

CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION CITY OF PORTSMOUTH, OHIO

RULES AND REGULATIONS

Adopted by Commission September 15, 2015

Adopted by City Council October 12, 2015

Commission Members

John Stevenson, Esq., Chairman 3-31-32

R. Shawn Stratton 6-1-30

Chris Gerard 4-27-28

Kathy Hodkinson – Executive Secretary

John R. Haas, Esq. City Solicitor

Amended by Commission October 17, 2016 -7.17(D)

Amended by Commission August 14, 2018 – 7.07(A) (E) and 7.07(F)

Amended by Commission October 9, 2018 - 8.02

Amended by Commission March 11, 2019 – 6.04(A)

Amended by Commission November 9, 2020 10.02(A)(B)

Amended by Commission 9-14-21 5.01, 6.13, 6.14, 7.07(L)(P), *added* 7.18, 8.05, 9.09, 10.01 and 10.02

Amended by Commission November 8, 2021 5.01, 6.04, 6.13, 6.14, *added* 7.19, 9.09,10.01 and 10.02

Amended by Commission October 25, 2022 6.04A and 7.18

Amended by Commission April 11, 2023 6.04B

Amended by Commission June 4, 2024 7.16 A and 7.17 D, added 7.20

Amended by Commission February 11, 2025 7.17 E

Amended by Commission December 9, 2025 7.17D

Amended by Commission June 9, 2026 7.17E

	Page
Preamble	1
 RULE ONE — APPLICABILITY OF RULES	
1.01 Scope of the Rules and Jurisdiction of the Commission	2
1.02 Construction	2
1.03 Adoption, Amendment, Rescission.....	3
1.04 New Rules	4
1.05 Savings Clause.....	5
 RULE TWO —DEFINITIONS	
2.01 Definitions.....	6
 RULE THREE — GENERAL PROVISIONS	
3.01 Structure of the Commission	12
3.02 Duties of the Commission.....	12
3.03 Officers and Agents of the Commission	14
3.04 Removal	16
3.05 Meetings of the Commission	16
3.06 Procedure for the Adoption, Amendment, or Rescission of Rules	18

3.07 Service Lists.....	18
-------------------------	----

RULE FOUR — CLASSIFICATION

4.01 Classification Plan	20
4.02 Reclassification.....	20
4.03 Notification of Employees.....	21
4.04 Specification Amendments.....	21

RULE FIVE — CLASSIFIED AND UNCLASSIFIED SERVICE

5.01 Classified Service.....	22
5.02 Division of the Civil Service, Classified/Unclassified	22

RULE SIX — APPLICATIONS

6.01 Generally	26
6.02 Forms	26
6.03 Residency.....	27
6.04 Age Restrictions: Police and Fire	27
6.05 Fitness for Service.....	28
6.06 Character and Fitness	29
6.07 Education.....	29

6.08 Licenses and Certificates	30
6.09 Disqualification of Applicants.....	30
6.10 Notice of Acceptance or Rejection of Application.....	30
6.11 False Statements.....	31
6.12 EEO Applicant Flow Information.....	31
6.13 Application for Examination.....	32
6.14 Separate Examinations for Police and Fire	32
6.15 Performance Deposits.....	33

RULE SEVEN — EXAMINATIONS

7.01 General.....	34
7.02 Types of Examinations	34
7.03 Separate Examinations	35
7.04 Examinations; Provisional Appointments	35
7.05 Examination Notices and Sites.....	36
7.06 Scope of Examinations: Subjects/Study Materials	37
7.07 Original Appointment Exams: Police and Fire.....	37
7.08 Limitation on Original Appointments: Police and Fire.....	48

7.09 Medical, Physical, Psychological, or Drug Testing.....	48
7.10 Admission of Applicants to Examination.....	49
7.11 Identity of Entrance Examinees Concealed.....	50
7.12 Extension of Time in Examination	50
7.13 Visitors at Examinations	50
7.14 Postponement or Cancellation of Examination.....	51
7.15 Waiver	51
7.16 Promotional Examinations Generally	51
7.17 Promotional Examinations: Police and Fire.....	52
7.18 Lateral Transfer - Police..... (Added 9-14-21)	60
7.19 Lateral Transfer – Fire..... (Added 11-8-21)	61
7.20 Lateral Transfers Emergency Dispatcher.....	63

RULE EIGHT — GRADING, ADDITIONAL CREDIT, AND INSPECTION

8.01 Minimum Passing Score.....	65
8.02 Original Appointment Veteran’s Credit	65
8.03 Original Appointment Certification Credit: Water & Wastewater Department.....	66

8.04	Promotional Education, Training and Seniority Credit.....	66
8.05	Addition of Credits	67
8.06	Inspection and Grading of Examination Papers	68

RULE NINE — ELIGIBLE LISTS

9.01	Preparation of Certified Eligible Lists.....	70
9.02	Term of Eligible Lists	70
9.03	Ties: Original Appointment Eligible Lists	71
9.04	Ties: Promotional Eligible Lists.....	71
9.05	Disqualification from Eligible List.....	71
9.06	Removal from an Eligible List.....	73
9.07	Duty of Eligibles.....	74
9.08	Revocation of Eligible List	74
9.09	Separate Lists for Police and Fire.....	75

RULE TEN – APPOINTMENTS IN GENERAL

10.01	Appointments in General.....	76
10.02	Appointment Procedure/Number of Names Certified	76
10.03	Veterans' Preference on Original Appointments	77

10.04 Probationary Periods.....	78
10.05 Removal or Reduction During Probation.....	79
10.06 Provisional Service.....	79
10.07 Temporary or Exceptional Appointments	79
10.08 Promotional Appointments: Police and Fire	82
10.09 Promotional Restrictions: Police and Fire.....	83

RULE ELEVEN — TENURE, REDUCTION, SUSPENSION, REMOVAL, AND DEMOTION

11.01 Tenure of Office.....	85
11.02 Procedure in General	86
11.03 Procedure: Police and Fire.....	86
11.04 Disciplinary Action	87
11.05 Disciplinary Suspension	89
11.06 Absence Without Leave.....	90
11.07 Procedure for Removal, Suspension, or Reduction	90
11.08 Future City Employment Restricted.....	91

RULE TWELVE — HEARING PROCEDURE

12.01 Time of Hearing; Notifications	92
12.02 Amendments to Orders	92
12.03 Hearing Procedure	92
12.04 Rules of Evidence; Representation by Counsel	93
12.05 Burden of Proof	93
12.06 Hearsay	94
12.07 Discovery.....	94
12.08 Subpoenas	94
12.09 Witnesses.....	94
12.10 Motions.....	94
12.11 Record of Hearings.....	95
12.12 Resignation Before Final Action	95
12.13 Trial Board/Hearing Officer.....	96

RULE THIRTEEN — LAYOFFS AND TRANSFERS

13.01 Layoffs or Reductions in General	99
13.02 Retention Points	99

13.03 Layoffs or Reductions: Police and Fire.....	101
13.04 Temporary Transfers.....	101
13.05 Permanent Transfers.....	101

RULE FOURTEEN — REINSTATEMENTS AND LEAVES OF ABSENCE

14.01 Leaves of Absence.....	103
14.02 Reinstatements in General.....	103
14.03 Reinstatement/Disability Retirement: Police and Fire	104

RULE FIFTEEN — FEDERAL AND STATE OCCUPATIONAL PROGRAMS

15.01 City Participation.....	106
15.02 Status of Program Participants.....	106

RULE SIXTEEN — PROHIBITIONS

16.01 Political Activity Prohibited.....	107
16.02 Fraud in Examinations Prohibited.....	107
16.03 Payment for Appointment or Promotion Prohibited	109
16.04 Abuse of Official Power for Political Reasons Prohibited	109
16.05 Abuse of Political Influence	110
16.06 False Statements.....	110

16.07 Violations.....	110
16.08 Prosecutions.....	111

Preamble

The following Rules and Regulations are adopted in accordance with the authority conferred upon the Municipal Civil Service Commission of the City of Portsmouth, Ohio, under the authority of the Charter and ordinances of the City of Portsmouth, Ohio, Chapter 124 and other provisions of the Ohio Revised Code, and Articles XV and XVIII and other provisions of the Constitution of the State of Ohio.

Inquiries regarding Civil Service matters or rules should be addressed to the Civil Service Commission, City of Portsmouth, 728 Second Street, Portsmouth, Ohio 45662.

CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION

RULE ONE APPLICABILITY OF RULES

1.01 Scope of the Rules and Jurisdiction of the Commission

- A. These rules shall be applicable to all civil service matters, except to the extent these rules have been superseded by collective bargaining agreements between the City of Portsmouth, Ohio and a public employee collective bargaining representative, or by Charter or ordinance.
- B. No person shall be appointed, removed, transferred, laid off, suspended, reinstated, promoted, or reduced as an officer or employee in the Civil Service of the City of Portsmouth, Portsmouth City School District or the Portsmouth Health District, in any manner or by any means other than those prescribed in these rules, except as provided in A above.

1.02 Construction

These rules should be construed so as to carry out their purposes as determined from both the literal reading of the rules and their context. The rules should be construed and applied in a manner that is consistent with the laws of the state of Ohio, except to the extent that the letter or context of the City Charter or City ordinances indicate that the City intended to supersede, preempt, or otherwise override state law through a valid exercise of Home Rule. The rules should not be construed so as to limit the City's power to exercise Home Rule, except to the extent that the City has limited itself in the City Charter. Nor should the rules be construed in a way that limits the Civil Service Commission's power to interpret and apply the rules within

the scope of their lawful authority.

A Charter provision will prevail over any conflicting ordinance. An ordinance will prevail over any conflicting rule. Any collective bargaining agreement that provides for binding arbitration of grievances and that conflicts with an ordinance or these rules will prevail over the ordinance or rule, pursuant to Chapter 4117 of the Ohio Revised Code, unless the subject matter is not a proper subject for collective bargaining. Persons convicted of certain felonies under R.C. 124.34 lose certain rights as provided in that section, notwithstanding any collective bargaining agreement.

For the convenience of the Commission and the public, certain of these rules indicate some of the instances where the City has elected to supersede state law.

The term “ordinance” in these rules is meant to include formal ordinances, resolutions, or any other actions of Council that are sufficient to carry out exercises of Home Rule or other powers of Council. References to “rules” and “regulations” are interchangeable, unless indicated otherwise.

1.03 Adoption, Amendment, Rescission

- A. Unless otherwise indicated, these rules and any amendment, revision, or rescission of the same shall be in full force and effect from and after their publication and adoption by the Civil Service Commission of the City of Portsmouth, Ohio; provided that any rules that supersede state law and require a charter amendment or an action of City Council for their effect will take effect in accordance with the charter amendment or the action of Council.

- B. Public notice as to the adoption, amendment, or rescission of any rule of the Civil Service Commission must be given to the local news media at least twenty (20) days prior to the date set for hearing and consideration of the rule.
- C. The public notice must contain a statement of the Commission's intention to alter or adopt a rule, and a statement as to the subject matter of the rule to be affected. In addition, the notice must contain the date, time, and place set for the consideration of the rule change.
- D. A copy of the full text of any proposed rule, or rule change shall be submitted to the City Manager, Superintendent of the Portsmouth City School District and the Commissioner of the Health District at least ten (10) days prior to the date set for consideration.
- E. Civil Service Commission rules, once adopted by a majority vote and entered into the minutes, will be submitted to City Council for adoption as an ordinance. Copies of the rules or rule changes, together with the minutes of the Civil Service Commission adopting the change and a copy of the ordinance enacting the change, will be kept by the designee of the Commission and made available to any person upon request.

1.04 New Rules

The present rules of the Civil Service Commission shall continue in full force and effect until the amendments set forth herein have been properly adopted. Upon the adoption of these amendments, the existing rules shall be rescinded, and these rules shall supersede and replace the same as the Rules and Regulations of the Civil Service Commission.

1.05 Savings Clause

If any section or part of these rules or any amendment is invalidated by operation of law or by order of a court of competent jurisdiction, or compliance with or enforcement of any chapter or section is restrained by a court, the remainder of these rules and any amendments shall not be affected and shall remain in full force and effect, unless the context of the rules as a whole indicates that section should be invalidated as well to conform with the Commission's intent.

RULE TWO DEFINITIONS

2.01 Definitions

Whenever used in the Civil Service Rules and Regulations the terms listed below shall be construed as follows:

- A. "Allocation" means the determination by the Commission of the class to which a position belongs.
- B. "Applicant" means a person requesting consideration for examination or employment in a class in the classified service of the City of Portsmouth, Portsmouth City School District or the Portsmouth Health District.
- C. "Appointing Authority" means the officer, commission, board, or body having the power of appointment or removal from positions in the classified service and shall include but not be limited to the following:
 - 1. City Manager
 - 2. Acting City Manager
 - 3. Designee of the City Manager
 - 4. Commissioner of Health District
 - 5. Portsmouth City School Superintendent
- D. "Available Vacancy" means an existing funded position, not currently filled by an incumbent, which the appointing authority desires to fill. The existence of vacant positions

on an appointing authority's table of organization shall not mean that a position is an available vacancy.

- E. "Certification" means the act of certifying and supplying names from an official eligible list (and recording thereon) to the appointing authority for purposes of employment selection or layoff.
- F. "Certified Eligible List" means an official list certified and issued to an appointing authority of individuals available for employment from an eligible list.
- G. "Civil Service" includes all offices and positions of trust or employment in the service of the City of Portsmouth, Portsmouth City School District and the Portsmouth City Health District.
- H. "Class" is used to designate one or more positions sufficiently distinct from all other positions in duties, responsibilities, and qualifications required to warrant a separate title.
- I. "Classification" means a class as provided in subsection (H) hereof or the process by which the proper title and level for each position is determined.
- J. "Classified Service" means those persons in the employ of the City, Portsmouth City School District or the Portsmouth Health District, who are now in competitive civil service status due to their job positions pertinent to the local situation. All other employees and positions shall be "unclassified." Classified status may be determined as provided for in R.C. 124.11(A) or (C) or other Revised Code provisions, or by local ordinance, or by Charter provision. In any situation in which the status of an employee, as being either classified or unclassified, is in issue, the burden shall be upon the Appointing Authority to establish such

status by a preponderance of evidence.

- K. "Clerk" means the Clerk of the Civil Service Commission of the City of Portsmouth, Ohio.
- L. "Commission" means the Municipal Civil Service Commission of the City of Portsmouth, Ohio.
- M. "Competitive Examination" means an examination given for the purpose of determining the relative rank of those qualifying and establishing an eligible list arranged in the order of placement as a result of an examination procedure and these rules.
- N. "Day" means calendar days unless otherwise specified.
- O. "Demotion" means except as otherwise provided herein, or in R.C. Chapter 124, the movement of an employee from a position in one class to a position in another class having a lower maximum salary rate.
- P. "Eligible" means an applicant for appointment or promotion to a classification who has passed an examination and met other requirements for the classification, and who is willing to accept appointment.
- Q. "Eligible List" means a list of names of persons found qualified either through examinations or reemployment procedure for the purpose of filling vacancies in the classified service for a particular job class.
- R. "Employee" means any person holding a position subject to appointment, removal, promotion, or reduction by an Appointing Authority.
- S. "Examination" means any exercise or procedure which serves to provide an evaluation of an individual's qualifications or fitness for a particular position.

