

Ministerial Union Has Petition for Shorter Curfew

The 10 beer licenses of South Norfolk who petitioned the Council to lengthen their operating hours from 11 p. m. to midnight, will have to have another day "in court." And if a full attendance of the Council is present, they will lose.

Mayor Forehand and Councilman White voted for a curfew extension in the August 17 meeting. Councilman McClain opposed the extension then, and Councilmen Hanley and Overton, absent at the August 17 vote, indicated last night that they would vote against extending the curfew.

An additional question also will come up: Operation of commercial places on Sunday.

What brought it all up last night was a petition from the South Norfolk Ministerial Union, of which the Rev. Frank Hughes, Jr., is president. The petition asked the Council to rescind its August 17 action on extending the beer curfew, and to pass an ordinance to close commercial establishments on Sunday.

The petition cited "existing conditions of Sabbath desecration" in the city.

Mayor Objects

Mayor Forehand at first opposed reconsideration of the curfew question.

"It was done fairly. Interested parties had two weeks' notice. But when we met, there was only one objection," he said.

Council action alone, however, is not sufficient to ^{make operation} past 11 o'clock legal; the Council can only pass a resolution, which must then be acted upon by the Alcoholic Beverage Control Board at Richmond.

In the South Norfolk case, the Council's action has not been called to Richmond's attention. Had the beer boys been on the ball and had the action reported, and had the ABC Board already ruled, midnight beer in South Norfolk might now be legal.

As it is, it isn't; and it won't likely be. The South Norfolk Council is against it by a majority of one.

All sides are invited to come out at the next meeting.