSON SAID it was generally agreed at a public hearing in January that a civic auditorium is needed. That meeting, called by Council, was attended by representatives of nearly all local civic groups.

"Since then, nothing else has been done on the governmental level," Anderson said.

The idea of the four Roanoke Valley governments building an auditorium was first proposed by Sydney F. Small last month. He is a Norfolk and Western Railway vice president and a member of the Roanoke Chamber of Commerce civic center committee.

The proposal immediately won support of several officials of the four governments. Those who didn't directly support the

idea said they'd like to discuss it further.

Anderson said his proposal is not an effort to duplicate efforts of the Roanoke Jaycees, who are talking of building a three-unit coliseum.

"This is not an attempt to create conflict," he said. "We could probably use the results of their study to advantage."

Council is not expected to talk about the possible size, site or other details of an auditorium at this time. It will probably go into this if a committee is named and finds a joint auditorium is practical.

The idea of a civic auditorium has been kicked around for years.

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INTEREST in such a building was revived when the American Legion Auditorium burned last November.

The city had a long-time lease on land in the Commonwealth Project in Northeast with the idea of perhaps building an auditorium there.

The option on that land, which was valued at \$225,000, expired June 30.