By CHERYL PAPA

LAFAYETTE — The sale of alcoholic beverages in lounges and bars will now be allowed here on Sundays, after the City Council voted Tuesday to change part of Lafayette's code of ordinances.

Prior to the council's vote, only restaurants were allowed to sell alcoholic beverages on Sundays. There was some confusion as to what establishments actually can be considered restaurants, thus causing the change, said Police Chief Gary Copes.

The new law states that sale of alcoholic beverages is prohibited between 2 a.m. and 12 noon on Sunday, and between 6 a.m. and 8 a.m. Monday through Saturday.

It took too much manpower in the past to distinguish between lounges and restaurants, Copes said.

Tim Melancon, project director for the Alcohol Traffic Action Campaign, commented after the meeting that there also was confusion because hotels could sell alcoholic beverages to guests, but not to the general public.

"This new ordinance is one that both policemen and permittees can understand," Melancon said.

Councilman Al Simon said he is not in favor of drinking alcoholic beverages on Sundays, but he supported the change in order to keep equity to businesses.

The council does not have the authority to legislate morality, Simon said.

John Morgan, who does comical routines at various lounges and bars, said it is a "step in the right direction in separating the church and the state."

There was some discussion as to whether the public and various religious organizations had ample time to review the proposed changes, since an amended version of the proposed ordinance was received on Monday by members of the council.

Council President F.V. "Pappy" Landry voted against the changes.

"I am not against the sale of alcoholic beverages on Sundays, but I have reservations about the separation of church and state," Landry said.

Landry said he feels that the public has not had enough time to review the proposed ordinance.

However, Councilman Wilfred Pierre said people were made aware that the ordinance would be voted on at the meeting, and they should have attended if they were opposed to the changes.

Also included in the ordinance is implementation of a mandatory server training program for people who apply for renewals of certificates of qualification, which are required for those dispensing or serving alcohol in a permitted establishment for on-the-premises consumption.

Effective Jan. 1, 1990, renewals of the certificates of qualification will not be issued if the program has not been successfully completed.

The program is a three-hour course designed to teach managers and employees responsible alcohol-related business practices.

The class is free until Oct. 1, 1991, because of a grant by the state, said Melancon.

Copes also said at the meeting that city police will no longer be allowed to work at businesses in which the major commodity sold is alcohol.

"Uniformed officers should not be working in bars," he said.

Pierre said this will have a drastic effect on many officers' incomes, so they should be given a chance to make up the hours.

Copes said they will be given the opportunity to work overtime within the department.

The only council member to vote against the entire ordinance was Landry, who said the public did not have enough time to give its input.

Mayor Dud Lastrappe said after the meeting that he will sign the ordinance to end the confusion and to be equitable to all businesses, but it is not ideal to drink on Sundays.

In other action, the council voted to transfer $55,000 from the council's reserve to the public works department for removal and disposal of debris of the Collins Hotel, which burned on Aug. 5, 1989.

The original cost of the cleanup was about $100,000 because the state Department of Environmental Quality required that all of the debris be taken to an industrial disposal site, said Jerry Trumps, the city's director of public works. But DEQ was convinced that not all debris is contaminated, so the bulk of it will go to a construction demolition site, which lowers the cost of the cleanup.

Only a small portion has been determined to have friable asbestos, Trumps said.

The owner of the property does not have the money to pay for the removal of the debris, so the city has to get involved, said Trumps.

Once all of the debris has been removed, the necessary legal steps will be taken by the city to seize the property, he said.

Lastrappe said it is possible that the city can recover $2,000 from a federal compensation-liability act.

Also at the meeting, the council introduced an ordinance to prohibit smoking in all city-owned buildings. The ordinance will come up for final adoption on July 11.