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By Mike Steely
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Tommy Smith, the vice president of marketing strategy at Ackermann PR, was chosen from seven applicants to replace District 1's representative Stephanie Welch, who left council for a position with the city. The choice, after several votes, came down

Smith is the former chief marketing officer of ORNL Credit Union. He and his wife, Jamie, have three children. She joined him on the

The selection came down to Smith getting five votes

Each applicant had three minutes to speak and two supporters of each spoke on their behalf. The council then questioned each applicant before going through a half-dozen votes to narrow the field to Smith and Hayes.

Tommy Smith speaks to the Knoxville City Council as he applies to replace District 1 Councilwoman Stephanie Welch. He and David Hayes were chosen as finalists and Smith edged out Hayes in a 5-3 vote then, in a final vote, got 7 of 8 votes. Photo by Mike Steely.

Emerald Youth Foundation CEO Steve Diggs, Director of East and South Knox Ministry Kaylin Chesney and Overcoming Believers Church Pastor Darvyl Arnold celebrate the opening of the foundation's Calling and Career Center in East Knoxville.

By Ken Lav

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