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## Powder Springs Likely to Vote on Sunday Sales

If the City Council gives the OK Monday, it will be up to voters to decide in March.

By [Michael Stone](#) | [Email the author](#) | November 17, 2011

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After [rejecting the idea in June](#), the [Powder Springs City Council](#) appeared to have a change of heart Wednesday on Sunday package alcohol sales.

"I think a lot of people showed up at the polls (on [Election Day last week](#)) to vote for it," Mayor Pat Vaughn said at Wednesday's work session. "I guess if they want it on there, put it on there. If they want to vote it up or down, let the people" decide.

"Let them have a say so," Councilwoman Rosalyn Neal added.

No council members voiced opposition Wednesday, likely signifying a positive vote at Monday's 7 p.m. meeting at the [Community Development](#) building. The decision would then be put in voters' hands on March 6, 2012, and would coincide with the presidential primary.

Last week, the Board of Commissioners [decided to also allow a March vote](#) for those living in unincorporated Cobb.

If council members had approved Sunday sales when they discussed it in June, the option would have appeared on [last week's ballot](#).

Vaughn said she believes that even if residents vote in favor in March, liquor stores will remain closed on Sundays. "They're not going to open up," she said.

Councilman Tom Bevirt said he once served on an alcohol commission elsewhere, and "the people who were most against it were the liquor stores because they didn't want to be open on Sunday.

"They said, 'We're going to sell so much booze in six days as seven days. The difference is, we're going to have to work extra or hire someone.'"

Vaughn and Bevirt, the most veteran members of Powder Springs' legislative body, said the city's citizens got to vote in the mid-'90s on separate alcohol issues: liquor by the drink Monday through Saturday, and then liquor by the drink on Sundays.

In April, Gov. Nathan Deal approved [Senate Bill 10](#), removing the state's ban on Sunday package sales and allowing cities and counties to decide for themselves. The move left Connecticut and Indiana as the only states to have Sunday bans.

Out of Georgia's 694 cities and counties, only 120 put Sunday sales before voters last week, [according to the Atlanta Journal-Constitution](#). Many governments decided against it because they didn't want to pay for a public vote on just the one issue, the newspaper reported.

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[myrna](#). The issue wasn't on Austell's ballot, and Marietta didn't

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Also on Wednesday:

- Police Chief Charlie Sewell explained how selling the police department's two motorcycles fully equipped to another police agency [might be more beneficial to the city](#) than selling them on GovDeals.com.
- Council members were presented with future use floodplain maps. The [Dewberry](#) firm's Sam Crampton said that if residents affected by the new maps get flood insurance early, they can be grandfathered in and purchase it for about \$500 a year. But if they wait until it's "mandated on them," he added, they could be looking at \$1,000 to \$2,000 annually. Crampton said some residents could even be coming out of the floodplain. Either way, those affected will be alerted by mail, he said. There aren't many changes, so Crampton said he expects the maps to be "well accepted."
- Public Works Director Greg Ramsey said the city [could save as much as \\$119,000](#) if it drops Paulding County inmates for janitorial and landscaping services.
- The council discussed how it will need to pay Norfolk Southern \$100 a year, including a payment for last year, to use 3,375 square feet near the Seven Springs Museum. Vaughn called the price "pretty reasonable."
- The council discussed voting on the first reading of an ordinance Monday that would amend the city's budget and give raises to its employees, who haven't had an increase in pay in more than four years. City Manager Rick Eckert wasn't sure of the figures yet, but said he would have them ready by Monday's meeting.
- The council went into executive session to discuss a personnel issue.

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**Tea Man**

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12:31 pm on Thursday, November 17, 2011

RE: Councilman Tom Bevirt said he once served on an alcohol commission elsewhere, and "the people who were most against it were the liquor stores because they didn't want to be open on Sunday. "They said, 'We're going to sell so much booze in six days as seven days. The difference is, we're going to have to work extra or hire someone.'"

This is core free enterprise and someone will open on Sundays and they will get the business!

[Reply](#)

**Jim Cater**

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8:44 pm on Thursday, November 17, 2011

Being a Saturday worker, I guess my business will have to go to Hiram on Sundays. It's a shame the Mayor & Council waited so long to jump on the bandwagon.

[Reply](#)

**Suzie Q. Citizen**

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10:48 pm on Friday, November 18, 2011

Certain council persons know what's best for us. Ms. Neal obviously was of the opinion several months back when she cavalierly stated during a work session that we could buy a libations on Saturday. End of discussion. It was never their decision in the first place. It's ours.

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