



City of Reidsville Press Release – Release Date July 18, 2019

Commonwealth donates to planned Clock Tower

Commonwealth Brands has helped make a proposed Sesquicentennial Clock Tower project one step closer to becoming reality.

The City of Reidsville will celebrate 150 years of incorporation in 2023. Among the ideas suggested at the last two annual Council Retreats as part of a year-long “Reidsville150” celebration has been a possible clock tower to be located at the southside entranceway into the downtown area. At its June meeting, the City Council agreed to purchase a section of land across from Fire Station No. 1 at the intersection of Scales and Williams streets to accommodate the clock tower.

Not only will the clock “kick off” the year-long Sesquicentennial celebration, but it will also serve as a defining point for Reidsville’s downtown on the south end. Such a visual defining point had been recommended by a previous study done for the downtown.

Commonwealth is the first local industry to donate to the Sesquicentennial Clock, which will resemble a similar clock in Thomasville erected by the Verdin Clock Company. The materials used in the formation of the clock also tie in with the roof of Market Square.

“We are very pleased to be able to contribute to this endeavor and to show our appreciation for all of the support that the City of Reidsville and this community has provided for our factory,” said Ken Barnwell, Factory Manager. “This factory has been here for over 120 years and has been an integral part of the history of Reidsville.”

Assistant City Manager Chris Phillips, who also spearheads the staff committee making plans for the 150th birthday, noted that it would take about a year to construct the clock.

Community involvement is going to be sought on the project, he added. One possibility for community participation may be a brick base around the clock, whereby persons, groups or businesses can purchase a brick with a memorable inscription or date from the past 150 years.



Accepting a \$10,000 Check from Commonwealth Factory Manager Ken Barnwell is Reidsville Mayor Pro Tem Harry Brown, third from right, flanked by Council members Terresia Scoble, Donald Gorham, Sherri Walker and William Hairston. Also shown are City staff, from left (second row) Assistant City Manager Chris Phillips, Economic Development Director Jeff Garstka, Assistant City Manager Haywood Clock, HR Director Leigh Anne Bassinger; (back row) Battalion Chief Tommy Massey, Major Ronnie Ellison, City Manager Preston Mitchell and Lt. Jamie Bayne. *(Photo Courtesy of Commonwealth)*

For example, the City of Reidsville might want to include a brick labeled 1873, the date of the City's Incorporation, or a business might want to create a brick labeled with its startup date or a Reidsville High School senior class might want to include their graduation date.

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