

# Clemson Farmer's Market features new manager

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CLEMSON — This year marks the third consecutive year that the Clemson Farmer's Market will be in operation and the second year in a row at its location at Patrick Square.

However, when the event begins May 18, a market manager will be featured as part of its new management structure. On Monday evening Clemson City Council approved a one-

year agreement with Patrick Square that includes the management change.

Kathi Dimmock will become the full-time manager at \$1,200 per month for eight months (\$9,600 per year).

Chris Hodge, who appeared before city council representing Patrick Square, said Dimmock would work as an independent contractor and brings experience from the Augusta, Ga., Farmer's Market.

Hodge said the \$12,000 annual budget, which includes Dimmock's salary, would be shared by Patrick Square and the City of Clemson — with Clemson contributing \$8,000 and Patrick Square the remaining \$4,000.

He also proposed an additional \$2,400 for entertainment, food samples and demonstrations allowing Dimmock to better promote the market.

SEE CLEMSON, PAGE A3



Starting May 18, the Clemson Farmer's Market will return for a third year and will again be hosted by Patrick Square. However, there will be a new manager leading the program this year.

FILE PHOTO

## CLEMSON: Farmer's market initially opens May 18

FROM PAGE A1

"We need help in the day-to-day management role of the market and need an advocate to promote the market, to create a positive atmosphere, to entertain and make it an experience people will come back to," Hodge said. "We need someone to pursue funding and sponsorships to get the community to buy in and allow the market to support itself."

An advisory board consisting of a City of Clemson representative, Patrick Square representative and three vendors would also be established.

But Hodge said he

wants the city to maintain ownership of the market, particularly in the oversight of the budget, email directory and in receiving mail in general while Patrick Square would host the market.

The concept initially began in 2010 as the brainchild of former city planner Arzu Yilmaz, with Crosspoint Church serving as the host site that inaugural year.

But Hodge said that while a slow economy first enabled city staff to put more time into the market, the fact that the economy is on the rebound limits the amount of time staff has available.

Therefore, Hodge said having someone with the expertise to keep the market vibrant is vital to its long-term success.

Dimmock, who described herself as "a people person who wants to be involved in the community," agrees.

After its initial opening May 18, the Clemson Farmer's Market will continue operation from 3:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. every Friday through Oct. 26.

A \$25 fee will be charged to vendors in an effort to encourage participation, with the fee increasing as demand goes up.

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