

Rice hired as full-time city attorney

January 9, 2022



Martha Rice has been hired to represent Crescent City full-time.

“I very much enjoy working with the city team, which as you are aware, is extremely talented and capable, and I look forward to many years of serving the city,” said Rice.

Rice has worked as both deputy city attorney and city attorney in Crescent City since 2009, though both positions were previously part-time roles. By bringing Rice on full time, her serviceable hours will more than double to 2,080 hours a year.

“Ms. Rice is very talented, professional, and she has done an absolutely outstanding job, in my opinion, as city attorney for a number of years,” said City Manager Eric Wier. “We are very fortunate. She is very astute at the various areas of law that we really need as a city. On several different occasions we’ve had things pop up where we needed an opinion and we needed it fast, and she has been able to accomplish that.”

Rice earned a juris doctorate law degree from Lewis and Clark Law School and has been practicing law for over 14 years at Crescent City-based Black & Rice, LLP. She has also provided legal services to the Crescent

City Harbor District, Tolowa Dee-Ni Nation, and the cities of Brookings and Eureka.

By accepting the position, Crescent City will now be Rice's only client at an annual salary of \$118,164.

Prior to the city council's unanimous approval to hire Rice full-time, Mayor Jason Greenough asked how representation for the Del Norte Solid Waste Management Authority will be handled.

"Are you going to have to step down from that agency, or is it as simple as the city billing the solid waste management authority for your services?" Greenough asked.

"I think the Del Norte Solid Waste Management Authority is in a unique position compared to the other agencies, which I will no longer be serving," responded Rice. "Eric and I have a meeting next week with Mr. Ward (Director Tedd Ward) to talk about transitioning, and what those potential options are. The agency, which the city is a member of, will not be left without adequate legal representation."