- T. "Exempt Appointment" means an appointment to a position which is not subject to an examination or civil service tenure.
- U. "He" is a masculine pronoun which, whenever it or its derivatives are mentioned, shall include the feminine pronoun "she" and its derivatives.
- V. "Interim appointment" means an appointment for an indefinite period of time, fixed by the length of absence of an employee due to sickness, disability, or approved leave of absence. Such appointment shall continue only during such period of sickness, disability, or approved leave of absence.
- W. "Intermittent appointment" means an appointment where an employee works on an irregular schedule which is determined by the fluctuating demands of the work and is not predictable and is generally characterized as requiring less than one thousand hours per year.
- X. "Municipal Service" shall include those positions in the Classified Service of the City, Portsmouth City School District and the City Health District.
- Y. "Noncompetitive Examination" means an open examination, given to determine those qualified to fill appointments to positions requiring peculiar and exceptional qualifications of a scientific, professional, educational, or managerial character or positions where it is impractical to develop and administer competitive examinations.
- Z. "Notice" means the mailing by regular U.S. mail addressed to the latest address provided in writing to the Commission by the person to be notified or by actual delivery to the person or entity of any notice required under these rules.
- AA. "Open Competitive" or "Competitive Entrance" examination means an examination open

to all persons, whether or not employed by the City, Portsmouth City School District or Health District, who meet the qualifications and comply with the prescribed requirements for admission thereto.

- BB. "Permanent Employee" means any employee in the classified service holding a position that requires working a regular schedule of twenty-six (26) biweekly pay periods, or any other regular schedule of comparable consecutive pay periods, which is not limited to a specific season or duration.
- CC. "Position," when used by itself, shall refer to any specified office, employment, or job, calling for the performance of certain duties, either full time or part time, and for the exercise of certain responsibilities by one individual.
- DD. "Position Classification" means the arrangement of positions into classes including grades. Positions shall be classified in accordance with the duties and responsibilities of the position.
- EE. "Promotion" means the act of placing an employee in a position, the classification for which carries a higher salary range or rate than that of the position previously held by the employee.
- FF. "Promotional Competitive Examination" means a competitive examination which is open only to current employees who meet the qualification and eligibility requirements set forth.
- GG. "Provisional Employee" means a type of temporary employee filling a duly authorized position without competition pending the establishment of an eligible list.
- HH. "Rules" means the Rules and Regulations of the Municipal Civil Service Commission of

the City of Portsmouth, Ohio.

- II. "Specification" means a general description of a job classification specifying or giving examples of the kinds of tasks expected to be performed by employees holding positions allocated to that classification; which may include classification title and number, a statement of job functions, a grouping of task statements by job duties (ranked by importance), approximate percentages of total job time required for the performance of each duty, worker characteristics or behaviors required for successful completion of all tasks within each duty, and minimum qualifications for competition for employment in the classification.
- JJ. "Status" means the nature or type of employment held by a City, Portsmouth City School District or Health District employee under the classified service.
- KK. "Temporary appointment" means an appointment for a limited period of time, fixed by the appointing authority and approved by the director for a period not to exceed six months.
- LL. "Unclassified Service" means all offices and positions that are exempt from civil service examination and which provide no civil service tenure under the law. Unclassified status may be determined as provided for in R.C. 124.11(A) or (C) or other Revised Code provisions, or by local ordinance, or by Charter provision, and the rights of the affected employee are determined accordingly.
- MM. "Weights" means the relative importance of the subjects or parts of an examination as expressed in percentages, proportions or ratios as determined by the Commission.

RULE THREE GENERAL PROVISIONS

3.01 Structure of the Commission

Subsequent to the adoption of these Rules, the City Council shall appoint one (1) person, as successor as the current terms expire, to serve six (6) years. A vacancy shall be filled by the Council for any unexpired term.

3.02 Duties of the Commission

The Civil Service Commission shall:

- A. Prescribe, amend, and enforce rules not inconsistent with Chapter 124 of the O.R.C., except to the extent permitted by the Charter of the City, for the classification of positions in the civil service of the City, Portsmouth City School District and the Portsmouth Health District; for examinations therefor and resignations therefrom; for appointments, promotions, removals, transfers, layoffs, suspensions, reductions, and reinstatements therein; and for standardizing positions and maintaining efficiency therein;
- B. Prepare, conduct, and grade or assign a person to prepare, conduct, and grade all examinations for positions in the classified service;
- C. Prepare and maintain eligible lists containing the names, scores, and rankings of all persons qualified for positions in the classified service;
- D. Appoint an individual as the Clerk of the Commission to assist and serve the Commission in its exercise of its duties, powers, functions, and responsibilities;

- E. Hear appeals, as provided by these rules, of employees in the classified service from final decisions of the Appointing Authority of the employee;
- F. Maintain a journal which shall be open to the public for inspection, in which shall be kept a record of all of the proceedings of the Commission and of the vote of each of its members upon every action taken thereby;
- G. Subpoena and require the attendance and testimony of witnesses and/or the production of books, papers, records, and other documentary evidence pertinent to any matter which the Commission has the authority to investigate, into which it has the authority to inquire, or which it has the authority to hear;
- H. Annually prepare and submit to the City Manager a budget and request for appropriations for the next fiscal year of the City, which the Commission deems appropriate and sufficient to defray the costs and expenses of the operation thereof;
- I. Make reports from time to time, as the City Council and/or City Manager require, of the manner in which the law and the rules and regulations of the Commission have been and are being administered in the City, Portsmouth City School District and the Portsmouth Health District;
- J. Prepare and file with the Clerk of the City Council an annual report as to the operation and activities of the Commission;
- K. Keep and maintain a compilation and listing of all of the current and existing authorized positions within the Civil Service of the City, Portsmouth City School District and the Portsmouth Health District; retain on file a current description as to the duties and responsibilities of the same; and retain on file documents and records related to job and employment actions as to each such

position; and

- L. Exercise all other powers and perform all other duties with respect to the civil service of the City, Portsmouth City School District and the Portsmouth Health District, as prescribed in Chapter 124 of the O.R.C. and conferred upon the Director of Administrative Services and the State Personnel Board of Review of the State of Ohio with respect to the civil service of the State of Ohio.

3.03 Officers and Agents of the Commission

- A. At its annual organizational meeting, the Civil Service Commission shall elect one of its members as Chair of the Commission, who shall serve for the remainder of the calendar year and it shall be the duty of the Chair:

1. to call such meetings of the Commission as are necessary to transact the business and affairs of the Commission;
2. to sign the minutes of all action taken by the Commission;
3. to preside at all meetings of the Commission;
4. to ensure that the Annual Report, as required by R.C. 124.40, is assembled and transmitted to the State Personnel Board of Review in a timely manner.

In the absence of the Chair, the remaining members of the Commission shall designate one of their number to serve as the Temporary Chair of the Commission.

- B. The Commission shall appoint a suitable person to act as Clerk to the Commission and perform the following duties:

1. attend all meetings of the Commission and keep the minutes thereof;
2. keep in the form of minutes a record of the official actions of the Commission;
3. process all applications;
4. accurately and properly maintain all of the records of the Commission;
5. keep all files in proper order;
6. prepare and deliver, or cause to be delivered, notices, and other communications ordered by the Commission;
7. properly furnish appointing authorities with eligibility lists;
8. maintain an official roster and service lists;
9. handle such correspondence as the Commission shall determine, including the preparation of the budget and annual report;
10. on authorization from the Chair, sign all warrants or orders for the payment of money on behalf of the Commission;
11. make available to the public those documents deemed to be public records under the terms of R.C. 149.43;
12. perform other duties as assigned by the Commission.

In the absence of the Clerk, the Commission may recommend to the City Manager another employee of the City, or it may designate a member of the Commission or another person to act as the temporary interim Clerk of the Commission in the stead of the Clerk.

- C. The Civil Service Commission may designate special examiners or contract for the preparation or administration of examinations.

3.04 Removal

In the event that a member of the Civil Service Commission violates or fails to perform the duties imposed by law, or willfully or through culpable negligence violates the law by failure to perform duties as a member of said Commission, the City Manager shall forthwith remove the member. In all cases of removal, an appeal may be had to the Common Pleas Court of Scioto County, Ohio, to determine the sufficiency of the cause for removal. The appeal shall be taken within ten (10) days of the action of removal. Should the court disaffirm the judgment of the City Manager, the member shall be reinstated to his former position on the Civil Service Commission. The City Manager may at any time remove any member of the Civil Service Commission for inefficiency, neglect of duty, or malfeasance in office, having first given the member a copy of the charges against him, and an opportunity to be publicly heard in person or by counsel in his defense.

3.05 Meetings of the Commission

- A. The first annual meeting of the Civil Service Commission shall be its organizational meeting. The Commission shall hold such other meetings as may be called by the Chair of the Commission, or by two (2) members thereof.
- B. All meetings of the Civil Service Commission are open to the public except as set forth in R.C. 121.22 and this rule.

- C. General minutes shall be taken at all Civil Service Commission meetings and shall be open to public inspection.
- D. The Chair of the Commission may, on his own initiative, and shall, upon the request of the other two (2) members of the Commission, call a special meeting of the Commission to be held not later than ten (10) days from the date of notice of such meeting. Two (2) members of the Commission shall constitute a quorum at any meeting of the Commission, and it shall require the affirmative vote of at least two (2) members to adopt any motion or resolution.
- E. Notice of any meeting of the Civil Service Commission must be given to the local news media not less than twenty-four (24) hours in advance of the meeting.
- F. In the event of an emergency, the Chair, the members calling the meeting, or a designee must immediately notify the local news media concerning the time, place, and purpose of the meeting.
- G. An executive session may be held only after a majority of the members, by roll call vote, have approved such action. Such executive session may be convened to consider the appointment, employment, dismissal, discipline, promotion, demotion, or compensation of a municipal employee, Portsmouth City School District employee, or an employee of the Portsmouth Health District, unless such employee requests a public hearing.
- H. The order of business for meetings of the Commission shall be:
1. roll call;
 2. disposition of unapproved minutes;
 3. reports;
 4. unfinished business;
 5. new business; and,
 6. adjournment.

3.06 Procedure for the Adoption, Amendment, or Rescission of Rules

- A. Public notice as to the adoption, amendment, or rescission of any rule of the Civil Service Commission must be given to the local news media at least thirty (30) days prior to the date set for hearing and consideration of the rule.
- B. The public notice must contain a statement of the Commission's intention to alter or adopt a rule, and a statement as to the subject matter of the rule to be affected. In addition, the notice must contain the date, time, and place set for the consideration of the rule change.
- C. A copy of the full text of any proposed rule, or rule change shall be submitted to the City Manager, the Superintendent of the Portsmouth City School District and the Commissioner of the Health District at least ten (10) days prior to the date set for consideration.
- D. Civil Service Commission rules, once adopted by a majority vote and entered into the minutes, will be submitted to City Council for adoption as an ordinance. Copies of the rules or rule changes, together with the minutes of the Civil Service Commission adopting the change and a copy of the ordinance enacting the change, will be kept by the designee of the Commission and made available to any person upon request.

3.07 Service Lists

These separate rosters, known as "service lists" of the City, Portsmouth City School District and the Portsmouth Health District contain the name of every person employed by the same; the date of his appointment; the title of his position; the dates of promotions, if any; the dates of suspension, if any; the date of termination of employment or separation therefrom, if any, and the cause for the same; the designation of said employee and the position in which he serves as being in the classified or the

unclassified service of the City, Portsmouth City School District or the Health District; and, in the case of an employee and/or position which is designated as being in the unclassified service, an indication of reason and justification for such designation shall be created and approved by the City Manager, the Superintendent of the Portsmouth City School District and the Commissioner of the Portsmouth Health District. Such lists shall be filed with the Civil Service Commission and kept by the Clerk, and the lists shall be updated and revised periodically by written notice from the respective appointing authorities.

RULE FOUR CLASSIFICATION

4.01 Classification Plan

- A. The Civil Service Commission shall establish and may modify or repeal, by rule, a job classification plan for all classified positions, officers, and employment situations in the employ of the City of Portsmouth, Portsmouth City School District and the Portsmouth Health District.
- B. Positions in the Civil Service of the City, Portsmouth City School District and the Health District shall be classified in accordance with the classification plan, which shall provide that any and all positions whose duties, responsibilities, and necessary qualifications are sufficiently alike as to so warrant, shall be allocated to the same class with a title which shall be descriptive of the duties performed, and which will allow for the assignment of pay ranges with equity.
- C. A class specification shall be prepared for each job classification setting forth a class title, salary range, typical duties and responsibilities, and the necessary qualifications, as specified in Rule 4.01(A).
- D. Where particular licenses or attributes, such as insurability, are essential characteristics or functions of a position, the class series specification may be amended to so reflect. Such amendments may be requested by the Appointing Authority or may be made independently by the Civil Service Commission, and must be reflected on the minutes of the Commission.

4.02 Reclassification

- A. Whenever a new position is established or the duties of a position are so changed that the statement of duties and typical tasks of the class to which it was originally allocated no longer

applies, the Appointing Authority shall report such fact to the Commission and transmit a full statement of the circumstances and description of the duties. The Commission shall thereupon, after investigation, determine the proper classification of such position. The Commission shall from time to time make an investigation of all positions in the service to determine whether such positions are allocated to the proper classifications. Any employee or his authorized representative or any Appointing Authority desiring to submit facts for consideration of the Commission shall be afforded reasonable opportunity to do so. When the Commission finds improper classifications of positions exist the Commission may reallocate any position to the appropriate class as is necessary to provide an equitable, just and proper classification.

- B. Any employee may request a review of the classification of his position for the purposes of consideration to such request.

4.03 Notification of Employees

Whenever the classification title of a position is changed other than by promotion or demotion, the Commission shall notify in writing, any employee affected by the change as well as the employee's Appointing Authority.

4.04 Specification Amendments

Where particular licenses or attributes, such as insurability, are essential characteristics or functions of a position, the class series specification may be amended to so reflect. Such amendments may be requested by the Appointing Authority or may be made independently by the Civil Service Commission, and must be reflected on the minutes of the Commission.

RULE FIVE CLASSIFIED & UNCLASSIFIED SERVICE

5.01 Classified Service

The classified service includes the competitive classified civil service of the City, Portsmouth City School District and of the Portsmouth Health District. No person shall be admitted to the Classified Service, other than as a temporary employee, unless said person has fully and completely complied with all the requirements of these rules, except as otherwise provided under the Charter of the City of Portsmouth, Ohio, *et: the laws of the State of Ohio, or in accordance with the lateral transfer procedure (Section 7.18).* Amended 11-8-21.

5.02 Division of the Civil Service, Classified/Unclassified

The civil service of the City of Portsmouth, Portsmouth City School District and the Portsmouth Health District shall be divided into the classified service and the unclassified service:

A. Unclassified Service

The unclassified service shall comprise the following positions, which shall not be included in the classified service, and which shall be exempt from all examinations required under these rules:

1. All officers elected by popular vote, or persons appointed to fill vacancies in such offices;
2. The members of all boards and commissions, and the heads of departments appointed by the City Manager of the City of Portsmouth, Ohio, or by and with the City Manager's consent, except as otherwise provided herein. This rule does not exempt the Chiefs of the Divisions of Police and Fire of the City of

- Portsmouth, Ohio after successfully serving 6 months in the appointed position;
3. Employees of the City Council of the City of Portsmouth, Ohio, who are engaged in legislative duties;
 4. Clerical and administrative support employees for the City Council of the City, Portsmouth City School District School Board and the Portsmouth Health District;
 5. Clerical and administrative support employees for each of the principal appointive executive officers, boards, or commissions of the City, Portsmouth City School District and the Portsmouth Health District authorized to appoint the same, except the Civil Service Commission of the City of Portsmouth, Ohio;
 6. Assistants to the Law Director of the City of Portsmouth, Ohio;
 7. Deputies and assistants of elective or principal executive officers authorized to act for and in the place of their principals or holding a fiduciary relation to their principals; and,
 8. Administrative assistants to the Chiefs of Police and Fire.

