



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:  
January 3, 2018

Contact: Mayor John L. Rowe, Jr.  
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At a Special meeting today, the Portsmouth City Council appointed Ray A. Smith, Sr., to fill the unexpired term on City Council of former Vice Mayor Paige Cherry.

Former Vice Mayor Cherry was elected to the position of Portsmouth City Treasurer on November 7, 2017, and he resigned from his position on City Council to become Portsmouth's City Treasurer on January 1, 2018.

Councilman Smith's term on City Council will expire December 31, 2018.

Councilman Smith was born in Portsmouth in 1954, and he is a 1972 graduate of I.C. Norcom High School. He is a 1975 graduate of the Electronics Technical Program of the Ohio Institute of Technology.

Councilman Smith has been employed by Dominion Energy since 1979, and he is a 1983 graduate of Dominion's Electrical Equipment Technical Development Program and a 1988 graduate of Dominion's Management Training Program. He is current the Operations Specialist for Dominion's System Distribution Reliability Department.

Councilman Smith brings a wealth of public experience to his new position on the Portsmouth City Council. He served on the Portsmouth School Board from 1993 to 2002, serving as the Board's Vice Chairman from 1996 to 2000 and as the Board's Chairman from 2000 to 2002. He served on the Portsmouth City Council from 2004 to 2008. He also served on the Board of Directors for the Southeastern Public Service Authority (SPSA) from 2006 to 2009, serving as the Board's Vice Chairman in 2009.

Councilman Smith is very actively involved in the Portsmouth community. He is the President of the I.C. Norcom Alumni Association, and he is the President of the United Civic League of Cavalier Manor. He is the Vice President of the Lake Cavalier Association. He a life member of the N.A.A.C.P., serving as the Chairman of its-Education Committee. Since 2010, Ray has been a member of the Eastern Officials (Softball) Association (VHSL Sports). He is a former consultant to Portsmouth Colored Library Board

Ray is married to Marion Harris Smith, and they have two children, Ray A. Smith, Jr.; and Shannon B. Smith, and four grandchildren

His parents are Delbert and Mattie Smith.

In the photograph below, Councilman Ray A. Smith takes the Oath of Office. Councilman Smith's wife, Marion, joined him and held the Bible as Portsmouth City Clerk Debra White administered the Oath.

