

RED TICKETS TO PUT ON (E-Y-R)  
Top Gun's Mini-Storage System  
Beginning on September 4, 2020  
Ending on September 4, 2020  
Completed on September 7, 2020 at 10:58 AM

PAID TO GREAT NAME  
BALANCE HEIGHT FLOOR IN/OUT

# Encouraging start



COURTESY OF THE ACC

Clemson fans cheer outside Memorial Stadium on Saturday before the Tigers' home opener against the Citadel. City officials were pleased with fans' compliance with gameday parking protocols put into place to help prevent the spread of COVID-19, but hope to do more to increase foot traffic downtown to help businesses in a safe way.

## Clemson keeping gameday COVID-19 protocol in place, but officials hoping to increase downtown business safely

**BY GREG OLIVER**  
THE JOURNAL

CLEMSON — Citing cooperation from property owners and managers — and the dramatic decline in downtown shoppers — during Clemson's home football opener Saturday, Clemson City Council voted unanimously Monday night to keep

its COVID-19 gameday parking protocol as is, minus one small change.

The only amendment allows parking for up to four and a half hours prior to home games rather than three hours as originally proposed.

Councilman Fran McGuire said he made two different tours and was impressed by what lot owners had done to comply with the ordinance.

"You could tell the way the signs were arranged for people to park, and I didn't see any tents," McGuire said. "I don't know if we were lucky that day, but I think they were structured to meet the requirements and the protocols."

Interim Clemson Police Chief Jeff

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# GAMEDAY: 'Everyone seemed to do a really

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Stone said he did not see any issues related to the gameday parking ordinance and adherence to COVID-19 policies.

"We were very fortunate that everyone complied, and the issues we had were not related to any of these ordinances," Stone said. "I don't recommend making any changes."

Interim city administrator Andy Blondeau agreed.

"We were very pleasantly surprised by how many compliances were taking place, how many people were wearing masks and how the businesses were adhering to all the protocols, and all the parking spaces in people's yards were evenly spaced out," Blondeau said. "Everyone seemed to do a really good job."

Blondeau was set to meet with downtown business owners at Tuesday's Economic Development Advisory Committee to hear their point of view on gameday precautions. While council extended its allowance of parking in an

effort to give people more time to visit businesses downtown, that vision didn't come to fruition.

"I didn't see them," Blondeau said.

Councilman Robert Halfacre said more needed to be done to assist the city's businesses, which rely heavily on gameday traffic.

"I was down there at

lunchtime and it wasn't busy at all," Halfacre said. "It was very surprising. We need to support our businesses, but in a safe way."

Mayor pro tem John Ducworth said he talked to a few business owners and they reported the crowd "was like a normal weekend with nowhere near capacity."

Mayor J.C. Cook said he read some business owners thought their business would be less than half of what it is on a normal football home game. However, the mayor added most felt it would be less than a third of their typical gameday business.

"They are suffering, and we need to do anything we can to help those

## good job'

business owners in a safe way," Cook said. "I can't see stripping anything further than we have already."

The Tigers are off this weekend and will be home again next Saturday, when Virginia visits Memorial Stadium.