B. Classified Service

The classified service shall comprise all persons in the employ of the City of Portsmouth, Portsmouth City School District and the Portsmouth Health District not specifically included in the unclassified service. The classified service shall consist of two (2) classes, which shall be

designated as the competitive class, and the unskilled labor class:

- A. **The competitive class** shall include all positions and employments in the service of the City Portsmouth City School District and the Portsmouth Health District for which it is practicable to determine the merit and fitness of applicants by competitive examinations. Appointments shall be made to, or employment may be given in all positions in the competitive class which are not filled by promotion, reinstatement, transfer, or reduction, as provided by these rules, by appointment from those certified to the appointing officer in accordance with these rules;
- B. **The unskilled labor class** shall include ordinary unskilled laborers. Vacancies in the labor class shall be filled by appointment from lists of applicants registered by the Civil Service Commission. The Civil Service Commission shall require applicants for registration in the labor class to furnish such evidence or take such tests as the Civil Service Commission considers proper with respect to residence, physical capacity to perform the essential functions of the position applied for, with or without reasonable accommodations, honesty, capacity, industry, and experience in the work or employment for which he applies. Laborers who fulfill the requirements shall be placed on the eligible list for the kind of labor or employment sought, and preference shall be given in employment in accordance with the rating received from such evidence or in such tests. Upon the request of an appointing officer, stating the kind of labor needed, the pay and probable length of employment and the number of the employed, the Civil Service Commission shall certify from the highest on the list double the number to be employed; from this number the appointing officer shall appoint the number actually needed for the particular work. If more than one applicant receives the same rating, priority in time of application shall determine the order in which their names shall be certified for appointment.

- C. A class specification shall be prepared for each job classification setting forth a class title, salary range, typical duties and responsibilities, and the necessary qualifications. This class specification shall set forth the factors and conditions, which are essential characteristics or functions of the class; and also those factors or conditions which differentiate it from other classes.

RULE SIX APPLICATIONS

6.01 Generally

All applications, whether for employment or for examination, must be made upon forms prescribed by the Civil Service Commission. All application forms must be completed in their entirety and printed legibly in ink (by the person unless such person is handicapped in which case "reasonable accommodation" will be made) and submitted to the Civil Service Commission in a timely manner.

No applications shall be accepted after the date for filing has passed.

6.02 Forms

At the first meeting of the Civil Service Commission following January 1, of each year, the Commission will review the prescribed form, or forms, make any changes that are deemed necessary, and, by majority vote, approve the form or forms to be used for the next ensuing year.

Application forms shall be provided by the Civil Service Commission and shall be available in the office of the City Manager or at other locations as announced by the Civil Service Commission.

To the extent that the same are reasonably necessary in the application process, the Civil Service Commission may require of applicants such references as to the character of the applicant provided by persons having knowledge of the same as the Commission may require.

The application forms of individuals who successfully complete applications, and are placed on eligible lists shall be retained by the Civil Service Commission during the effective period of the eligible list. The application forms of individuals who are appointed to or employed in any

classified civil service position shall be retained by the Civil Service Commission during the tenure of said employee.

6.03 Residency

Every applicant for examination or employment must be a citizen of the United States of America or signify in writing his or her intention to, upon appointment, become a citizen of the United States of America. Every applicant must also signify in writing his or her intention to meet any and all residency requirements which the Appointing Authority may require.

6.04 Age Restrictions: Police and Fire

A. Police Department- Minimum Age for Application

No person shall be eligible to receive an original appointment as police officer, unless that person has reached the age of ~~21~~ 20 ½. Applicants for original appointment examination to the Police Department must not have attained the age of 41 years on or before the date of appointment. ~~Applicants possessing prior law enforcement certification and employment with the Ohio Highway Patrol, county sheriff, city, village or township police department may receive credit for up to five~~ (5) years' service and apply for original appointment to the Police Department. The credit shall be calculated as year for year credit up to a maximum of five (5) years. Credit must have been earned within the (10) years prior to the examination date for which the person is applying. The credit shall apply to extend the maximum age for appointment to 46 years. **Amended 11-8-21 Amended 10-25-22**

B. Fire Department — Minimum Age for Application

No person shall be eligible to receive an original appointment, as a firefighter, unless that person has reached the age of ~~21~~ 18. Applicants for original appointment examinations in the Fire Department must not have attained the age of 41 years on or before the date of appointment.

Amended 4-11-23.

6.05 Fitness for Service

- A. Every applicant appointed to or employed in the civil service shall be physically and psychologically able, with or without reasonable accommodation, to perform the essential functions of the position to which he is appointed, or in which he is employed.
- B. Applicants to whom conditional offers of employment in positions within the Division of Police and the Division of Fire of the City of Portsmouth shall be required to undergo psychological evaluations, medical examinations and drug testing administered by appropriate, licensed medical professionals selected and designated by the Commission, and to provide information as to their physical and psychological health which is relevant to their ability to perform the essential functions of the position in relation to which a conditional offer of employment has been tendered, with or without reasonable accommodation. Results of physical and psychological health tests will be provided to the Police and Firemen's Disability and Pension Fund as required. The Civil Service Commission may order physical agility tests where applicable.
- C. The Commission may require that applicants to whom conditional offers of employment in positions within other divisions or departments have been tendered, undergo such medical

examination or testing, or provide such information, on the condition that such requirements are uniform as to all positions within an employment classification.

6.06 Character and Fitness

Satisfactory information produced at any time to the Civil Service Commission, either before or after examination, that an applicant has committed acts which demonstrate character traits which would be detrimental to the successful performance of the employment sought; or of his pattern poor work habits and performance with previous employees; or of his dismissal for good cause, including delinquency or misconduct, from any branch of public service; or for his conviction of a felony; or of his current illegal use of drugs; or of his infamous or notoriously disgraceful conduct; or that he, in relation to the application process, has made false statements of any material fact; or that, in relation to his application or examination, in establishing his /her eligibility, and/or in securing his appointment, the applicant has practiced, or attempted to practice any deception or fraud shall justify the Civil Service Commission, before an examination, in refusing to permit the examination of an applicant, or, after testing, in refusing to certify the applicant as eligible for employment or appointment. In relation to such inquiries the Civil Service Commission may require such certificate of persons having knowledge of the applicant as the good of the civil service may require.

6.07 Education

Every applicant shall have, and shall be able to demonstrate that he has completed a minimum of a high school education, or G.E.D. equivalent, as well as any other education and training which is a prerequisite and requirement of the position for which he makes application, and shall provide the Civil Service Commission with reasonable and adequate proof thereof.

6.08 Licenses and Certificates

Every applicant shall have and shall be able to demonstrate that he has secured and holds such licenses and certificates which are prerequisites of the position for which he makes application, and shall provide the Civil Service Commission with reasonable and adequate proof thereof.

6.09 Disqualification of Applicants

The completed application and requested documentation, information, and material requested therewith and secured in relation thereto shall be the sole criteria in determining an applicant's eligibility for an examination. Information showing that an applicant meets all of the minimum qualifications as stated in an examination announcement must appear on the application itself. No additional information will be accepted after the application filing deadline. Failure of an applicant to indicate on his application the qualifications as to education, certification, licensing, or any other requirement shall be sufficient cause to exclude an applicant from examination. A defective or incomplete application may be corrected by the applicant, and resubmitted by the filing deadline. Certification of an individual to an eligible list who has not met all of the requirements of these rules shall not be considered a waiver of any requirements of the same, and shall not bar removal of the applicant from an eligible list by the Civil Service Commission as a result of said failure.

6.10 Notice of Acceptance or Rejection of Application

Whenever an application shows that an applicant is not qualified under these rules for consideration for a position for which he has made application, or that the application is not in reasonable and substantial compliance with the same, the Clerk of the Civil Service Commission, or the Commission shall reject the application, and the Clerk, forthwith thereafter, shall afford the

applicant written notice of said action and of the reason for the same. Applicants whose applications are accepted shall be given written notice of the date, time, and place of examination. Such notices shall be given at a reasonable time before the examination date, and shall apprise applicants that reasonable accommodations are available to disabled persons to afford them access to the examination process.

6.11 False Statements

Fraudulent conduct or false statements by the applicant, or by others with his connivance, in any application or examination shall be deemed cause for exclusion of an applicant from any examination, or for removal of his name from an eligible list, or for discharge from service after appointment or employment, provided that the name of no person shall be removed from an eligible list, and no person shall be dismissed from service under this provision without an opportunity to be heard by the Civil Service Commission. Where an applicant is excluded from an examination, he shall be heard by the Clerk of the Civil Service Commission.

6.12 EEO Applicant Flow Information

The Civil Service Commission shall design and approve for use a form to be used in documenting EEO applicant flow statistics.

This EEO applicant information flow sheet shall be furnished to all applicants for employment or examination.

The completion of the EEO applicant flow information sheet by applicants for testing or employment shall be wholly voluntary, and no applicant shall be adversely affected in any way for having refused to complete such form.

Once completed, EEO applicant flow information sheets shall be physically separated from the application and separately filed as a confidential EEO compliance record.

6.13 Application for Examination

All applicants for positions in the classified service shall be subject to examination.

Examinations shall be open and competitive and shall be comprised of ~~two (2)~~ three (3) types.

A. Original appointment examinations

B. Promotional Examinations

C. Lateral Transfer for police officer. Applicant must be a certified law enforcement officer in Ohio. Applicants' OPOTA certification must be valid and active.

D. Lateral Transfer for firefighter. Applicants must be certified through the Ohio

Division of EMS as Firefighter II and at a minimum Basic EMT. Applicants' certification must be valid and active. Amended 11-8-21.

6.14 Separate Examinations for Police and Fire

Separate examinations shall be given for positions in the Police Department and Fire Department, and separate rules may apply with respect to each as provided in these rules and R.C. Chapter 124. In both the Police Department and the Fire Department, different tests will be given for original and promotional appointments. Applicants for the police department who are already certified through OPOTA are not required to take the civil service examination and will begin the hiring process

at the panel interview stage via the Later Transfer Process (7.18). Amended 9-14-21.

Applicants for the fire department who are already certified through the Ohio Division of EMS as set forth in section 6.13 are not required to take the civil service examination and will begin the hiring process at the physical abilities test stage of the testing process via the Later Transfer Process (7.18). Amended 11-8-21

6.15 Performance Deposits

- A. In the administration of any original appointment examination the Civil Service Commission may require a performance deposit from all applicants for a specific test.
- B. The performance deposit for a specific test will be in an amount determined by the Commission and may not be less than \$5.00 nor more than \$50.00.
- C. The performance deposit will be a cash deposit.
- D. This performance deposit must be submitted with the individual's completed application to take the test when it is submitted.
- E. This performance deposit will be returned to the applicant at the test site when the completed test is submitted for grading.
- F. Any applicant who fails to report for and take the test will forfeit his performance deposit to the City of Portsmouth.

RULE SEVEN EXAMINATIONS

7.01 General

- A. All applicants for positions in the classified civil service shall be subject to examination, except for applicants for positions in professional or certified service, and to all limitations set forth in these rules as to residence, education, license, certification, habit and moral character, and to the requirement that each applicant be able, with or without reasonable accommodation, to perform the essential functions of the position for which he has made application.
- B. Examinations may consist of one test, or of more than one test in combination. Tests may be written, oral, demonstration of ability to perform essential functions, or an evaluation of training and experience, or by an assessment center and shall be designed to fairly test the relative capacity of the persons examined to discharge the particular duties of the person for which appointment is sought. Where minimum or maximum requirements are established for any examination, the same shall be specified in the examination announcement.

7.02 Types of Examinations

There shall be two (2) types of examinations administered by the Civil Service commission in accordance with these rules, to wit: examinations for original appointments, and examinations for promotion. Examinations for original appointments shall be open to all individuals who otherwise qualify for appointment to or employment in a position under these rules. Examination for promotion shall be limited to members of the classified civil service who meet the requirements for promotion to a position under these rules.

7.03 Separate Examinations

Separate examinations shall be given and separate eligible lists shall be maintained by the Civil Service Commission as to the respective appointing authorities within the jurisdiction of the Civil Service Commission, and as to separate positions and classifications within the service of the same. No person may be transferred from one list to the other, but a single test or combination of tests may be utilized to examine and evaluate applicants for similar positions or classifications in the service of the three (3) appointing authorities. Appointments and promotions shall be affected only from the separate eligible lists which are applicable.

7.04 Examinations; Provisional Appointments

- A. Examinations for appointments must be competitive, and no such examination will be administered unless there are at least two (2) applicants.
- B. In the event that only one (1) person applies for an original appointment examination, a provisional appointment may be made, provided that the appointee otherwise meets the minimum qualifications.
- C. A person serving as a provisional employee who passes an examination for the department in which he is employed and the position which he holds, shall be appointed as a certified employee prior to the preparation of an eligible list by the Civil Service Commission.
- D. Any provisional employee who remains in provisional status in the same classification or classification series for a period of two (2) years of continuous service, during which period no competitive examination is held, shall become a certified appointee in the classified service at the conclusion of such two (2) year period.

7.05 Examination Notices and Sites

- A. Examinations for original or promotional appointments shall be held at such times and in such places as the Civil Service Commission deems appropriate, and shall be administered in accordance with the applicable sections of R.C. 124, any applicable exercise of home rule, and these regulations.
- B. Printed public notice of each examination for **original appointment** in the classified service shall be given through the local newspapers and shall be posted in conspicuous places in the City Building at least two (2) weeks prior to the last date for filing application, and shall include the time, place, and general scope of the competitive examination. In addition, the Commission may cause the notice to be given or posted in such other places as it may deem advisable.
- C. Notice of **promotional examinations**, except for promotional examinations for positions in the Fire Department or Police Department shall be posted in conspicuous places in each department in which employees would be interested and eligible to compete for such promotion. Such notices shall be posted at least two (2) weeks prior to the last date for filing application, and shall include the time, place, and general scope of the competitive examination.
- D. The notice of the holding of a promotional examination for a position or positions in a Fire Department or Police Department shall, unless waived by all persons eligible to participate, be published not less than thirty (30) days prior to the examination.
- E. Notices of all examinations for original appointments in the classified service may also be distributed to such persons or organizations as the Commission may deem to be interested in

the positions to be filled.

7.06 Scope of Examinations: Subjects/Study Materials

Examinations shall be practical in character and shall relate directly to those matters which will fairly test the relative capability of the person being examined to discharge the particular duties of the position for which appointment is sought.

The Commission shall prescribe the subjects of each examination and the relative weights to be assigned thereto; provided that any such determination must have been made prior to the date of such examination.

Study materials, when reasonably available, shall be placed on closed reserve at the Portsmouth Public Library. Such materials may then be signed out for two (2) hour periods. The materials may not be removed from the library and will not circulate overnight.

