

**GRAND COUNTY, UTAH  
ORDINANCE NO. 623 (2021)**

**ORDINANCE REPEALING AND REPLACING CHAPTER 8.16 (SPECIAL EVENTS)  
OF THE GRAND COUNTY GENERAL ORDINANCES AND ORDINANCE NOS. 117  
(1971), 521 (2013) AND 597 (2019)**

**WHEREAS**, Grand County recognizes the value of special events to the economy, tourism, and quality of life experienced in the community;

**WHEREAS**, Grand County has an important and compelling governmental interest in regulating the needs and impacts associated with special events in order to protect property, public health, safety, and welfare and provide for orderly crowd movement and traffic safety, personal privacy, noise and litter control;

**WHEREAS**, Grand County desires to establish reasonable and uniform time, place and manner regulations governing the permitting and operation of special events in order to establish clear rules and an efficient process for event sponsors and county administration;

**WHEREAS**, as provided in Utah Code § 17-50-302, the County may exercise powers and perform functions that are reasonably related to the “safety, health, morals, and welfare of County inhabitants;”

**WHEREAS**, in further exercise of the County’s general powers, as provided in Utah Code § 17-53-223, the county may “pass all ordinances and rules and make all regulations, not repugnant to law, necessary for carrying into effect or discharging the powers and duties conferred by this title, and as are necessary and proper to provide for the safety, and preserve the health, promote the prosperity, improve the morals, peace, and good order, comfort, and convenience of the county and its inhabitants, and for the protection of property in the county;”

**WHEREAS**, as provided in Utah Code § 17-53-216, the County may adopt ordinances which provide for the licensing of businesses defined as “any enterprise carried on for the purpose of gain or economic profit,” within their jurisdictions for the purpose of regulation and includes the power to deny, revoke, or suspend such license;

**WHEREAS**, under such statutory authority as cited above and in exercise of its general powers, the County has the authority to issue special events permits and regulate the same, which authority includes the power to deny, revoke, or suspend such permits;

**WHEREAS**, the previously named Grand County Council enacted Ordinance No. 117 (1971) to license and regulate large public assemblies and Chapter 8.16 of Grand County General Ordinances via Ordinance No. 521 (2013), as amended by Ordinance No. 597 (2019) to license

and regulate special events held in Grand County; adopt uniform procedures to promote and protect the rights of those organizing special events, those participating in them, and Grand County residents; and adopt reasonable fees to recover the costs associated with special events to ensure they do not place an unreasonable burden on the fiscal well-being of the County and its residents;

**WHEREAS**, the County seeks to modernize its special events permitting process, integrate reference to the County's recently enacted Administrative Hearing Process, create safer events through additional enforcement and limitations protocols, and accommodate COVID-19 regulations during the current pandemic;

**WHEREAS**, the County Commission held a public hearing on December 15, 2020 to solicit public comment on this revised ordinance; and

**WHEREAS**, the Grand County Commission has determined that it is in the best interests of the citizens of Grand County to repeal and replace Chapter 8.16 and all associated prior Ordinances.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED** that the Grand County Commission hereby repeals and replaces Chapter 8.16 (Special Events) of the Grand County General Ordinances and Ordinance Nos. 117 (1971), 521 (2013), and 597 (2019) as follows:

*See Exhibit A*

**ADOPTED** by the Commission in a public meeting on January 5, 2021 as follows:

*Those voting aye:* Woytek, McGann, Walker, Hadler, Stock, Hedin, Clapper

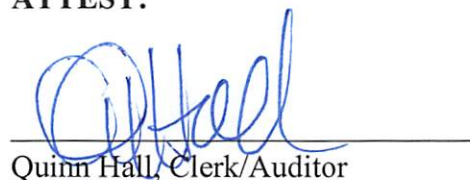
*Those voting nay:*

*Those absent:*

**Grand County Commission:**

  
Mary McGann, Chair

**ATTEST:**

  
Quinn Hall, Clerk/Auditor

## EXHIBIT A

### Chapter 8.16 Special Events

#### Sections:

- 8.16.010 Purpose and Intent**
- 8.16.020 Severability**
- 8.16.030 Definitions**
- 8.16.040 Permits Required**
- 8.16.050 Exceptions**
- 8.16.060 Sales Tax**
- 8.16.070 Special Events Coordinating Committee**
- 8.16.080 County Commission**
- 8.16.090 Application Requirements**
- 8.16.100 Fees**
- 8.16.110 Application Review Procedure**
- 8.16.120 Conditions**
- 8.16.130 Grounds for Denial**
- 8.16.140 Enforcement**
- 8.16.150 Remedies and Penalties**
- 8.16.160 Post Event Evaluation**
- 8.16.170 Constitutional Right**
- 8.16.180 COVID-19 Regulations**

#### **8.16.010 Purpose and Intent**

It is the purpose of Grand County to regulate assemblage of people requiring mitigation of impacts to the health, safety, peace, comfort and welfare of all persons in Grand County, residents and visitors alike.

