



Memorandum

To: Town Council
From: Thomas Dansie, Director of Community Development
Date: July 3, 2025
Re: Noise Standards Exemption Permit - 2025 Zion Canyon Music Festival

Executive Summary

Chapter [4-3B](#) of the Town Code establishes noise standards for the Town. Occasionally there are projects and events which, due to their inherently noisy nature, would violate these noise standards. It can be either necessary or desirable to allow such such projects and/or events, with their attendant noise, if they have a community wide public benefit. The Town Code allows the Town Council to issue noise exemption permits to allow the noise from such projects or events to exceed otherwise applicable maximums.

Alex Pelton has requested a noise exemption permit to allow amplified outdoor music at the Zion Canyon Music Festival (ZCMF). The ZCMF is scheduled for Friday September 26 and Saturday, September 27. It will be held at the Bit and Spur restaurant, 1212 Zion Park Boulevard. Mr. Pelton is requesting the noise exemption permit to allow amplified outdoor music to extend to 10:00 pm on both evenings of the festival at a level that would otherwise not be allowed by Code.

The Council should review the criteria for issuing noise standard exemption permits in section 4-3B-2(C). The Council should then determine whether or not the request qualifies for a permit under these criteria.

Applicable Ordinances

The Council should review the following ordinances as part of the analysis of this request:

1. Chapter 4-3B of the Town Code

Analysis

The Town has established noise standards to help protect the natural quiet in Zion Canyon and to help promote the Town's village character. The noise standards establish decibel maximum limits for noise making in the Town. The decibel limits vary by time of day.

During the day the decibel limits are higher to allow for the normal operation of day to day activities. Decibel limits decrease in the evening hours to allow quiet enjoyment of the natural surroundings. During nighttime hours the decibel limits are lower still to help preserve as close to a natural soundscape as possible.

Daytime -7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.	Evening -8:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.	Nighttime -10:00 p.m. to 7:00 a.m.
90 dBA	60 dBA	50 dBA

Figure 1. Springdale Town noise standards as established in section 4-3B-2 of the Town Code. For reference consider these typical examples: 90 dBA = lawnmower, 60 dBA = normal conversation, 50 dBA = quiet office.

The Town Code allows limited exception to these noise standards (see section 4-3B-2(D)). One of the allowed exceptions to the noise standards is for events that are open to the public, are authorized under a Large Outdoor Event permit, and take place at the Town Park. Public events that do not take place at the Town Park are not excepted from the noise standards. Thus, the ZCMF does not qualify for this automatic exception.

Separate from and in addition to the exceptions listed in 4-3B-2(D), the Town Code allows a person or organization to apply for a noise exemption permit in instances where a project or event is necessary or desirable and the nature of the project or event makes it impossible to comply with the noise standards in section 4-3B-2. The Town Council is authorized to grant a noise standard exemption permit for these projects or events, but only when certain criteria have been met. These criteria are codified in section 4-3B-2(C). All of the criteria must be met for a project to qualify for a noise standard exemption permit.

The ZCMF is planned for Friday, September 26 and Saturday, September 27. The ZCMF will be held outdoors on the back lawn of the Bit and Spur restaurant. Due to the nature of the music festival (amplified outdoor music), it would be impossible for the event to comply with noise standards after 8:00 pm. The event is planned to conclude at 10:00 pm on both days. Thus, without a noise exemption permit the event would need to end by 8:00 pm each day, or be in violation of the noise ordinance standards.

Mr. Pelton has requested a noise exemption permit to allow the music festival to proceed as planned.

Staff notes the ZCMF was held at the Bit and Spur last year with the same hours of operation. The Town authorized last year's event through a Large Outdoor Event (LOE) permit. An LOE permit allows a temporary use of property that would otherwise be prohibited by the Town Ordinances. The purpose of an LOE permit is to mitigate the negative impacts of the temporary events on *"adjacent properties, as well as the general health, safety and welfare of the citizens of the Town... native wildlife, the night sky, the natural quiet, the Virgin River, and other similar natural resources"* (see Town Code 10-22-3).