The Commission provides these materials as a courtesy and not as a matter of right and assumes no responsibility for lost, stolen, misplaced or unavailable study materials.

7.07 (A) Original Appointment Exams: Fire

Applications are accepted by the City of Portsmouth Civil Service Commission only during specified application periods, typically every two years. At the appropriate time, the City Manager will publish a public notice indicating the application period as well as the time and place of the examination. To be eligible you must:

- A. Be between the ages of 21 and 41 in accordance with the Ohio Revised Code 124.42. Possess a valid driver's license at time of application and at time of hire.

- B. Possess a high school diploma or GED at time of application
- C. Be a U. S. citizen at time of application
- D. Applicants with military service are eligible to apply for veteran's preference points. In order to qualify, applicants must have served on active duty for more than 180 days and have an honorable discharge. Veterans who wish to apply for preference points must do so at the time the application is filed. Proof of military service, Form DD-214 must be on file with Commission or submitted no later than the written date of testing.
- E. Applicants with a paramedic certificate are eligible to receive an additional 10 percent added to the raw written test score. To be eligible, the certificate must be a valid certificate issued by the State of Ohio, board of Emergency Medical Services. Applicants who desire to apply for the additional credit must indicate the intention to do so at the time the application is filed and by submitting a certified copy of the certification prior to the written date of testing.*

(Adopted 8-14-18)

7.07 (B) Written Exam

The initial testing will be conducted under the direction of the City of Portsmouth Civil Service Commission. Those applicants who receive a passing score (70%) will proceed to the next step.

7.07 (C) Physical Ability Test

The Physical Ability Test is a practical exam used to test a candidate's physical ability to perform job tasks related to firefighting. It is a physically demanding test that requires a candidate to use his or her physical and mental abilities and balance. Each candidate will be given a specific time on one of two days to report for testing. Also, candidates are required to attend an orientation/practice session prior to taking the actual test. The orientation/practice sessions will be open on three consecutive days prior to the test dates. Evening times will be afforded candidates who are unable to attend the day sessions. Those needing evening times must call and request it. Throughout all events, candidates must wear long pants, (a hard hat and work gloves will be provided) and footwear with no open heel or toe. Watches and loose or restrictive jewelry are not permitted. This is a pass/fail test based on a maximum total time of 10 minutes and 20 seconds. Failure to take and pass the test *will* result in the candidate's elimination from the selection process.

7.07 (D) Aerial Climb

The candidate shall climb an extended aerial ladder (approximately 75 feet), set at a minimum 70-degree angle touch the top rung, and descend the ladder. The candidate will wear a Life Safety belt with a manned belay line attached for safety; Climbing in a continuous movement, applicant will climb to the designated point, fasten the safety clip onto the ladder rung and raise their hands over their head.

Note: This exercise is designed to test the applicant's ability to work at various heights, tests the applicant's balance and ability to climb ladders and is designed to ascertain the absence of acrophobia (the fear of height). Firefighters are required to perform firefighting and rescue work

above ground level.

7.07 (E) Interview

The candidate will be required to go before an interview panel consisting of six Fire Department representatives. This is a structured interview designed to assess communication, interpersonal, and decision-making skills. This assessment method is designed to measure job related competencies of candidates by systematically inquiring about their behavior in past experiences and/or their proposed behavior in hypothetical situations. All candidates are asked the same predetermined questions; all responses are evaluated using the same rating scale. The final score is determined by throwing out the highest and lowest panel member's score then averaging the remaining four.

7.07 (F) Training and Experience

Candidates who are certified through a recognized training agency will receive additional credit according to the table listed below. Firefighter II, EMS, *Paramedic* and Inspector certifications must be current thru the Ohio Division of EMS. These points will be included in the final score according to the relative weight as established. (Adopted 8-14-18)

Firefighter	35
<i>Paramedic</i>	15
EMT	10
Structural Collapse Ops	05

Structural Collapse Tech	10
Rope Ops	05
Rope Tech	10
Swift Water Rescue Ops	05
Swift Water Rescue Tech	10
Haz-Mat Ops	05
Haz-Mat Tech	10
Certified Fire Safety Inspector	10
Total Possible	100

(Adopted 8-14-18)

7.07 (G) Establishment of Eligibility List

The Portsmouth Civil Service Commission will establish an eligible list of candidates who pass the written exam, CPAT, ladder climb, and interview. The relative weight for the written exam is 1.0, the interview is 1.0 and the training is .10.

Furthermore, candidates who are veterans (honorably discharged Ohio residents) will receive an additional credit of 20% of their final score as set forth in Rule 8.02.

7.07 (H) Background Investigation

A personal history questionnaire will be required from each eligible candidate. Candidates

must also submit to a state and federal background check. Candidates also must sign waivers allowing the release of information to conduct an extensive background investigation

7.07 (I) Conditional Offer of Employment

Once selected, a conditional offer of employment is extended to the candidate. The candidate must pass the medical evaluation and drug screening test.

7.07 (J) Medical Evaluation

Upon receiving a conditional offer of employment, candidates will be contacted to schedule a pre-employment physical as required by the Ohio Police and Fire Pension. The examination will involve a rigorous medical examination including, but not limited to, a cardiovascular stress test. Candidates must be free of dependence and addiction to narcotics, alcohol or other controlled substances.

7.07 (K) Appointment

Candidates will be notified by letter of their appointment date. All appointees must establish residency within Scioto County and will be required to successfully complete a one-year probationary period from the date of appointment.

7.07 (L) Original Appointment (Police)

Upon the posting of a notice by the City Manager a completed application is required. Relevant documents (certificates, copies of diplomas, etc.) may be accepted with the application, but are not required at the time the application is submitted unless specified in the position

posting. Applicants who are OPOTA certified will be processed as a lateral transfer as described in (7.18). Amended 9-14-21.

7.07 (M) Written Exam

Persons who meet the basic eligibility for Police Recruit and submit an application prior to the posted deadline will be admitted to the testing site upon presenting photo identification. A written exam will be administered by a proctor chosen by the Civil Service Commission in accordance with the rules of examination. The minimum passing grade must be received in order to qualify for future consideration.

7.07 (N) Physical Fitness Test

Upon successfully passing the written exam, candidates will be notified of the time and place for the physical fitness test, which tests a candidate's endurance and stamina against the entrance requirements for the Ohio State Highway Patrol Academy.

7.07 (O) Assessment Center

No applicant shall be tested orally or participate in the assessment center unless he has completed the applicable written test and physical fitness test, and, without consideration of any credits provided for by these rules, achieved the minimum passing score which has been predetermined by the Commission. If oral examinations of qualified applicants are given, they shall be prepared conducted and graded by an Interviewing Board designated by the Assessment Center approved by the Commission. A minimum grade of seventy percent (70%) on the oral portion of the examination, without consideration of any credits provided for by these rules, shall be required as a prerequisite for further consideration for employment or appointment, and for

certification to an eligible list.

7.07 (P) Establishment of Eligibility List

Successful completion of the written examination and physical fitness test qualifies an individual for inclusion on an eligibility list in accordance with civil service regulations. Lateral transfers will process onto eligibility list as described in (7.18). Amended 9-14-21

7.07 (Q) Drug Testing

A Candidate whose name has been certified by the Civil Service Commission must undergo a mandatory drug test in order to be given further consideration. A positive test result will be sent to a certified lab for confirmation. Applicants reserve the right to obtain an independent test at their own expense. A failed drug test will result in disqualification from future consideration for the position of police recruit.

7.07 (R) Background Check

Applicants reaching the next step will be required to undergo a complete background investigation including but not limited to: 1) a search of arrest cards, warrant files and civil files; 2) a driving record/license verification check; 3) a criminal record check through the Bureau of Criminal Investigation and Identification (BCII); 4) financial records; 5) educational records; and 6) any other source of information that will enable the investigator to determine the quality of the applicant's trustworthiness, character, and integrity. Results of the background investigation will be communicated in writing to the Chief of Police. Unfavorable findings may be sufficient to exclude the applicant from further consideration as determined by the Chief of Police.

7.07 (S) Polygraph

This evaluation will be conducted by a Certified Examiner. The Examiner will interview the applicant and administer the exam. The exam will be administered in accordance with the approved procedures and practices. If there is deception indicated or admissions made during the exam, the applicant's file will be forwarded to the Chief of Police for final disposition. If no deception is indicated or no admissions of unacceptable behavior are made, the applicant will move to the next step of the hiring process.

7.07 (T) Psychological Interview

Applicants who have proceeded successfully through step 707 (S) of the hiring process will be scheduled for an interview with a clinical psychologist. (This interview may take place either before or after any additional testing outlined in step 707 (S) is administered). The clinical psychologist will be given the job description and any additional information that will assist in providing a valid assessment of the applicant's suitability for the position. The applicant will execute a signed waiver as acknowledgment that the results of the psychologist's evaluation will not be divulged to the applicant.

The psychologist's written report of findings shall be considered along with other results of the hiring process. The Chief of Police will determine which applicant shall be extended a conditional offer of employment.

7.07 (U) Specific Tests

Other specific tests may be required and shall be directly related to the essential functions of the position for which the candidate has applied. The scoring of any specific test

shall be based upon established guidelines. In all cases, applicants shall be informed of the scoring process prior to taking any test.

These tests may include, but not necessarily be limited to:

1. Written essay
2. Clerical testing (comprehension, typing, mathematical skills)
3. Written test
4. Structured oral interview (situational questions)
5. Fitness Inventory

7.07 (V) Medical Examination

If the applicant accepts the conditional offer of employment, a physical examination will be scheduled. This examination will be performed by medical personnel at the facility competent to administer pre-employment physical examinations. The examination will include a drug screen. If the written report of the medical examination is favorable, the applicant will undergo an interview with the Chief of Police. The Chief of Police will make all hiring recommendations to the City Manager.

7.07 (W) Withdrawal from the Hiring Process

An applicant may voluntarily withdraw from the hiring process at any step. Written notice of withdrawal is required. Withdrawal does not prohibit the applicant from reapplying for employment in the future.

7.07 (X) Elimination from the Hiring Process

The Chief of Police may, for one or more legitimate, documented reasons, determine that an applicant is unsuitable for the position under consideration at any point during the

selection process. Upon receipt by the Clerk of the Commission of a written communication from the Chief of Police of a request to remove an applicant from consideration, the Clerk shall forthwith send by certified mail/return receipt requested a notice informing them of their status and appeal rights under these Rules. No applicant is prohibited from reapplying for the position, or applying for any other available position for which they wish to be considered.

7.07 (Y) Employment Application Tracking Sheet and Document Retention

The Employment Application Tracking Sheet is a cover sheet that accompanies the application from the time it is received until the status (hire/hold/defer) of the applicant is determined, and is a means of accounting for the status and whereabouts of the application and related documents. If the applicant is hired, the Application Tracking Sheet is filed with the background packet; if the applicant is not hired, the Sheet is filed with the application.

Originals and copies of the standard interview questions and application review forms are distributed on a need to know basis to those persons actually conducting specific interviews or to other members with an assigned role in the hiring process. No person is permitted to distribute these documents to any applicant or to any other person without permission of the Chief of Police. Information of a personal nature is considered sensitive information and therefore confidential. Only those persons(s) with a need to know are entitled to information obtained in the pre-employment process. Confidentiality will be strictly enforced.

Filing of Documents. The employment application, interview forms and evaluations, test results, and background investigation material are retained in the background file. A copy of the original application becomes part of the member's personnel file if the applicant is hired.

Medical reports and evaluations of the clinical psychologist are filed with the background. Test results and applicant ranking, if applicable, are retained by the Appointing Authority.

7.08 Limitation on Original Appointments: Police and Fire

Positions above the rank of Police Officer in the Police Department or regular Firefighter in the Fire Department (except the positions of Chiefs) may not be filled by original appointment unless authorized by the City Charter.

7.09 Medical, Physical, Psychological, or Drug Testing

A. General:

Whenever physical or psychological qualifications are of special importance, the applicant shall be required to pass a physical or psychological examination and be certified as qualified in such respect, whether before admission to the examination, or before being placed on the appropriate eligible list, or before certification for appointment, as the Commission may deem advisable.

B. Controlled Substances:

Such examinations shall include a screening for the use of controlled substances if the applicant has not already been tested by the appointing authority between the time of application and the examination.

C. By Whom Conducted:

Physical, psychological, or drug screening examinations, whenever required by the Commission, shall be made by a licensed or certified professional designated by the

Commission, who shall furnish a certificate as to the applicant's fitness for duty, with or without reasonable accommodation.

- D. For purposes of this Rule, physical, psychological, or drug screening reports generated for initial hire, promotions, or other employment purposes do not constitute a record of “medical treatment” and are therefore public records.

E. Reasonable Accommodation:

Any applicant or candidate who feels that he has been adversely affected by the physical element may request that a "reasonable accommodation" be investigated by the Appointing Authority.

Requests for such accommodation must be filed as soon as reasonably possible, must be in writing, and must outline the accommodation requested. Such requests must be filed with the Commission and with the Appointing Authority. The Commission will then schedule an informal fact-finding meeting to discuss the issue of accommodation and will release its finding within five (5) working days of the conclusion of the informal fact-finding. Such meetings will be held in executive session.

7.10 Admission of Applicants to Examination

- A. No applicant shall be admitted to any assembled examination more than thirty (30) minutes after the advertised time of beginning such examination, nor after any applicant competing in any such examination has completed his work and left the examination room, whichever shall occur earlier, except by special permission of the person in charge, who, in his discretion, may admit the applicant conditionally, subject to the final approval or disapproval of such admission

by the Commission.

- B. Any applicant admitted to an assembled examination after its advertised time of beginning must complete the examination at the advertised ending time, and shall receive no extension of time, except as set forth in 7.12, infra.

7.11 Identity of Entrance Examinees Concealed

The identity of all persons taking competitive entry level assembled examinations shall be concealed by the use of an identification number which shall be used on all examination papers. Each applicant who is admitted to the examination shall be assigned a number by which that applicant shall be known during the examination and consideration process. Any examination bearing the name of the applicant or any other identification mark shall be rejected and the candidate so notified.

7.12 Extension of Time in Examination

No applicant shall be given a longer time on any subject than has been prescribed by the Commission for the completion of an examination. Separate time limits may be established as a reasonable accommodation to a handicapped or disabled applicant. Requests for additional time, or accommodation, must be submitted with supporting documentation at the time of filing application for the examination.

7.13 Visitors at Examinations

No visitors shall be admitted to the examination room during any examination except by special permission of the person in charge.

7.14 Postponement or Cancellation of Examination

A scheduled examination may be canceled or postponed by order of the Civil Service Commission, for any adequate reason. Reasonable efforts shall be made to notify each qualified applicant of the cancellation or postponement and will include written notice to the applicants last known post office address, except under circumstances which make written notice not practicable.

7.15 Waiver

In the event an individual who has not met the requirements of these rules is permitted to take an examination, the same shall not be deemed to be a waiver of any requirements established by these rules.

7.16 Promotional Examinations Generally

- A. Vacancies in positions in the classified service above entry level shall be filled insofar as practicable by promotions. All examinations shall be competitive and may include written tests, oral tests, and/or assessment centers, *peer review surveys*, *panel interviews* and shall relate to those matters which test the ability of the person being examined to discharge the particular duties of the position sought. Amended 6-4-24
- B. The identity of all examination applicants shall be concealed by the use of an identification number or letter which shall be used on all examination papers. This identification number shall be used from the beginning of the examination until all the examination papers have been rated. Any papers bearing the name of the applicant, or any other identification mark, shall be rejected and the applicant so notified.