#### **8.16.020 Severability**

If a provision, clause, sentence, or paragraph of this chapter or application thereof to any person or circumstances shall be ruled invalid, such ruling shall not affect the other provisions or applications of this chapter, and to this end the provisions of this chapter are severable.

If any provision of this Chapter conflicts with any state or county executive or public health order or other temporary regulation, the latter shall govern.

#### **8.16.030 Definitions**

“Cost Recovery Surcharge” shall mean a project specific fee to recover costs incurred by Grand County for event-related public safety, utilities, traffic control, and parking, and which may also include or incorporate charges which would otherwise apply for land use permits, building permit fees, temporary structure permits, or other applicable charges.

“Daily Total Attendance” shall mean and include all registrants, participants, spectators (including family of the registrants/participants), staff, hired entities or contractors, and volunteers.

“Permittee” shall mean the applicant for the Special Event, as hereinafter defined, becomes the Permittee when the Special Event permit is signed by the Special Events Coordinating Committee, as defined in Section 8.16.100, other designee of the County.

“Special Event” shall mean a sporting, cultural, entertainment, commercial, or similar gathering or activity, whether for profit or nonprofit, whether open to the public or not, whether located on private or public land (including trails), occurring for a limited duration not to exceed thirty (30) consecutive days; and:

- A. Where Daily Total Attendance may exceed one hundred persons;
- B. Noise that is prohibited by Title 11 of the Grand County General Ordinances may be used or created;
- C. The County Commission determines that the proposed event will result in identifiable impacts to county services or the health, welfare, peace, comfort, or safety of Grand County residents or visitors; or,
- D. Any event available to the public that requires the full or partial closure of a public right of way or use of public property.

By way of illustration but not limitation, Special Events include events where entrance fees are charged, retail sales are conducted, or vendors offer goods or services; races; concerts; dances; exhibitions; lectures; or a public assembly, such as a parade, rally, or celebration, whether open to the public or not.

Special Event shall not include non-commercial family or youth events held in a County facility.

“Special Event Permit” or “Permit” means a certificate or other written approval sought by an applicant for an event as defined in this chapter, granted through the Grand County Commission or its designee, the Special Events Committee.

#### **8.16.040 Permits Required**

Unless otherwise provided herein, no person, entity, organization, business, firm or other establishment may conduct, organize, establish, institute, operate or sponsor a Special Event in unincorporated Grand County without first obtaining a valid written Special Event Permit issued by Grand County.

In addition, all Special Events shall operate under a valid Grand County business license, or temporary business license, pursuant to Title 5 of the Grand County General Ordinances, as amended.

#### **8.16.050 Exceptions**

Weddings, family reunions, neighborhood block parties, garage sales, conferences, and similar events held in a permitted permanent facility consistent with the facility's occupancy and design standards shall not require a Special Event Permit.

#### **8.16.060 Sales Tax**

With the exception of religious and charitable entities, all vendors participating in Special Events are required to obtain a Sales Tax Account Number from the Utah Tax Commission prior to application to the Special Events Committee. Religious and charitable entities shall submit proof of 501(c)3 entity status to the Grand County Clerk no less than thirty (30) prior to the Special Event.

Each Special Event Permittee is responsible for ensuring compliance with Utah State Tax Commission requirements. By way of illustration, but not limitation, admission fees, entrance fees, participation fees, tangible goods, merchandise, and prepared food are taxable sales sourced to the county and/or municipality in which the Special Event starts regardless of the location of the business entity or end location.

#### **8.16.070 Special Events Committee**

The County Commission has established a Special Events Committee (the “Committee”) comprised of County staff and one County Commissioner, which Committee shall meet as needed. Subject to Section 8.16.080 and direction by the County Commission, the Committee shall develop all necessary application forms and documents consistent with and required by this Chapter; review all applications; and approve or deny (with or without conditions) applications.