During and after last year's ZCMF staff received several calls, concerns, and complaints from residents regarding loud noise between the hours of 8:00 pm and 10:00 pm. Based on this feedback staff has determined the LOE process was not sufficient to mitigate the loud noise impacts of the event on the Town's citizens and the natural quiet. For this reason staff has directed Mr. Pelton to request a noise exemption permit from the Council for this year's event.¹

¹ The event will also be subject to a LOE event. Mr. Pelton has already applied for this permit and is working with staff on the review process. The Council's action on the noise exemption permit is separate from the LOE permit.

Mr. Pelton has submitted a written request responding to the criteria for issuing a noise exemption permit, contained in section 4-3B-2(C) of the Town Code. Staff has detailed these criteria and the ZCMF request in the table below.

Criteria	ZCMF Request	Comment
The noise making occurrence is necessary for the operation or administration of a project, event, or land use which has been permitted by the Town of Springdale. Exemption permits shall only be granted for unavoidable instances of noise making necessary for the function or construction of an approved project, event, or land use. Exemption permits shall not be granted for private parties or commercial events that do not have a community wide public benefit.	Mr. Pelton's request states the ZCMF is a benefit to the community and allowing outdoor music to extend an additional two hours past 8:00 pm (when the noise ordinance prohibits loud noises) will allow more residents the opportunity to enjoy the event. Mr. Pelton also notes the ZCMF was originally started in partnership with the Town (it was held at the Town Ballfield and the time) and that the Town has been an historic supporter of the event (by contributing money to allow locals to attend the event for free.)	The Council needs to determine: 1) If the requested noise making between 8:00 pm and 10:00 pm is unavoidable and necessary for the ZCMF, and 2) If the ZCMF has a "community wide public benefit."
The person seeking the exemption permit has mailed notice of the proposed noise making event, as well as the Town Council meeting where the permit application will be reviewed, to all property owners within 600 feet of the proposed noise making location. Such notice must be mailed at least ten days prior to the Town Council meeting where the permit application will be considered. The applicant must submit proof of mailing to Town staff.	Mr. Pelton has mailed the required notices and has provided documentation of such to the Town.	This criterion has been satisfied.
Only one exemption permit will be granted to the same person,	Mr. Pelton and the ZCMF have not requested a noise standard	This criterion has been satisfied.

group, organization, or property within a one-year period.	exemption permit in the last year.	
The applicant will take all reasonable measures to limit the noise impact and nuisance on surrounding properties.	Mr. Pelton has not specifically stated what measures will be taken to limit the noise impact on surrounding properties, other than ending the loud noise making promptly by 10:00 pm.	The Council may wish to discuss this criterion with the applicant.
The proposed noise is the minimum amount of noise necessary, and for the shortest duration, to effectively complete the project, event, or land use.	Mr. Pelton has not specifically addressed how this criterion has been met.	The Council may wish to discuss this criterion with the applicant.

Council Action

The Council should determine if all of the criteria in section 4-3B-2(C) for issuing a noise standard exemption permit have been satisfied. If so, the Council should approve the request. If not, the Council should deny the request.

The Council may wish to use the following sample motion language when taking action on this item:

*The Council **approves / denies** the noise standard exemption permit for the Zion Canyon Music Festival on September 26 and 27, 2025.*

If making a motion to approve the request the Council may wish to include the following additional content in the motion:

This noise exemption permit allows amplified outdoor music and other noises associated with the music festival until 10:00 pm on both Friday, September 26 and Saturday, September 27, 2025. All noises made after 10:00 pm must be kept within the noise maximum levels established in section 4-3B-2 of the Town Code.

