

CITY OF SANTA ROSA
CITY COUNCIL

TO: MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL
FROM: RHONDA MCKINNON, INTERIM HUMAN RESOURCES
DIRECTOR
SUBJECT: APPOINTMENT OF CITY ATTORNEY, APPROVAL OF CITY
ATTORNEY EMPLOYMENT AGREEMENT AND ADOPTION OF
SALARY

AGENDA ACTION: RESOLUTION AND ORDINANCE INTRODUCTION

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Council, by resolution, appoint Sue Gallagher to the office of City Attorney and approve an Employment Agreement for the City Attorney position. It is further recommended that the Council, by ordinance, establish the salary for the City Attorney.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The City, in coordination with Ralph Andersen & Associates, conducted a nationwide recruitment for a new City Attorney. On March 28, 2017, the Council of the City of Santa Rosa announced the appointment of Sue Gallagher as City Attorney, subject to reaching satisfactory terms and conditions for an employment contract.

BACKGROUND

City Attorney Caroline Fowler resigned her position as City Attorney effective June 17, 2016.

On June 14, 2016, the City Council appointed Molly Dillon, Assistant City Attorney, as the Interim City Attorney.

On June 28, 2016, the City Council appointed Teresa Stricker and the law firm of Renne Sloan Holtzman Sakai, LLP to provide Interim City Attorney services while the City conducted an assessment of the City Attorney's office and issued a recruitment for the permanent City Attorney Position.

PRIOR CITY COUNCIL REVIEW

Not applicable.

ANALYSIS

After a nationwide recruitment process and candidate interviews, the City Council announced on March 28, 2017, that it had voted unanimously to appoint Sue Gallagher as the City Attorney subject to reaching satisfactory terms and conditions for an employment contract and authorized the Mayor to negotiate an employment agreement on behalf of the City.

Ms. Gallagher has agreed to the terms and conditions set forth in the Employment Agreement – City Attorney attached to the Resolution. The term of the agreement will commence on May 8, 2017 and continue until terminated as provided in the contract.

The City Charter requires that the compensation of the City Attorney be established by ordinance. A Proposed Ordinance is included for adoption by the council.

FISCAL IMPACT

The City Attorney salary and benefits are identified in the City Attorney's Office budget and the appointment of Sue Gallagher to this position will allow the conclusion of the outside contract for Interim City Attorney services.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

This action is exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) because it is not a project which has a potential for resulting in either a direct physical change in the environment, or a reasonably foreseeable indirect physical change in the environment, pursuant to CEQA Guideline section 15378.

BOARD/COMMISSION/COMMITTEE REVIEW AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Not applicable.

NOTIFICATION

Not applicable

ATTACHMENTS

- Resolution/Exhibit A (Employment Agreement)
- Ordinance

CONTACT

Rhonda McKinnon, Interim Human Resources Director