7.17 Promotional Examinations: Police and Fire

- A. Promotional examinations for positions within the Division of Police and Fire shall relate to those matters which test the ability of the person examined to discharge the particular duties of the position sought and may be in writing or other forms, provided, however, that in examinations for positions requiring the operation of machines, or equipment, practical demonstration tests of the operation of such machines or equipment may be part of the examination, so long as said demonstrations and tests afford consideration of reasonable accommodations which may be necessary for disabled persons to permit them to perform the essential functions of the position to which appointment is sought.
- B. The public notice of a holding of a promotional examination for a position or positions in the Division of Police and Fire shall, unless waived by all persons eligible to participate, be published not less than thirty (30) days prior to the examination, and shall contain a description of the source of the material from which any written examination questions are prepared. Such source material shall be readily accessible to the examinees. Failure to comply with this requirement shall render void the pursuant examination. This paragraph shall not prohibit the use of questions having answers based upon experience in the fire service within the Division of Police and Fire of the City of Portsmouth, Ohio.
- C. Examinations for promotion in the Police Department and Fire Department shall be competitive and may be written, oral, by an assessment center or demonstration of skill or an evaluation of training and experience.
- D. ~~Police Department applicants for promotion who have passed the written examination will have their scores ranked from highest to lowest (including credit for seniority) to establish an~~

~~eligibility list for further consideration. The top candidates, up to but not more than six, shall be eligible to participate in an assessment center. The candidates participating in the assessment center shall be ranked based upon the results of the assessment center. The rank will determine eligibility list from which vacancies in the next higher rank shall be filled. In the event only one participant passes the written examination, that person's name shall be certified as eligible for promotion to the vacant position and an assessment center will not be required.—~~

~~D.— Police Department applicants for promotion will participate in a two step process. Both steps shall have a point valuation and the candidates will have their total combined scores ranked from highest to lowest (including credit for seniority) to establish an eligibility list.—~~

~~— If only one applicant passes the written examination they shall immediately be placed on the eligibility list and not have to participate in the assessment center. If more than one applicant passes the written exam then all applicants with a passing score shall participate in the assessment center.—~~

~~— Written Examination: Applicants must score a 70% to pass. The score on the written test shall count for seventy percent (70%) of the total applicant score. Seniority credit shall be calculated in the written examination score.—~~

~~— Assessment Center: All applicants that pass the promotional test shall participate in the assessment center portion of the process. The assessment center shall be administered by an independent and impartial professional organization that is familiar and experienced in Police promotional exams. The assessment center shall be selected by the Civil Service Commission.—~~

~~The score on the assessment center shall count thirty percent (30%) of the total applicant score.~~

~~—Adopted October 17, 2016.—~~

D. Police Department applicants for promotion will participate in a two-step process; *a testing phase and an interview phase.* ~~Both steps~~ *The test shall have a point valuation and the candidates will have their total combined scores ranked from highest to lowest (including credit for seniority). ~~to~~ establish an eligibility list. The top three candidates can then be considered for promotion.*

If only one applicant passes the written examination, they shall immediately be placed on the eligibility list, and will obtain the rank. and not have to participate in the assessment center. If more than one applicant passes the written exam then all applicants with a passing score shall participate in the ~~assessment center other phase of the testing procedure~~ *Panel Interview.*

Written Examination: Applicants must score a 70% to pass. ~~The score on the written test shall count for seventy percent (70%) of the total applicant score.~~ Seniority credit shall be calculated in the written examination score. ~~The top three scoring~~ *Candidates passing the written examination would qualify them to proceed to the Panel Interview.*

~~Assessment Center: All applicants that pass the promotional test shall participate in the assessment center portion of the process. The assessment center shall be administered by an independent and impartial professional organization that is familiar and experienced in Police promotional exams. The assessment center shall be selected by the Civil Service Commission. The score on the assessment center shall count thirty percent (30%) of the total applicant score.~~

Peer Review Study: *All candidates will participate in a 360 Peer Review Study. The Peer Review Study will utilize an independent and impartial professional organization specializing in collating data collected from the study. The study will be in the form of a questionnaire given out to randomly selected*

Police Department personnel, who will answer the questions concerning the candidates' abilities as a manager and leader. All applicants will also be required to fill out a self-assessment survey as part of the study. Once collected the, data from the questionnaires will be analyzed and collated into a detailed report concerning the candidate's abilities by said organization. The Peer Review organization shall provide these results to the City for consideration. The results of this Peer Review shall be utilized by the Panel in assessing the candidates' qualifications towards promotion.

Panel Interview: ~~The top three highest scoring candidates from~~ Candidates passing the written examination, will then be selected to attend the Panel Interview. The panel shall be selected from Police Department personnel per the Collective Bargaining Agreement in the same manner as specialized units. (The Chief or designee, the highest-ranking Union Official not competing for the position, a randomly selected member of the rank being sought, and 2 randomly selected officers). The panel will be empowered to review all scores from the ~~previous promotional test exam phase~~; the candidates' 360 Review, their personnel file for commendations or discipline; and their training file for relative training. The panel will be empowered to ask the candidate questions related to the position for which they are seeking promotion. The interview panel will have the authority to deliberate in order to reach a conclusion as to who the top candidate is based on their collective discernment.

The top rated candidate(s) will then be presented to ~~Appointing Authority for promotion~~ the Civil Service Commission who will review and ratify the Panel's selection(s) to establish an eligibility list for promotion.

Amended 12-9-25

E. Fire Department applicants for promotion will participate in a two-step process; a written examination phase and an interview phase. The test shall have a point valuation and the candidates will have their total score ranked from highest to lowest (credit for seniority will be credited to the final score of the second phase). Applicants for promotion to the rank of Lieutenant, must have 5 years of service with the Portsmouth Fire Department to be eligible to test for the rank of Lieutenant. Applicants for rank of Captain must have completed one year in the rank of Lieutenant and have the Fire Safety Inspector Certification prior to applying. Applicants for the rank of Battalion Chief must have completed one year in the rank of Captain. Applicants who have passed the written examination will move on to the second phase of the process.

If only one applicant passes the written examination they shall immediately be placed on the eligibility list, and will obtain the rank by default. If more than one applicant passes the written exam then all applicants with a passing score shall participate in the Panel Interview.

Written Examination: Applicants must score a 70% to pass. Candidates passing the written examination would qualify to proceed to the second phase Panel Interview.

Peer Review Study: After passing the written examination and prior to the panel interview, all candidates will participate in a 360 Peer Review Study. The study will be in the form of a questionnaire given out to Fire Department personnel, who will answer the questions concerning the candidates' abilities as a manager and leader based on commonly acknowledged traits of successful leadership. Once collected, data from the questionnaires will be analyzed and collated into a detailed report concerning the candidate's abilities by said organization. The results of the Peer Review shall be provided to the Interview Panel for consideration. The results of this Peer Review shall be utilized by the Panel in assessing the candidates' qualifications towards promotion.

Training and Experience Credits: In accordance with the training worksheet, candidates will be granted credit for their professional experience and training.

Panel Interview: Candidates passing the written examination, will be selected to attend the Panel Interview. The panel shall be selected from Fire Department personnel and consist of (The Chief or designee, the highest-ranking Union Official not competing for the position, a randomly selected member of the rank being sought not competing for the position, and 2 randomly selected firefighters). The panel will be empowered to review all scores from the promotional exam; the candidates' 360 Review, their personnel file for commendations or discipline; and their training file for relative training. The panel will be empowered to ask the candidate questions related to the position for which they are seeking promotion. The interview panel will have the authority to deliberate in order to reach a conclusion as to who the top candidate is based on their collective discernment. The top-rated candidate(s) will then be presented to the Civil Service Commission who will review and ratify the Panel's selection(s), to establish an eligibility list for promotion. The eligibility list will remain in effect for 2 years from the date ratified.

Amended 6-9-26

Portsmouth Fire Department					
Promotion Final Score Sheet					
Minimum passing test score is 70%					
Applicant Information					
Name:					
Date:					
Candidate Evaluation	Total Possibl e	Scor e	Weight	Total	
Test Score	100		Pass/Fai l		
Panel Interview	100		1		
360 Review	136		1		
Personnel File	15		1		
Training and Experience	135		0.1		
Total Score					
Seniority					
FINAL SCORE					
In accordance with Rule 7, section 7 of the City of Portsmouth Civil Service Commission. The Final Score is determined by multiplying each score by its weight and entering the result in the Total Score column, then adding the total column and dividing by 4 for the Total Score. Seniority is then added to the Total Score to determine the Final Score.					

Portsmouth Fire Department

Training Worksheet

Applicant Information

Name:

Date:

	Possible Points	Points	Weight	Total Score
Training and Experience	125		0.1	
Paramedic	35			
AEMT	10			
Certified Fire Safety Inspector	10			
Fire and Emergency Services Instructor	10			
Live Fire Instructor	10			
Structural Collapse Ops	5			
Structural Collapse Tech	10			
Rope Ops	5			
Rope Tech	10			
Swift Water Rescue Ops	5			
Swift Water Rescue Tech	10			
Haz-Mat Ops	5			
Haz-Mat Tech	10			
Trench Rescue Ops	5			
Trench Rescue Tech	10			
Confined Space Ops	5			
Confined Space Tech	10			
Public Safety Diver	10			

FINAL SCORE		
In accordance with Rule 7 Section 7 of the Portsmouth Civil Service Commission. The Final Score is determined by adding up the possible points and multiplying it by the weight for the Final Score.		

7.18 Lateral Transfers - Police Officers

Lateral Transfer – Police Officers

A. Individuals who meet the qualifications set forth herein may apply for placement in the Patrol Officer Lateral Transfer Pool. The following prerequisites are required to apply for and be placed in such pool:

1. Possess a current Ohio Peace Officer Training Association certificate, and
- ~~2. Be not more than 41 years old at the time of application, or 46 if applicant has 5 years of full time Ohio peace officer service as per 6.04, and~~

- ~~3~~ 2. Be a United States citizen, able to read and write the English language, possess a valid Ohio driver's license and possess a high school diploma or GED, and

- ~~4~~ 3. Under go and pass a structured oral interview conducted by an assessment board.

B. Application forms for inclusion in the lateral transfer pool shall be separate from those for the written entry level examination and shall be compiled by the City of Portsmouth.

C. The assessment board shall be comprised of the City Manager or his designee, the Chief of Police or his designee, and at minimum, three (3) members of the Portsmouth Police Department.

D. All lateral transfer applicants shall be assessed by the assessment board, utilizing an interview rating sheet compiled by the City Manager or his designee.

E. The certified lateral transfer program can be utilized for any current and future vacancies within the Portsmouth Police Department.

F. The City may, depending upon operational needs, hire from the lateral transfer list or the recruit list.

G. Any individual hired off of the lateral transfer list shall enter the Department as a patrol officer and shall be subject to a one-year probationary period.

H. All provisions of the City Service Rules and Regulations, not contrary to those set forth in this section, are applicable to any individual appointed to the Department under this provision.

I. Applicants who have applied for a lateral transfer are not considered “Original Appointment” under the civil service rules based on the applicant already being an appointed certified peace officer in the State of Ohio. Added 9-14-21. Amended 10-25-22

7.19 Lateral Transfers – Firefighters

Lateral Transfer – Fighters

A. Individuals who meet the qualifications set forth herein may apply for placement in the Firefighter Lateral Transfer Pool. The following prerequisites are required to apply for and be placed in such pool:

- 1. Be certified through the Division of EMS as Firefighter II and at least Basic EMT, and*
- 2. Be not more than 41 years old at the time of application, and*
- 3. Be a United States citizen, able to read and write the English language, possess a valid Ohio driver’s license and possess a high school diploma or GED, and*

4. Undergo and pass a structure oral interview as set forth in section 7.07(E).

5. Undergo and pass the physical ability test as set forth in section 7.07(C).

B. Application forms for inclusion in the lateral transfer pool shall be separate from those for the written entry level examination and shall be compiled by the City of Portsmouth.

C. The oral interview panel shall be the same as the interview panel for the normal fire department selection process as set forth in section 7.07(E).

D. All lateral transfer applicants shall be assessed by the interview panel, utilizing an interview rating sheet used by the fire department for the selection process as set forth in 7.07(E).

E. The certified lateral transfer program can be utilized for any current and future vacancies within the Portsmouth Fire Department as a probationary Fireman entry level.

F. The City may, depending upon operational needs, may hire from the lateral transfer list or the recruit list.

G. Any individual hired off the lateral transfer list shall enter the Department as a firefighter and shall be subject to a one-year probationary period.

H. All provisions of the Civil Service Rules and Regulations, not contrary to those set forth in this section are applicable to any individual appointed to the Department under this provision.

Added 11-8-21

7.20 Lateral Transfers – Emergency Dispatchers

Lateral Transfer –Portsmouth Police Department Emergency Dispatcher

A. Individuals who meet the qualifications set forth herein may apply for placement in the Emergency Dispatcher Lateral Transfer Pool. The following prerequisites are required to apply for and be placed in such pool:

1. Candidate is currently is employed full-time as an Emergency Dispatcher with an Ohio Emergency Dispatch Unit/Department and in good standing.

2. Be at least 18 years of age, a United States citizen, able to read and write the English language, possess a valid Ohio ID Card and possess a high school diploma or GED, and

3. Under go and pass a structured oral interview conducted by an assessment board.

B. Application forms for inclusion in the lateral transfer pool shall be separate from those for the written entry level examination and shall be compiled by the City of Portsmouth.

C. The assessment board shall be comprised of the City Manager or his designee, the Chief of Police or his designee, and at minimum, three (3) members of the Portsmouth Police Department.

D. All lateral transfer applicants shall be assessed by the assessment board, utilizing an interview rating sheet compiled by the City Manager or his designee.

E. The certified lateral transfer program can be utilized for any current and future vacancies within the Portsmouth Police Department Emergency Dispatcher Unit.

F. The City may, depending upon operational needs, hire from the lateral transfer list or the recruit list.

G. Any individual hired off of the lateral transfer list shall enter the Department as an Emergency Dispatcher and shall be subject to a one-year probationary period.

H. All provisions of the City Service Rules and Regulations, not contrary to those set forth in this section, are applicable to any individual appointed to the Department under this provision.

I. Applicants who have applied for a lateral transfer are not considered “Original Appointment” under the civil service rules based on the applicant already being an appointed, and/or currently employed, as an Emergency Dispatcher with an Emergency Dispatch Unit/Department in the State of Ohio.

Added 6-4-2024.

RULE EIGHT GRADING, ADDITIONAL CREDIT, AND INSPECTION

8.01 Minimum Passing Score

- A. The Civil Service Commission shall endeavor to ascertain the minimum passing grade, as determined by the compiler of any professionally prepared civil service test. When available in advance, this information will be included on all test notices.
- B. Applicants must achieve the minimum passing score, excluding any additional credits provided by these rules, as a prerequisite for further consideration for employment or appointment, and for certification to an eligible list.
- C. Where such minimum passing grade is unavailable in advance from the professional testing service, the minimum passing grade shall be 70%.

