City Council Considering Banning
Open Liquor Containers In All Autos

**Staff Report**

The City Council gave preliminary approval yesterday to a new law which would prohibit drinking while driving — but only by a 3-2 vote.

The proposed ordinance is part of a four-part package under consideration by the Council, which is trying to slow the increasing death rate related to drunk driving.

Also being contemplated by the Council are ordinances which would force lounges to close at 2 a.m. every day and allow officers to search lounge patrons for guns.

The city approved the creation of a 15-member intergovernmental task force on drunk driving yesterday.

**Motor Homes Affected**

Two Councilmen balked yesterday at the newest proposal, which would also prohibit possession of open containers in a private car when it’s on a public street.

Councilman Bob Domingue and Wilfred Pierre voted “no”, both displeased that motor homes would not be exempt from the law.

Pierre said he considers a motor home to be a private home. If he can have liquor in his house, then he should be able to have it in a motor home as well, he told reporters after the meeting.

It is possible to amend the proposal to make an exception for motor homes, but Pierre said that’s not enough.

**Existing Law ‘Weak’**

The city already has an ordinance which prohibits citizens from having open glass containers on public streets, he said, “which is not being enforced.”

There is “no basic difference” between that open glass container law and the new proposal, Pierre said.

But Councilman W.M. “Dub” Hudson, who authored the new proposal, disagrees. A motor home should not be exempted legislature. Pierre favors waiting to see how legislators vote on the issue and, if it is approved, to determine if it is suitable before putting such a law on the city’s books.

But, Hudson says, “I don’t want to wait for the state. Let us set the pace.”

There seemed to be less disagreement yesterday over the creation of an intergovernmental task force on drunk driving which was recommended by Mayor Dud Lastrapes.

The Council unanimously approved the measure establishing the task force.

Mary Lib Guercio, vice-president of the new Concerned Citizens/Movement Against (Continued on Page 6, Col. 5)