#### **8.16.080 County Commission**

The County Commission has the authority to review, approve, or deny any application of interest to the Commission. The Committee shall refer the final approval of complete applications, as reviewed by the Committee, to the County Commission for additional review and final approval:

- A. May significantly impact County services or present a considerable risk to the health, safety, peace, comfort or welfare of citizens;
- B. Requires issuance of additional licenses or permits which require County Commission approval;
- C. Involves All-Terrain Vehicles as defined by the Utah Motor Vehicle Act;
- D. Is likely to draw in excess of one thousand (1000) people per day; or
- E. Is likely to generate unbudgeted fiscal impact on the County (staff time, public safety, etc.).

The Committee may refer any other applications to the County Commission in its sole discretion.

#### **8.16.090 Application Requirements**

All applicants shall provide the following information:

- A. Special Events Application and Compliance Fee;
- B. Copy of Applicant's Business License;
- C. Copy of State of Utah Special Event Temporary Sales Tax License;
- D. Name, address, telephone number, and email address of Applicant and single point of contact for each day of Special Event;
- E. The proposed dates and times of operation of the Special Event;
- F. Description of Special Event, including description of all the anticipated elements such as signage, listing types of merchandise, types of food being prepared/sold, alcohol sales, types of live entertainment, sound systems, temporary power, amusement rides, inflatable devices, and/or fireworks;
- G. The proposed location and premises to be used;
- H. The name, address, telephone number, and email address of property owner(s);
- I. Notarized property owner(s) signature(s) authorizing the Special Event on the property;
- J. Anticipated number of total event attendance and average Daily Total Attendance:
  - i. event participants;
  - ii. spectators;
  - iii. event staff and volunteers;
  - iv. vendors (number and type);

K. A Site Plan/ Detailed Course Map:

- i. An outline of the entire event venue including the names of all streets or areas that are part of the venue and the surrounding area. If the event involves a moving route of any kind, indicate the direction of travel and all street or lane closures. No permanent paint shall be applied to public property for marking course routes;
  - ii. Location, type, number, and description of all temporary structures to be used in the event, including: stages, platforms, scaffolding, bleachers, grandstands, canopies, tents, booths, vehicles, and trailers. If semi-permanent structures are to be included, applicant must supply specific information on how those structures will be anchored to the ground;
  - iii. Location, type, and provider of solid waste, recycling, compost, waste diversion containers;
  - iv. Location, type, and provider of restroom facilities;
  - v. Location of operator's headquarters at the gathering;
  - vi. Location of all beer gardens and cooking areas;
  - vii. The location, size, and type of proposed audio, lighting, visual equipment, open fires or pyrotechnics;
  - viii. Parking areas and overflow parking areas;
  - ix. Shuttle plan;
  - x. Entrance and exits;
  - xi. Vendor stations;
  - xii. Fencing and appropriate gates;
  - xiii. Security and parking personnel (if applicable);
  - xiv. Generator locations and/or source of electricity; and
  - xv. First aid and water stations.
- L. Sanitation service commitments, including the following minimum requirements: daily, compost, recycling and garbage pick-up, daily restroom hauling and cleaning, handwash replenishing, and waste diversion plan;
- M. Proof of insurance coverage naming Grand County as an Additional Insured in an amount not less than \$2 million per occurrence and \$4 million aggregate unless a lesser amount is approved in writing by the Commission Administrator or County Attorney;
- N. County Indemnification Agreement;
- O. County Compliance Pledge;
- P. Applicant's sales tax account number;
- Q. Information concerning all admission fee charges, booth fees, rental charges, or similar information relating to fees generated by the event;
- R. Any pertinent information requested by staff concerning impacts generated by the event including traffic control, security, emergency medical services, or other similar information;
- S. Pertinent coordination information such as required permits and approvals from Utah Department of Transportation, Utah Highway Patrol, local Health Department, Alcohol Control Board, Moab City, federal and state land management agencies, and other agencies as may be deemed appropriate;
- T. Contingency Plan considering any emergency plans, medical service, fire and police, residential notification and mitigation plan;
- U. If the special event occurs in the public right of way, a detailed plan identifying the anticipated route, street names, start/finish points, start/finish times, traffic control plans, traffic fixture locations, and anticipated street crossings;
- V. If the special event involves Utah Department of Transportation ("UDOT") managed rights of way, a copy of the UDOT permit.