8.02 Original Appointment Veteran's Credit

All applicants for original appointment who are veterans of military service (including service with the Ohio Organized Militia), as described in R.C. 124.23, may file with the Commission a certificate of satisfactory military service or honorable discharge *coupled with completion of his/her service obligations* whereupon he or she shall receive additional credit of **20%** of his or her total grade given in the regular examination, provided that he or she has received a passing grade without regard to this or any other credit. Such requests for veteran's credit must be submitted to the Commission along with the application for examination and must, at that time, be accompanied by proof of satisfactory military service as described above. Requests

for veteran's credit made after the final date for test application will not be honored. Applicants eligible for veterans' credit on original examination shall receive a priority in ranking over non-veterans who obtain an identical grade. **Updated 10-9-18.**

8.03 Original Appointment Certification Credit: Water & Wastewater Departments

All applicants for original appointment who possess a valid Ohio Class Water or Wastewater Treatment Plant Operator's license may file with the Commission at the time of application, a current copy of said license, whereupon they shall receive an additional credit of 10% of their total score received, provided that they have achieved the minimum passing grade for such examination without regard to this or other such credit.

8.04 Promotional Education, Training and Seniority Credit

- A. In promotional examinations, additional credit for uninterrupted seniority within the department shall be added to the examination grade. No credit for seniority shall be added to an examination grade unless the applicant achieves at least the minimum passing score on the examination, absent any extra credit. For purposes of this section, departmental service interrupted by either military duty or job related injury shall not constitute a break in seniority.
- B. Credit for seniority shall equal, for the first four (4) years of service, 1% of the total grade attainable in the promotion examination; and, for each of the fifth (5th) through fourteenth (14th) years of service, six-tenths (.6) of 1% of the total grade attainable.

- C. In computing the credit for seniority in the Division of Fire, one-half (½) of the credit set out in sub-section B above shall be given for one-half (½) year of service. Credit for service shall be based only on service with the same Appointing Authority.

8.05 Addition of Credits

- A. For original appointment other than to the Police Department, Fire Department, and Water/Wastewater shall be entitled to only such credit as is set forth in Section 8.02 (relating to veterans' credit); *additionally a 10% credit will be given for persons that have successfully worked as a seasonal employee as certified by the supervising department head and that credit only be given to applicants with a passing score on the examination.* Amended 9-14-21.
- B. Applicants for promotional appointments other than police, fire, and water and wastewater departments shall be entitled to only such credit as is set forth in Section 8.04 (relating to seniority credit).
- C. In scoring all original and promotional examinations, no additional credit shall be given to any applicant, unless such applicant has achieved the minimum passing grade as determined prior to the addition of any additional credit and had filed with the Commission at the time of filing application for the examination, such proof of credit as is required by the Commission under these rules.
- D. In calculating the amount of any education training, seniority, or veteran credit which an applicant who has achieved the minimum passing grade may be entitled to, the amount of such credit shall be the product of the applicable credit percentage multiplied by the initial passing grade attained by the applicant without regard to any other available credit.

8.06 Inspection and Grading of Examination Papers

- A. After any promotional competitive examination has been held, and prior to the grading of such examination papers, any participant in said examination shall have a period of five (5) business days, exclusive of Saturdays, Sundays, and holidays, in which to inspect the questions, the scoring keys or answers to the examination, and to file any protest he may deem advisable. Such protests must be in writing, contain the authority relied upon, and shall remain anonymous to the Commission. All protests with respect to rating keys or answers shall be determined by the Commission within a period of not more than five (5) business days following the date on which the final protest is received, exclusive of Saturdays, Sundays, and holidays; and the Commissioners decision shall be final. If the Commission finds an error in the scoring key or answers, it shall publish a revised scoring key within five (5) business days of the date of its determination of such error or errors. The revised scoring key or answer shall then be available to participants for a period of five (5) business days, exclusive of Saturdays, Sundays, and holidays, subsequent to the publication of the revised scoring key. Inspection shall not be permitted of standardized tests prepared by experts outside of the City's service.
- B. A written report of the grades of the applicants shall be submitted by the testing entity to the Civil Service Commission, and the results posted at the office of the City Manager and the Civil Service Commission.
- C. After notice of a score has been received, each participant shall have the right to inspect his own examination papers together with the rating key. Inspection must occur within five (5) days following the posting of the grades. The Commission shall, consider all protests, make changes as warranted and then establish the eligible list. No grades shall be changed after the

posting of any eligible list.

- D. All papers, except actual examinations to be given, medical records, EEO information, or recommendations of former employers submitted by participants in any examination shall be open to public inspection during office hours upon application to the Commission, provided such application is made during the period in which persons whose names appear on the eligible list resulting from such examination are eligible for appointment. For purposes of this Rule, physical, psychological, or drug screening reports generated for initial hire, promotions, or other employment purposes do not constitute a record of “medical treatment” and are therefore public records.
- E. Any person who inspects the questions, scoring keys, or answers during the periods set forth in Paragraphs (A) or (C), or pursuant to Paragraph (D) of this section, shall be thereafter prohibited from taking the same examination for such a position in the classified service; provided, however, that the Commission may waive this prohibition if it finds that the examination and scoring key or answers are not similar to those of the examination that had been examined.

RULE NINE ELIGIBLE LISTS

9.01 Preparation of Certified Eligible Lists

The Commission shall prepare and keep open to public inspection, from the results of each examination, a certified eligible list of those persons whose general average score in the examination is not less than the minimum passing grade, and who are otherwise eligible for appointment. Such persons shall take rank upon the certified eligible list as candidates in the order of their relative excellence as determined by the examination and any credits, without reference to priority of the time of examination. Whenever it becomes necessary to hold a subsequent examination in order to obtain additional eligibles, the Commission may consolidate existing lists for the same class by rearranging the names of those eligible therein according to their score. All those persons whose names appear on an existing list, which is to be merged with a new list, shall have an opportunity to compete in the second examination and shall be given the standing on the combined list to which the higher grade received on either examination shall entitle him or her during the continuance of the first list and thereafter he or she shall rank in accordance with the grade received on the subsequent examination.

9.02 Term of Eligible Lists

The term of eligibility of each list shall be fixed by the Commission at not less than one (1) nor more than two (2) years except for the Police and Fire Departments which shall be two (2) years. When an eligible list is reduced to less than ten (10), a new list may be prepared. Any list, other than a Police or Fire Department promotional list, that has been in effect for more than one (1) year may, at the discretion of the Commission, be terminated at any time in the

public interest.

9.03 Ties: Original Appointment Eligible Lists

In the event that two (2) or more applicants receive the same score in an original appointment examination, priority in the time of filing the application with the Commission shall determine the order in which their names shall be placed on the eligible list; provided that applicants eligible for veterans preference under these rules shall receive priority in rank on the eligible list over non-veterans on the list with a rating equal to that of the veterans. Ties among veterans shall be decided by priority of the filing of the application.

9.04 Ties: Promotional Eligible Lists

In the event that two (2) or more applicants receive the same mark on a promotional examination, priority in the time of signing up for the examination shall determine the order in which names shall be placed on the eligible list.

9.05 Disqualification from Eligible List

A. The name of any person appearing on an eligible list who:

1. fails to report or arrange within six (6) days from date of notification (Saturday, Sunday, City holiday excluded) for an interview with the appropriate Appointing Authority;
2. fails to respond to a notice from the Commission;
3. fails to report for work after accepting appointment;

4. fails to pass a qualifying test prior to appointment;
5. lacks any of the established requirements for the classification;
6. has made false statements on his or her application;
7. separates from employment with the City of Portsmouth;
8. has received a permanent appointment through certification from an eligibility list for another position of equal or more salary or rate;
9. has become incapacitated subsequent to examination;
10. has had errors discovered in the computation of the examination score of the eligible;
11. has requested that his or her name be removed;
12. fails to file with the Commission written notice of change of address, or, for whom notification is provided by postal authorities of their inability to locate him or her at last known address;
13. becomes deceased;
14. for any of the reasons set forth in Chapter Nine which would have caused his or her application to have been rejected;

The applicant shall not thereafter be certified to any Appointing Authority as eligible for appointment. The potentially disqualified person shall be notified concerning the application of this section unless his or her whereabouts are unknown. The disqualified candidate's name may again be certified from the eligible list only where a thoroughly

satisfactory explanation of the circumstances is made to the Commission. In the event of the refusal of an appointment by an eligible candidate, the Appointing Authority shall so notify the Commission.

- B. In case an eligible person's name appears on more than one list, appointment to a position in one class shall be considered a waiver for appointment from eligible lists for classes in which the salary is equal or lower.
- C. If, at any time after the creation of an eligible list, the Commission has reason to believe that any person whose name appears on any list is disqualified from appointment because of false statements made on his or her application, inability to perform the job duties, lack of a necessary license, lack of insurability, or for other comparable reasons; such person shall be notified and given an opportunity to be heard. If such person shall fail to appear for hearing, or upon being heard, fail to satisfy the Commission, his name shall be removed from such eligible list.

9.06 Removal from an Eligible List

- A. Names may be removed from an eligible list by the Civil Service Commission in accordance with these rules, for the following reasons:
 - 1. the written request of the eligible;
 - 2. the expiration or revocation of the list;
 - 3. failure of the person listed on the eligible list to fulfill all of the requirements and qualifications set out by or under these rules;

4. the refusal or neglect of the eligible within three (3) days after notice of appointment to accept appointment upon certification, unless a waiver of such appointment is sought by the eligible and approved by the Civil Service Commission; the failure of the Appointing Authority to select the eligible upon more than three (3) certifications; and
5. the death of the eligible.

9.07 Duty of Eligibles

Each person on an eligible list shall file with the Commission written notice of any change of address, and failure to do so may be considered sufficient reason for not certifying his or her name to the appointing authorities for future appointment.

9.08 Revocation of Eligible List

An eligible list may be revoked and another examination ordered only when, in the judgment of the Commission, such action is deemed advisable by reason of errors, fraud, or obviously inappropriate standards prescribed in connection with any examination. All competitors in the first examination shall be notified and shall be eligible to compete in the rescheduled examination without filing a separate application or the payment of an additional fee. No Certified Eligible List shall be altered or revoked, except upon written notice to all persons whose standing may be affected and upon an entry in the minutes of the Commission of the reasons for such alteration or revocation.

9.09 Separate Lists for Police and Fire

Notwithstanding 9.01, separate eligible lists shall be maintained for original and promotional appointments in Police and Fire Departments. No person may be transferred from one list to the other, and appointments and promotions shall be made only from the eligible lists maintained by each department. The City of Portsmouth shall have the authority to utilize the Lateral Transfer procedure for vacancies within the police department *and the fire department* as described in section 7.18 *and 7.19*. Amended 11-8-21.

RULE TEN APPOINTMENTS IN GENERAL

10.01 Appointments in General

Vacancies in positions in the classified service are not to be filled or required to be filled until such time as the position is certified as vacant with a need for appointment thereto by the Appointing Authority.

Appointments to all positions in the classified service, other than those that are filled by exempt promotion, transfer, ~~or~~ reduction, *or lateral transfer* as provided in Sections 124.01 to 124.64 of the Revised Code, and the Rules and Regulations of the Commission shall be made only from those persons whose names are certified to the Appointing Authority in accordance with these rules. Amended 9-14-21.

10.02 Appointment Procedure/Number of Names Certified

- A. The Appointing Authority of a department in which a position in the classified service is to be filled shall notify the Commission of the classification title and the number of positions to be filled. Upon the receipt of this, the Commission shall, except as otherwise provided in R.C. 124.27, 124.30 (relating to provisional appointments); and 124.31 (relating to promotions) of the Revised Code *and section 7.18 of Civil Service rules (Lateral Transfers)*; and these rules, certify to the Appointing Authority the names and addresses of ~~the ten (10) candidates standing highest on the eligible list~~ *all candidates who have achieved the minimum passing grade for the class or grade to which the position belongs; provided that the*

~~Commission may certify less than ten (10) names if ten (10) names are not available.~~ When less than six (6) names are certified to an Appointing Authority, appointment from that list shall not be mandatory. Amended 11-9-20 and 9-14-21

- B. The Appointing Authority, having notified the Commission of the position to be filled, and having received such list may then appoint. Except as provided in 10.08 with respect to promotion within the Police and Fire Departments, the Appointing Authority shall fill such position by appointment of one (1) of the ~~ten (10)~~ persons certified to him or fill such vacancy from the lateral transfer process as described in section 7.18 or 7.19. If more than one position is to be filled, the Commission may certify a group of names from the eligible list, *or lateral transfer process,* and the Appointing Authority shall appoint in the following manner: ~~Beginning at the top of the list, each time a selection is made, it must be from one of the first ten (10)~~ *Selection of a* candidate on the list who is willing to accept consideration for the position. Amended 11-09-20 and 9-14-21 and **11-8-21.**
- C. If an eligible list becomes exhausted and until a new list can be created; or when no eligible list for such position exists, names may be certified from eligible lists most appropriate for the group or class in which the position to be filled is classified.

10.03 Veterans' Preference on Original Appointments

A veteran of active military service (including service with the Ohio Organized Militia), for at least one hundred eighty (180) days, who has been honorably discharged or separated under honorable conditions therefrom, and who is a resident of Ohio, and whose name is on the eligible list for a position, shall be entitled to preference in an original appointment to such

competitive position over any other person eligible for such appointment and standing on the certified eligible list thereof with a rating equal to that of each such person.

10.04 Probationary Periods

- A. Except for original appointments to the Police Department as a police officer or the Fire Department as a firefighter, all original appointments, including provisional appointments made pursuant to 124.30 of the Revised Code, shall be for a probationary period of one hundred and twenty (120) days or for a period determined by the terms of any applicable collective bargaining agreement. All promotional appointments including Police and Fire Department (**except for Chief of Police and Chief of Fire**) shall be probationary for a period of one hundred and eighty (180) days or for a period determined by the terms of any applicable collective bargaining agreement.
- B. Original appointments to the Police Department and to the Fire Department shall be for a probationary period of one (1) year.
- C. No promotion shall be final until the appointee has satisfactorily served his probationary period.
- D. Service as a provisional employee in the same or similar class shall be included in the probationary period.
- E. Probationary period for Chief of Police and Chief of Fire shall be six (6) months.

10.05 Removal or Reduction During Probation

If the service of a probationary employee is unsatisfactory, he or she may be removed or returned to his or her prior position without right of appeal at any time after the completion of sixty (60) days or one-half of the probationary period whichever is greater. Unless the probationary appointee has been previously removed, the Appointing Authority shall immediately notify the Commission if the appointment is to be terminated during the last ten (10) days of the probationary period. Such notification shall be in writing and state the reasons therefore. Removal or reduction may be made under the provision of Rule Nine at any time.

10.06 Provisional Service

Any employee in the classified service of the City of Portsmouth, Portsmouth City School District or the Portsmouth City Health District, who is appointed provisionally to fill a vacancy and who remains in provisional status in the same classification or classification series for a period of two (2) years of continuous service, during which period no competitive examination is held, shall become a certified appointee in the classified service at the conclusion of such two (2) year period. The period of two (2) years of continuous service shall not begin for such purpose until the Appointing Authority notifies the Civil Service Commission of the appointment in writing.

