Memorandum

To: **Town Council**
From: **Thomas Dansie, Town Manager**
Date: **June 10, 2026**
Re: **Noise Standards Exemption Permit - 2026 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 25 and Saturday, September 26. 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 approved a similar noise exemption permit for the 2025 ZCMF. The Town did not receive any noise complaints regarding the 2025 event.

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 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 25 and Saturday, September 26. 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.

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	Mr. Pelton's request states the noise exemption is necessary because of the nature of the event. That is, it is impossible to have a music festival without exceeding the Town's noise standards. As justification for how the event has a "community wide benefit" he notes that the event was originally created and administered in partnership with the Town as an event to	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."

parties or commercial events that do not have a community wide public benefit.	celebrate the Town and its workers and inhabitants.	
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, group, organization, or property within a one-year period.	Mr. Pelton and the ZCMF have not requested a noise standard exemption permit in the last year.	This criterion has been satisfied.
The applicant will take all reasonable measures to limit the noise impact and nuisance on surrounding properties.	Mr. Pelton has stated that he will "to the best of [his] ability" keep the sound levels reasonable. He also states that he will end the loud music just before 10pm.	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 indicated the noise from the event has more of a positive impact on the Town than a negative one.	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 25 and 26, 2026.*

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 25 and Saturday, September 26, 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.

Springdale Town Community Development

Printed: 06/03/2026

Alex

09/25/2026 - 09/25/2026

Noise Exemption Permit

Permit/License #
2340860

Reference Number
42443300-5526-11f1-9c85-310fb1a09af7

Application Status
New

Status
Active

Event Information

Event Name (this is a custom event)
Zion Canyon Music Festival

Start and End Dates
09/25/2026 - 09/25/2026

Location

Dates

09/25/2026 - 09/25/2026
4:00 pm - 10:00 pm
Setup: 9:00 am
Takedown Complete: 11:00 pm

Application Review Status

Final-Review Not Reviewed

Date Submitted
05/21/2026

Fees

There are no fees

Payments

There are no payments

Application Form Data

(Empty fields are not included)

Application #
TOS2026-057

First Name
Alex

Last Name
Pelton

Business/Organization
Zion Events, LLC

Street Address
1212 Zion Park Blvd.

City
Springdale

State
UT

Zip
84767

Mailing Address
[redacted]

City
[redacted]

State
[redacted]

Zip
[redacted]

Contact Email
[redacted]

Contact Phone
[redacted]

Reason for Exemption
live music until 10 pm

Event Name
Zion Canyon Music Festival

Location of the event
1212 Zion Park Blvd. Springdale, UT 84767

Start Date
09/25/2026

End Date
09/27/2026

Time Start
4:00 pm

Time End

10:00 pm

Description of Noise to be Made

live music

Letter on how you meet the 5 standards as outlined in 4-3B-2 of the Town Code

5 questions about noise.docx

Letter of what you've sent to neighbors within 600 feet of the proposed noise making location

noise ordinance letter.docx

By checking the box I certify that I have mailed the above letter to all property owners within 600 feet of the proposed noise making location and I did so at least 10 days before the Town Council meeting where my request will be heard.

✔

Signature

I agree that the facts stated in this application are true, and upon changes I will provide notification as needed.

Electronically Signed

Alex Pelton - 05/21/2026 9:03 am

1. The noise making occurrence is necessary for the operation or administration of the event because it is a music festival. Noise is required for music.
2. I will have the letters mailed this week. Well before the deadline of 6/1.
3. This is the only exemption I will be applying for this year.
4. I will, to the best of my ability, keep the sound level at a reasonable level to ensure the attendees have a good experience and the local residents are impacted minimally.
5. The noise level will end just prior to 10 pm. The proposed noise, live music, does require a certain level of noise to be effective. The level will be maintained to keep the minimum negative impact to the town. The festival, and its “noise” has a much more positive impact on the town than a negative one.

Alex Pelton- owner Zion Events, LLC. owner Bit and Spur Associates,Inc.

P.O. Box 532
Springdale, UT
84767

(435)669-4561

(435)772-3498

evalex@infowest.com

bitandspur@infowest.com

To Whom it May Concern,

You are receiving this letter because your property falls within 600 feet of the property lines of the parcel which contains The Bit and Spur Saloon. I am in the process of requesting a variance of the town noise ordinance so that I may have the Zion Canyon Music Festival on the grounds of The Bit and Spur Saloon. The noise ordinance exemption permit request will be at the council meeting on June 10, 2026. The request will be for a two-hour extension of the current ordinance, allowing live music to be performed until no later than 10pm. I hope that you feel that the festival is a benefit to the town and its residents and that you will be understanding of this request.

The Zion Canyon Music Festival is an event which was created by the Town of Springdale 15 years ago as an event to celebrate the town and its workers and inhabitants. The event is currently owned and operated by myself and my partner Lex deAzevedo. I have been a member of the Springdale community for over thirty years and have supported the town in many ways. The event will take place on the grounds of The Bit and Spur with a format quite like the weekly Farmer's Market. The event will feature live music from local and touring acts. There will be a variety of art vendors and non-profit booths on the edges of the grounds. The event will take place on 9/25 and 9/26 of 2026, with some take down of the event happening on Sunday, 9/27. This will primarily be event staff removing the stage and replacing tables to the proper spots for restaurant service. Set up for the event will begin at 9am on Friday. The event will begin at 4 pm on Friday and will end at 10 pm. On Saturday, the event will begin at 2pm and will end at 10pm. Take down will begin at 10pm on Saturday event and will end in the afternoon on Sunday, 9/27.

Thank you for your time,

Alex Pelton