### **8.16.100 Fees**

1. **Application Fee:** Each application shall be accompanied by the nonrefundable Application Fee established by the Grand County Consolidated Fee Schedule. The Application Fee shall be due regardless of location of the Special Event. The Application Fee is due and payable upon submission of an application. Applications shall not be deemed complete until the Application Fee has been paid. The payment of the Application Fee and/or the acceptance of fees by the County shall not constitute approval or otherwise be deemed to signify that the application is complete or appropriate in any manner.
2. **Compliance Fee:** Special Events shall be subject to a Compliance Fee which reimburses the County for its costs to ensure compliance with the requirements of this Chapter and the Special Events Permit in the amounts established by the Grand County Consolidated Fee Schedule. Where an event is held in a County Facility, the Permittee shall pay the fees charged by the County for use of the facility or the Compliance Fee, whichever is greater. The Permittee shall pay the Compliance Fee at least thirty (30) days in advance of the Special Event.
3. **Sheriff's Fees:** Special Events shall be subject to any applicable Sheriff's Fees as established by the Grand County Consolidated Fee Schedule.
4. **Cost Recovery Surcharge:** In addition to the Application and Compliance Fees, Special Events shall be subject to a Cost Recovery Surcharge proportionate to impacts and costs generated by the Special Event. The Cost Recovery Surcharge shall reimburse the County for unbudgeted expenses including but not limited to excess public services, staff time, or the like. The Permittee shall pay the estimated Cost Recovery Surcharge at least thirty (30) days in advance of the Special Event, which Cost Recovery Surcharge may be increased within sixty (60) days of the Special Event after invoice by the County in the event of unplanned impacts.
5. **Financial Security:** The County Commission or Committee may require an applicant to post a cash deposit or other security with the County Clerk/Auditor for all estimated contingent costs prior to the issuance of a Special Event Permit, as a guarantee against fees, damages, cleanup, or loss of public property.

### **8.16.110 Application Review Procedure**

Applicants must request approval of the dates desired for the Special Events prior to the submission of a Special Event application by letter or email submitted to the Moab Area Travel Council. Upon request for desired dates, the Moab Area Travel Council shall review the event calendar and may approve, deny, or propose alternative dates in advance of application submission. Approval of dates shall not constitute approval of the proposed Special Event and shall not be deemed a Special Event Permit.

Complete applications shall be submitted to the Committee a minimum of one hundred and eighty (180) days in advance of the proposed Special Event. This deadline may be waived at the discretion of the Committee if a complete application is received, minimal impacts are anticipated, requested dates are available, and available staff time is adequate to fully process the application. The Committee may also require additional time if questions or concerns arise, or if Commission review is required under Section 8.16.080.

Upon receipt of a complete application, the Committee shall review the application for consistency and compliance with this Chapter. As necessary, the Committee may request additional information from the applicant and may refer review of the application to the Southeast Utah Health Department, the San Juan County Commission, and County departments including but not limited to: roads, building, fire, law enforcement, EMS, travel council, planning and zoning, and legal.

The Committee shall approve or deny (with or without conditions) or refer the application to the Commission at least sixty (60) days before the proposed Special Event.

A Special Events Permit authorized by this section shall be valid for the dates specified, subject to Section 8.16.100 below.

Applications shall be subject to review by applicable County departments and partners including but not limited to: commission administration, building, planning and zoning, road, sheriff, and legal departments, the Emergency Medical Services Special Service District, Utah Highway Patrol, Moab City Police Department, and Fire Protection District.

#### **8.16.120 Conditions**

The County Commission or the Committee may impose conditions on the Special Events Permit to protect the health, safety, peace, comfort and welfare of Grand County residents and visitors.

Conditions may include, but are not limited to:

- A. security requirements;
- B. DABC permit for alcohol;
- C. liability insurance and/or additional insurance coverage,
- D. damage deposit or surety bonds;
- E. cost recovery surcharge;
- F. additional indemnification and/or liability waivers.
- G. limits upon days or hours operation, number of participants, size and type of lighting, acreage and location, audio or visual equipment, or noise;
- H. provision of emergency medical, fire protection, and/or law enforcement services (such as vehicle escorts, crowd control, and/or traffic control);
- I. additional parking and/or traffic control;
- J. waste removal and sanitation; and
- K. Other similar requirements to promote public health, safety, peace, comfort and welfare of Grand County residents and visitors.