10.07 Temporary or Exceptional Appointments

- A. Positions in the classified service may be filled without competition as follows:
 - 1. Whenever there are urgent reasons for filling a vacancy in any position in

the classified service and the Commission is unable to certify to the Appointing Authority, upon request by the latter, a list of persons eligible for appointment to such position after a competitive examination, the Appointing Authority may nominate a person to the Commission for non-competitive examination. If such nominee is certified by the Commission as qualified after such non-competitive examination, that person may be appointed provisionally to fill such vacancy until a selection and appointment can be made after competitive examination. Such provisional appointment shall continue in force only until a regular appointment can be made from eligible lists prepared by the Commission. Such eligible list shall be prepared within six (6) months, provided that an examination for the position must be held within said six (6) month period from the date of such provisional appointment.

2. In case of a vacancy in a position in the classified service where peculiar and exceptional qualifications of a scientific, managerial, professional, or educational character are required, and upon satisfactory evidence that for specified reasons competition in such special case is impracticable, and that the position can best be filled by a selection of some designated person of high and recognized attainments in such qualities, the Commission may suspend the provisions of Section 124.01 to 124.06 of the Revised Code and these rules requiring competition in such case, but no such suspension shall be general in its application. All such cases of suspension shall be reported in the annual report of the Commission with the reasons for this

suspension of the rules.

3. Where the services to be rendered by an appointee are for a temporary period, not to exceed six (6) months, and the need for such service is important and urgent, the Appointing Authority may select for such temporary service any person, including any person on the proper list of those eligible for permanent appointment. Successive temporary appointments to the same position shall not be made under this division. The acceptance or refusal by an eligible of a temporary appointment shall not affect the person's standing on the register for permanent employment; nor shall the period of temporary service be counted as a part of the probationary service in case of subsequent appointment to a permanent position (Section 124.27, 124.27.1, 124.30 of the Revised Code). All such temporary appointments shall be promptly reported to the Civil Service Commission.

4. Interim or temporary appointments, made necessary by reason of sickness, disability, or other approved leave of absence of regular officers or employees shall continue only during such period of sickness, disability, or other approved leave of absence, subject to rules to be provided for by the director.

B. Persons who receive interim, temporary, or intermittent appointments shall serve at the pleasure of their Appointing Authority. Interim appointments shall be made only to fill a vacancy that results from an employee's temporary absence, but shall not be made

to fill a vacancy that results because an employee receives an interim appointment.

10.08 Promotional Appointments: Police and Fire

With the exception of the Chief in the Division of Police, and the Chief in the Division of Fire, in the case of a promotional appointment to be made in the Division of Police or Fire, the Commission shall certify to the Appointing Authority the name of the person standing highest on the list. Upon such certification, the Appointing Authority shall appoint the person certified within thirty (30) days of certification; ten (10) days in the case of an appointment within the Divisions of Police and Fire. If there is no eligible list for the rank in which the available vacancy occurred, the Commission, within sixty (60) days of such vacancy occurring shall hold a competitive promotional examination. After such examination has been held in the Division of Fire, an eligible list shall be established within twenty (20) days of the final date of the revised rating key or answer inspection date and the Civil Service Commission shall certify the person receiving the highest grade.

The positions of police chief and fire chief shall be in the unclassified civil service of the city and exempt from all competitive examination requirements. The City Manager shall appoint the police chief and fire chief to serve in said positions. The police chief and fire chief shall be appointed solely on the basis of their executive and administrative qualifications in their respective fields and need not, at the time of appointment, be residents of the city or state. During the initial six month probationary period, the police chief and/or fire chief serve in an “at-will” capacity and may be removed by the City Manager for any cause. After the police chief and/or fire chief has served six months, he or she shall be subject to removal only for cause including incompetency, inefficiency,

dishonesty, insubordination, unsatisfactory performance, any other failure of good behavior, any other acts of misfeasance, malfeasance, or nonfeasance in office, or conviction of any felony. If removed for cause or suspended without pay by the City Manager, the police chief and/or fire chief shall have the right to appeal such actions by the City Manager to the Commission. The City Manager's decision will be deemed approved unless two (2) or more Commission members vote to overturn or amend the City Manager's decision. The incumbent officers in the police chief and fire chief positions as of the adoption of the Resolution approving these rules by City Council shall remain in the classified civil service until their position becomes vacant after which time their positions shall be filled according to the terms of this section.

10.09 Promotional Restrictions: Police and Fire

- A. With the exception of Chief in the Division of Police and Chief in the Division of Fire, vacancies above the rank of firefighter 5 in the Division of Fire, shall be filled by a competitive examination for promotion from among persons holding the next immediate lower rank. Vacancies above the rank of patrol officer in the Division of Police shall be filled by a competitive exam and assessment center. No such position shall be filled by original appointment.
- B. Whenever a vacancy occurs in the promoted ranks, no person shall be eligible to take the promotional examination unless he has served at least twenty-four (24) months in the lower rank. When a vacancy occurs in a rank other than the promoted rank immediately above the rank of firefighter 5, no person shall be eligible to take

the promotional examination unless he has served twelve (12) months in the rank from which the promotion is to be made.

- C. If there are fewer than two (2) eligible people willing to take the promotional test, the time-in-rank requirement may be waived by the Civil Service Commission.
- D. If, even by waiving the time-in-rank requirement for non-probationary employees, there are not two (2) eligible people willing to take the promotional examination, the Civil Service Commission shall open the test to probationary employees in the lower rank.
- E. If, even by opening the test to probationary employees, there are not two (2) eligible people willing to take the promotional examination, the Civil Service Commission shall allow the non-probationary persons in the then next lower rank to compete with those persons in the rank lower than the position to be filled.
- F. The above process shall be repeated in a downward progression until such time as there are at least two (2) candidates to take the competitive examination.
- G. If, after exhausting all ranks, two (2) eligible test takers cannot be located, then a provisional appointment can be made.

RULE ELEVEN TENURE, REDUCTION, SUSPENSION, REMOVAL AND DEMOTION

11.01 Tenure of Office

The tenure of every officer or employee in the classified service of the City of Portsmouth, Portsmouth City School District and the Portsmouth City Health District, holding a position under Chapter 124 of the Revised Code, shall be during good behavior and efficient service, and except in cases of layoff or job abolishment, or as otherwise provided by the Revised Code or these rules, no such officer or employee shall be reduced in pay or position, suspended, or removed, except as provided in Section 124.34 of the Revised Code, and these rules, for incompetency, inefficiency, dishonesty, drunkenness, immoral conduct, insubordination, discourteous treatment of the public, neglect of duty, violation of such sections of the Revised Code or the Rules of the Commission, or any other failure of good behavior, or any other acts of misfeasance, malfeasance, or nonfeasance in office, or any violation of the rules and regulations of the Portsmouth Police Department, Portsmouth Fire Department, City of Portsmouth, Portsmouth City School District and the Portsmouth City Health District.

- A. A finding of the Ohio Ethics Commission, based upon a preponderance of the evidence that the facts alleged in a complaint under Section 102.06 of the Revised Code constitute a violation of Chapter 102, Section 2921.42 or Section 2921.43 of the Revised Code may constitute grounds for dismissal.
- B. Failure to file a statement or falsely filing a statement required by Section 102.02 of the Revised Code may also constitute grounds for dismissal.

11.02 Procedure in General

- A. In any case of reduction, suspension of more than three (3) working days, or removal (including a removal under 10.06), the Appointing Authority shall furnish the affected employee with a copy of the order of reduction, suspension, or removal. Such order shall state the reason(s) therefore and shall be filed with the Commission. The procedures set forth in Rule 12 shall apply.
- B. Within ten (10) days following the filing of such order, the employee may file a written appeal with the Commission, unless the employee was removed or reduced during the second half of the probationary period. In the event such an appeal is filed, the Commission shall forthwith notify the Appointing Authority and shall hear, or appoint a trial board to hear, such appeal within thirty (30) days from the filing of the appeal with the Commission. The Commission or trial board may affirm, disaffirm, or modify the judgment of the Appointing Authority.
- C. In cases of suspension, removal, or reduction in pay or position for disciplinary reasons, either the Appointing Authority or the officer or employee may appeal the decision of the Commission to the Court of Common Pleas of the County in which the employee resides in accordance with the procedure provided by Section 119.12 of the Revised Code. Such appeal shall be taken within ten (10) days from the date of notice of the finding of the Commission.

11.03 Procedure: Police and Fire

- A. In the case of suspension for any period of time, or demotion, or removal of the

Chief of the Division of Police or Chief of the Division of Fire, or any other member of the Police or Fire Department, the Appointing Authority shall furnish such Chief or member of the department with a copy of the order of suspension, demotion, or removal. Such order shall state the reason(s) therefore and shall be filed with the Commission. The procedures set forth in Rule 12 shall apply.

- B. The City Manager has the exclusive right to suspend the Chief of the Police or Fire Departments. If either Chief is so suspended, the City Manager shall certify such fact together with the cause for such suspension to the Commission which within five (5) days from the date of receipt shall proceed to hear such charges and render judgment thereon.
- C. Within ten (10) days following the filing of such order, such Chief or member of the department may file a written appeal with the Commission, except for employees removed or reduced their probationary period. In the event such an appeal is filed, the Commission shall forthwith notify the Appointing Authority and shall hear, or appoint a trial board to hear, such appeal within thirty (30) days from the filing of the appeal with the Commission. The Commission or trial board may affirm, disaffirm, or modify the judgment of the Appointing Authority. An appeal on questions of law and fact may be had from the decision of the Commission to the Court of Common Pleas of Scioto County, Ohio. Such appeal shall be taken within thirty (30) days from the finding of the Commission.

11.04 Disciplinary Action

- A. The Appointing Authority may suspend with or without pay, demote, discharge or

reprimand an officer or employee for:

1. Neglect of duty.
2. Absence without leave for any period of time.
3. Incompetency.
4. Inefficiency.
5. Conduct unbecoming an employee in the public service.
6. Intoxication in the course of employment.
7. The illegal use, sale, or possession of a drug of abuse as defined in Section 513.01 of the Portsmouth Codified Ordinances.
8. Disorderly conduct while on duty.
9. Insubordination.
10. Offensive conduct toward fellow employees, superiors or the public in the course of employment.
11. Willful violation of any provision of law governing the civil service or rules or regulations of the Commission.
12. Conviction of a felony or of a misdemeanor involving moral turpitude.
13. Conviction of any law deemed related to the job to be performed by the officer or employee, although an actual conviction is not a prerequisite for discipline or discharge for an act or omission that would amount to a

crime.

14. Negligent or willful damage to public property.

15. Wasteful use of public supplies or equipment.

16. Negligent, improper, or inefficient handling or accounting for public funds or accounts; or violation of any departmental rule or regulation respecting the handling or accounting of public funds or accounts.

17. Engaging in any political activity which is prohibited by civil service law or the rules of the Commission, and

18. For any other failure of good behavior which is detrimental to the service, or for any other act of misfeasance, malfeasance, or nonfeasance in office.

B. The Appointing Authority may require an employee who is suspended to report to work to serve the suspension. An employee serving a suspension in this manner shall continue to be compensated at the employee's regular rate of pay for hours worked. Such disciplinary action shall be recorded in the employee's personnel file in the same manner as other disciplinary actions and has the same effect as a suspension without pay for the purpose of recording disciplinary actions.

11.05 Disciplinary Suspension

An officer or employee may be suspended for a period of not to exceed three (3) working days for disciplinary purposes without a right of appeal to the Civil Service Commission.

11.06 Absence Without Leave

Absence from duty without leave for any period of time; or the failure to report for duty after leave has expired, shall be considered "neglect of duty" and a cause for removal.

11.07 Procedure for Removal, Suspension, or Reduction

A suspension, removal, or demotion pursuant to R.C. 124.34 of an employee by an Appointing Authority shall not become effective until such Appointing Authority has first:

- A. Held a pre-disciplinary meeting at which the employee is apprised of the alleged transgressions and of the proposed disciplinary action.
- B. Served such employee a written order of discipline which contains one (1) or more statutory reason(s) for the grounds for discipline with such specifications of facts as shall fairly allow the employee to defend; and
- C. Filed a copy of such order of removal with the Commission within the time allowed.

11.08 Future City Employment Restricted

Any permanent officer or employee who is discharged from the service with the City of Portsmouth, Portsmouth City School District or the Portsmouth Health District or resigns therefrom while not in good standing (see Rule 12.12) shall be disqualified from taking any civil service examination for employment with the City, Portsmouth City School District or the Health District.

RULE TWELVE HEARING PROCEDURE

12.01 Time of Hearing; Notifications

Upon receipt from an employee or officer in the classified service of the City, Portsmouth City School District or the Health District of a timely appeal from an order of removal, reduction in pay or position, or suspension for more than three (3) working days, the Commission shall set a time and place to hear such appeal and shall notify the appropriate Appointing Authority, as well as the employee and his attorney, if known, of the time and place of the hearing. Such notice must be in writing and mailed to the last known post office address of each party no less than ten (10) calendar days prior to the hearing date; however, this time limit may be waived by the Commission at the employee's request.

12.02 Amendments to Orders

Amendments to the orders of removal, reduction in pay or position, or suspension for more than three (3) working days, may be made by the Appointing Authority at any time, provided the employee and his attorney, if any, receive copies of the amended order prior to ten (10) calendar days before the time set for the hearing as provided herein.

12.03 Hearing Procedure

Hearings before the Commission may be public except when the nature of the charge may be offensive to public morality and decency. In such cases, the Commission may order the hearings closed to the general public. In the hearing of such appeals, the order of procedure shall be as follows:

- A. The Appointing Authority taking action affecting the employee shall present his evidence in support of the charges and specifications.
- B. The employee affected shall then produce such evidence as he may wish to present to refute such charges.
- C. The Appointing Authority may offer evidence in rebuttal. The Commission may, in its discretion, hear final arguments.
- D. Either party may call the other, or agents, officers or employees of the same as a cross examination.

12.04 Rules of Evidence; Representation by Counsel

The Rules of Evidence prevailing in civil actions in the Ohio courts of general jurisdiction are to be used as evidentiary guidelines in hearings before the Civil Service Commission. The Commission may permit the introduction of evidence otherwise excludable under such rules where a foundation, establishing the reliability and credibility of the evidence, its relevance and materiality, and its necessity, has been established. The appellee and appellant may be represented by counsel or other representative. The Civil Service Commission may be represented by independent legal counsel and the cost of such representation will be paid by the City.

12.05 Burden of Proof

The Appointing Authority shall prove, by a preponderance of the evidence, the factual allegations contained in the disciplinary order. Failure to prove each of the allegations

contained in the order does not require disaffirmance or annulment of the Appointing Authority's order by the Commission.

12.06 Hearsay

The Commission may permit the introduction of evidence otherwise excludable as hearsay provided there is established some foundation as to its reliability and its necessity.

12.07 Discovery

The Commission may allow either party to conduct discovery upon notice to the Commission.

12.08 Subpoenas

Either party may request that a subpoena be issued by the Commission. Such requests shall be submitted no later than seven (7) days prior to the hearing. Such request must be accompanied by a completed subpoena form. Subpoenas duces tecum shall be submitted no later than ten (10) days prior to the hearing. It is the responsibility of the requesting party to serve the subpoena. The Commission may call witnesses other than those requested by the parties.

12.09 Witnesses

All witnesses must testify under oath or affirmation.

12.10 Motions

- A. All motions shall state, with particularity, both reliefs sought by the moving party and the basis for granting such relief.