ALEX PELTON
ZION EVENTS, LLC.
EVALEX@INFOWEST.COM
(435)669-4561
6/24/25

To Whom it May Concern,

I am writing this letter to request a noise exemption for the evenings of 9/26/25 and 9/27/25 for the Zion Canyon Music Festival. I feel that the festival is a benefit to the community and an extra two hours of music would allow more residents the opportunity to enjoy the event. The festival was started by The Town of Springdale 17 years ago, and the town has always been a strong supporter of the event. I have submitted my large event application to the town for review and look forward to working with the staff to ensure a safe and successful festival. Several businesses in town continue to support the festival and they look forward to the positive impact it has on economy and the spirits of the local citizens and employees. I will ensure that all noise will be terminated by 10 pm nightly. I have written and sent letters to all property owners whose land falls within 600 feet of the Bit and Spur property and have asked them to share their opinions at the upcoming council meeting on 7/9/25. Please let me know what other information you may need.

Thank you,
Alex Pelton

Please see the attached form with the list of property owners who received the written letter and a photo of all the stamped envelopes.

TAX_ID	FIELD5	FIELD6	FIELD7	FIELD8	FIELD9	FIELD10	FIELD11
S-BIT-3-B	BEAN CO	PO BOX 130		SPRINGD	UT	84767-0130	
S-160-NP	SPRINGD	PO BOX 187		SPRINGD	UT	84767-0187	
S-GFPK-1	CUTLER R	PO BOX 841		SPRINGD	UT	84767-0841	
S-89-A-5	NORTHGA	185 S 70 W		LINDON	UT	84042	
S-GFPK-1	MCMULLIN	7825 S PHEASANT W	SANDY	UT		84093	
S-GFPK-1	BIRCOLL	12700 CASIANO RD		LOS ANGE	CA	90077-1510	
S-90-A	ROTH STE	PO BOX 211		SPRINGD	UT	84767-0211	
S-GFPK-1	BEECROF	8219 SANTALUZ VILL	SAN DIEG	CA		92127-2522	
S-161-A-1-	MH UTAH	PO BOX 530550		HENDERS	NV	89053	
S-GFPK-1	BEECROF	8219 SANTALUZ VILL	SAN DIEG	CA		92127-2522	
S-35	CANYONL	205 E TABERNACLE	SAINT GE	UT		84770	
S-GFPK-8	RILEY JAM	302 ANCHOR LN		PORT LUC	WA	98365	
S-GFPK-7	PALMER K	1116 BONNEVILLE DI	SALT LAKI	UT		84108	
S-GFPK-5	DUFF PAT	PO BOX 803		SPRINGD	UT	84767-0803	
S-ZPH-4	SPRINGD	825 N 300 W STE N1	SALT LAKI	UT		84103	
S-GFPK-3	SMITH CL	3636 E OAKRIM WAY	MILLCREE	UT		84109-3834	
S-90-A	ROTH STE	PO BOX 211		SPRINGD	UT	84767-0211	
S-ZPH-2	PRINCETC	2024 PRINCETON AV	SALT LAKI	UT		84108-1904	
S-ZPH-1	ZION PARI	825 N 300 W STE N1	SALT LAKI	UT		84103	
S-ZPH-5	PARK SUI	825 N 300 W STE N1	SALT LAKI	UT		84103	
S-BIT-2-B	ZION BUN	PO BOX 130		SPRINGD	UT	84767	
S-90-A	ROTH STE	PO BOX 211		SPRINGD	UT	84767-0211	
S-GFPK-1	CUTLER R	PO BOX 841		SPRINGD	UT	84767-0841	
S-ZPH-3	ZION PARI	8791 S REDWOOD R	WEST JOF	UT		84088	
S-161-8	BEAN CO	PO BOX 130		SPRINGD	UT	84767-0130	
S-87-A	HURRICAI	107 S 1470 E STE 10	SAINT GE	UT		84790	
S-GFPK-2	REBER RC	1521 E BOULDER SP	SAINT GE	UT		84790	
S-GFPK-2	BLACKET	PO BOX 507		SPRINGD	UT	84767-0507	
S-BIT-1-A	CODA HOI	185 S 70 W		LINDON	UT	84042	
S-GFPK-9	BARTON M	4623 WANDER LN		SALT LAKI	UT	84117-5432	

into the
Teens wh
will also b
prize draw
summer.)



Northgate Peaks, W
185 South 70 West
Lindon, UT
84042