- 1 All motions together with supporting documentation, if any, shall be served on the opposing party.
 - 2 Motions to dismiss an appeal shall be supported by affidavits, made on personal knowledge, setting forth facts as would be admissible in evidence. Affidavits shall show affirmatively that the affiant is competent to testify to the matter stated therein. Sworn or certified copies of all papers referred to in an affidavit shall be attached thereto. When a motion is made and supported as provided in this rule, an adverse party may not rest upon mere allegations or denials. An adverse party's response, by affidavit or otherwise, shall set forth specific facts showing there is a genuine issue in dispute.
- B. Procedure motions, not determinative of the final outcome of the appeal, may be acted upon any time after receipt by the Commission without awaiting a response from the opposing party. The party adversely affected by such action of the Commission may move for appropriate relief.

12.11 Record of Hearings

The Commission may record hearings either by the use of a stenographer or through the use of a magnetic tape or digital media.

12.12 Resignation Before Final Action

The acceptance by an Appointing Authority of the resignation of a person discharged, before the final action by the Commission, will be considered a withdrawal of the charges. Notice of such resignation shall be submitted immediately to the Commission. The separation of the

employee thus resigning shall be entered upon the records of the Commission and the proceedings dismissed without judgment.

12.13 Trial Board/Hearing Officer

The Commission may appoint a trial board or hearing officer to hear an appeal as provided in Rule 11.02. When the Commission exercises its discretion to do so, the following procedure shall apply before the Commission takes final action on the appeal. Hearing officer shall have the same meaning as trial board for purposes of this section.

- A. The hearing officer shall submit a report to the Commission in each appeal considered by the hearing officer for the Commission.
- B. No objection may be made to any decision of a hearing officer prior to the submission of the hearing officer's report and recommendation. Written objections to reports and recommendations shall be filed within ten (10) calendar days after receipt of the report and recommendation(s). Written replies to objections shall be filed within ten (10) days after the opposing party's objection has been filed.
 - 1. If service or delivery of a report and recommendation is refused, unclaimed or sent to the wrong address due to a party's failure to notify the Commission of a change of address, it shall be deemed received by the party three (3) calendar days after such mailing. A certificate of mailing shall be considered sufficient proof of mailing.
 - 2. The Commission may extend the time to file objections or responses to the report and recommendation.

3. Objections to reports and recommendations should include a brief statement of the case and a concise statement of each area of disagreement with supporting arguments and memoranda. All parties' objections or responses must be limited to evidence presented at the hearing. Objections and responses to objections containing arguments based on evidence not already in the record may be stricken.
 4. No objection without a certificate of service may be considered by the Commission.
- C. The Commission may accept, reject, or modify, in whole or in part, any report and recommendation of the hearing officer. The Commission may also receive additional evidence, hear arguments, or remand an appeal to a hearing officer for further consideration or hearing.
- D. Final orders shall be signed by the Chair or other member of the Commission. The original order shall be journalized and a copy of the order placed in the case file. Agreement of not less than two (2) Commission members shall be required to reject or modify any report and recommendation of the hearing officer. If no such agreement is reached, the report and recommendation of the hearing officer shall be deemed affirmed as the final order of the Commission but shall not have any precedential value. Copies of final orders of the Commission shall be sent by certified mail to the affected employee and by regular mail to the other parties and their representatives. Copies of orders returned to the Commission or unclaimed or refused shall be reissued by regular United States mail. Copies of final orders

returned to the Commission as undeliverable shall be placed in the case file and the opposing party shall be notified.

RULE THIRTEEN LAYOFFS AND TRANSFERS

13.01 Layoffs or Reductions in General

Whenever any permanent office or position in the classified service, except in the Police and Fire Departments, is abolished or made unnecessary, or the person holding such office or position is laid off, the procedure outlined in Sections 124.321 through 124.328 of the Revised Code shall be followed.

13.02 Retention Points

R.C. 124.321 through 124.328 and R.C. 124.37 provide that employees shall be laid off in descending order of retention points. "Retention points" means the system of points given to employees to determine the order of layoff.

An employee's total retention points shall be the sum of the base points plus the retention points assigned for continuous service.

The Appointing Authority shall compute the total retention points for each employee in the classifications affected by a layoff or position abolishment, including the classifications in which displacement may occur.

The Appointing Authority shall submit the required information to the Civil Service Commission for verification. Notification by appointing authorities to affected employees shall not occur prior to the Commission's verification of retention points.

Employees shall be assigned a base of one hundred (100) retention points. Computation of retention points for continuous full-time service shall be made by crediting each employee with one

(1) retention point for each biweekly pay period of continuous service. Retention points for continuous service for other than full-time service shall be calculated on the basis of one-half (.50) point for each biweekly pay period of continuous service.

13.03 Layoffs or Reductions: Police and Fire

Layoffs or reductions in the Police or Fire Departments for causes other than those outlined in Section 124.34 of the Revised Code shall be made in accordance with the provisions of Section 124.37 of the Revised Code.

13.04 Temporary Transfers

- A. An employee holding a position in the classified civil service may be temporarily transferred from his original position to a similar position, for a period not to exceed thirty (30) days, or for a longer period not to exceed ninety (90) days if agreed to by the employer and the employee.
- B. No employee shall be temporarily transferred more than once during any six (6) month period without the approval of the Civil Service Commission.
- C. If the Civil Service Commission approves a second temporary transfer within any six (6) month period, and the employee objects to the transfer because the temporary transfer is not necessary for the efficient operation of the office, the employee may appeal the temporary transfer to the Civil Service Commission. If the Civil Service Commission finds that the appeal of the employee is well taken, the Commission shall not approve the temporary transfer. If the Civil Service Commission finds that the appeal is not well taken, the Commission shall approve the temporary transfer.

13.05 Permanent Transfers

- A. Subject to the other provisions of these rules, an Appointing Authority may, with the

approval of the Civil Service Commission, permanently transfer an employee in the classified service from his position to a similar position in another office, department, or division of the same Appointing Authority.

- B. For the purposes of this rule, a "permanent transfer" is any transfer in excess of thirty (30) days unless the employee and the employer have agreed to a temporary transfer of a longer period, not to exceed ninety (90) days.
- C. The Appointing Authority requesting the permanent transfer shall notify the employee and the Civil Service Commission in writing of the request to transfer.
- D. If the Civil Service Commission determines that the transfer is not necessary for the efficient operation of the office, department, or division, the Commission shall not approve the transfer and shall notify the Appointing Authority and the employee in writing that the transfer is not approved. If the Civil Service Commission determines that the transfer is necessary for the efficient operation of the office, department, or division, the Civil Service Commission shall notify the Appointing Authority and the employee involved in writing that the transfer is approved.

RULE FOURTEEN

REINSTATEMENTS AND LEAVES OF ABSENCE

14.01 Leaves of Absence

An Appointing Authority may, with the consent of the Commission, grant a leave of absence to an employee in the classified service for a period not to exceed six (6) months. Upon the expiration of such leave of absence, such officer or employee shall be reinstated. However, if the officer or employee is a provisional appointee under Section 124.30 of the Revised Code, the leave of absence, is subject to the establishment of an eligible list and terminates automatically in case an eligible list for said position is established at any time during the period of leave of absence. All such leaves of absence granted by the Appointing Authority shall be referred to the Commission promptly for approval, in order that the Civil Service data of such absentees may be protected.

Seniority credit shall accumulate only if the leave of absence is related to law enforcement, education or military service.

14.02 Reinstatements in General

Any person holding an office or position under the classified service who has been separated from the service without delinquency or misconduct on his part, and other than for disability, may, upon recommendation of the Appointing Authority and with the consent of the Commission, be reinstated within one (1) year from the date of such separation to a vacancy in the same or similar office or position in the same department within thirty (30) days after

making written application for reinstatement. Such reinstatement may be predicated upon the person passing a physical examination made by a licensed physician and showing the person can perform the essential functions of the job. Any person reinstated pursuant to the authority of this paragraph shall not receive credit for seniority earned prior to a resignation or reinstatement. Police and firefighters who resign shall not be entitled to reinstatement to a position above the rank of police officer or fire fighter, regardless of the position/rank the person may have held at the time of resignation.

14.03 Reinstatement/Disability Retirement: Police and Fire

A. Any person holding an office or position under the classified service who is separated therefrom due to injury or physical disability and has been on an approved disability retirement under the Public Employee Retirement System (PERS) or the Police and Fireman Disability Pension Fund (PFDPF), and such retirement board certifies to the employer that the employee is physically and mentally capable of performing the duties of the same or similar position from which the employee was separated, the employee shall be restored to the same or similar position and salary as was held by the employee at the time of separation.

1. One who was separated due to injury or physical disability incurred the performance of duty may be reinstated immediately;
2. One who was separated due to injury or physical disability incurred other than in the performance of duty may be reinstated upon:
 - a. filing a written application with the Appointing Authority for

reinstatement to the office or position held at the time of separation; and

- b. passing a physical examination conducted by a licensed physician designated by the Police and Fireman's Disability Pension Fund which certifies the person is able to perform the essential functions of the office or position within two (2) weeks after making application for reinstatement;
- c. Such application for reinstatement must be filed within three (3) years from the date of separation and the applicant shall not have attained service eligibility retirement.

- B. Any person who holds a position under the classified service in the Police or Fire Department, who resigns therefrom, **may** be reinstated to the rank of policeman or fireman upon filing a written application for reinstatement with the Commission within one (1) year from the date of resignation. A copy of the application shall be filed with the Chief of such department and the person shall pass a physical examination, conducted by a licensed physician that certifies the person is physically fit to perform the essential functions of the office of fire fighter or police officer (whichever is applicable). Any person reinstated pursuant to the authority of this Paragraph (B) shall not receive credit for seniority earned prior to resignation and reinstatement and shall not be entitled to reinstatement to a position above the rank of fire fighter or police officer, regardless of the position the person may have held at the time of the resignation.

RULE FIFTEEN FEDERAL AND STATE OCCUPATIONAL PROGRAMS

15.01 City Participation

The rules of the Commission shall not be construed as prohibiting City, Portsmouth City School District or Health District participation in federal or state programs whose purpose and funding is intended to provide temporary and gainful occupation designed specifically for beneficiaries who are unemployed, underemployed, or otherwise considered to be disadvantaged.

15.02 Status of Program Participants

- A. Participants in federal or state programs referred to above who are assigned to City, Portsmouth City School District or Health District work-sites to qualify for benefits shall not be considered as being in the service of the City, Portsmouth City School District or Health District.
- B. The provisions of these rules shall not apply to such participants, except as otherwise required by controlling federal or state laws or guidelines.

RULE SIXTEEN PROHIBITIONS

16.01 Political Activity Prohibited

A. No officer or employee in the classified service of the City, Portsmouth City School District or the Portsmouth Health District shall engage in partisan political activity and shall not to that extent:

- 1 directly or indirectly, orally or by letter, solicit or receive, or be in any manner concerned in soliciting or receiving any assessment, subscription, or contribution to any political party or for any candidate for public office;
- 2 nor shall any such person solicit, directly or indirectly, orally or by letter, or be in any manner concerned in soliciting any such assessment, contribution, or payment from any officer or employee in such classified service;
- 3 nor shall any such officer or employee be an officer in a political organization or take part in politics other than to vote as he pleases, and to express freely his political opinions.

B. This provision shall not prohibit officers or employees of the City, Portsmouth City School District or of the Portsmouth Health District from making personal political contributions.

16.02 Fraud in Examinations Prohibited

Fraud in examinations are prohibited. In accordance with Section 124.58 of the Revised Code.

No person or officer shall:

- A. willfully or corruptly by himself or in cooperation with one or more person's defeat, deceive, or obstruct any person in respect to their right of examination, appointment, or employment arising under the Civil Service laws or any rules and regulations prescribed pursuant thereto; or
- B. willfully or corruptly, falsely mark, grade, estimate, or report upon the examination or proper standing of any person examined, registered, or certified pursuant to the provisions of the Civil Service Law, or aid in so doing; or,
- C. willfully or corruptly make any false representations concerning the results of such examinations or concerning any person examined; or
- D. willfully or corruptly furnish to any person any special or secret information for the purpose of either improving or injuring the prospects or chances of any person so examined, registered or certified, or to be appointed, employed, or promoted; or
- E. willfully personate any person or permit or aid in any manner any other person to personate him in connection with any examination, registration, or appointment or application or request to be examined, registered, or appointed; or
- F. furnish any false information about himself or any other person, in connection with any examination, registration, or appointment or application or request to be examined, registered, or appointed; or
- G. make known, or assist in making known to any applicant for examination, any questions to be asked on such examination; or
- H. for any applicant taking an examination to assist any other applicant in any manner

whatsoever; or

- I. personally solicit a favor from any member of the Commission, appointing officer, or any person in his behalf; or
- J. any applicant in any examination found to be using any means of information, other than that provided in the examination itself, such as memoranda, pamphlets, or books of any kind to assist him in answering the questions, shall have his examination papers taken up and filed with a "0" marking, when the circumstances justify such action.

16.03 Payment for Appointment or Promotion Prohibited

No applicant for appointment or promotion in the classified civil service shall, directly or indirectly, pay or promise to pay any money or other valuable thing, nor shall he ask or receive any recommendation or assistance from any person, upon the consideration of any political service to be rendered, for or on account of his appointment or promotion, or proposed appointment or promotion.

16.04 Abuse of Official Power for Political Reasons Prohibited

No officer or employee of the City, Portsmouth City School District or of the Portsmouth Health District shall appoint, promote, reduce, suspend, lay off, discharge, or in any manner change the official rank or compensation of any officer or employee in the classified service, or promise or threaten to do so, or harass, or discipline, or coerce any such officer or employee, for giving, withholding, or refusing to support any party.

16.05 Abuse of Political Influence

No person who holds any public office, or who has been nominated for, or who seeks nomination or appointment to any public office, shall corruptly use or promise to use, either directly or indirectly, any official authority or influence in order to secure or to aid any person in securing for him/herself, or for another any office or employment in the classified service of the City, Portsmouth City School District or of the Portsmouth Health District, or any promotion or increase in salary therein, as a reward for political influence or service. No person, by means of threats or coercion, shall induce or seek to induce anyone in the said classified service to resign his position, or to waive his right to certification, appointment or promotion.

16.06 False Statements

Fraudulent conduct or false statements by an applicant or by others with his connivance, in any application or examination, shall be deemed cause for exclusion of said applicant from any examination, or for removal of his name from an eligible list, or for discharge from the service after appointment from certification.

16.07 Violations

After a rule hereunder has been established and published by the Civil Service Commission, no person shall make an appointment to office or select a person for employment contrary to such rule, or willfully refuse or neglect to comply with or to conform to the sections of these rules, and, to the extent that the same are applicable, Chapter 124 of the Ohio Revised Code, or willfully violate any section of the same. If any person who is convicted of a willful violation described herein holds any public office or place of public employment, such position shall be rendered vacant by reason of said

conviction.

16.08 Prosecutions

Prosecutions for violations under these rules and/or Chapter 124 of the Ohio Revised Code in relation to the civil service of the City, Portsmouth City School District and the Portsmouth Health District, or by any officer or employee of the same, shall be instituted by the Civil Service Commission of the City of Portsmouth, Ohio, through the legal department of the City of Portsmouth, Ohio, or by such Civil Service Commission through special counsel.