The Permittee shall provide proof that all conditions are met at least thirty (30) days before the Special Event or the Special Events Permit shall be void and of no further force or effect.

#### **8.16.130 Grounds for Denial**

The Committee, or the County Commission upon referral, may deny an application for a Special Events Permittee for any of the following reasons:

1. Applicant submits incorrect, incomplete, or false information;
2. The proposed Special Event threatens or is incompatible with the public health, safety, peace, comfort or welfare of Grand County residents or visitors, including community or neighboring uses and morales, or may result in an unreasonable inconvenience or cost to the public;
3. The zoning of the proposed event site does not permit the use contemplated by the applicant;
4. Applicant refuses or fails to pay required fees or to comply with permit requirements or conditions;



5. Impacts associated with the proposed Special Event cannot be mitigated;
6. Applicant does not meet the deadlines and timelines required herein;
7. The proposed Special Event places unreasonable competing demands on County resources and/or conflict in proposed date(s), time and location with a reoccurring Special Event that is in good standing with the Committee and/or has an established annual date or season;
8. The Committee otherwise supports a denial based on Post Event Evaluation(s) and community complaints regarding incompatibility of the event with community health, safety, comfort, peace, and welfare; or
9. Executive or Public Health orders preclude the Event as per the order's provisions.

In the event of denial of a Special Events Permit, the applicant may submit a written appeal to the County within thirty (30) days of the Final Decision pursuant to Title 1 of the Grand County Ordinances.

#### **8.16.140 Enforcement**

The County or its designee may conduct inspections before, during, and after a Special Event to ensure compliance with this ordinance, approved plans, and conditions of approval. The Special Events Permittee shall provide access to all areas of the Special Event the County deems necessary and provide the number of access credentials requested.

#### **8.16.150 Remedies and Penalties**

In the event a Permittee or Special Event is violating local, state, or federal law or conditions of approval, the County shall have the following remedies:

1. Cancel or stop the Special Event and/or revoke the Special Event Permit;
2. Seek an injunction in the Moab District Court;
3. Issue Civil Fines pursuant to the Grand County Consolidated Fee Schedule, this Chapter, and Title 1 of the Grand County General Ordinances;
4. Issue criminal citations. Any person, firm, entity, or corporation found violating this chapter or the conditions of approval shall be guilty of a Class C misdemeanor; or
5. Deny the Permittee or Special Event a Special Event Permit for up to the following three (3) years.

#### **8.16.160 Post Event Evaluation**

The Committee shall conduct a Post Event Evaluation of each Special Event and may issue an After-Action Report/Improvement Plan, as deemed necessary; provided, however, that the Committee's failure to so conduct a Post Event Evaluation or issue an After-Action Report/Improvement Plan does not constitute a finding of good standing for any particular Special Event and is not a waiver of remedies hereunder.

#### **8.16.170 Constitutional Right**

Grand County recognizes and supports the public's right to assembly and free speech and this Chapter is not intended to, and does not, restrict speech on the basis of its content, viewpoint or message. To the extent the terms herein are ambiguous, the term shall be interpreted to not regulate on the basis of speech content, and the interpretation resulting in the least restriction on the content of speech shall prevail.

#### **8.16.180 COVID-19 Regulations**

##### **8.16.180.1 Guidelines**

All Grand County Permittees and Special Events shall comply with the Utah Transmission Index Guidelines, or similar state COVID-19 guidelines in effect at the time of the Special Event ("Guidelines") as well as any effective Joint Public Health Order of the County and Southeast Utah Health Department ("Order").

### **8.16.180.2 Definitions**

- a. "COVID-19" means the Novel Coronavirus Disease 2019 caused by Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome Coronavirus 2, also known as SARS-CoV-2;
- b. "Face Mask" means a mask that completely covers the nose and mouth, is made of synthetic or natural fabrics, and fits snugly against the nose and sides of the face and under the chin. Face Mask does not include a mask with holes, openings, lace or mesh, or similar web like construction or material.
- c. "Face Shield" means a shield that covers the entire face, including the eyes, nostrils, and mouth, which is made of clear plastic or similar nonpermeable transparent materials.
- d. "Household" means an individual or groups of individuals who reside in the same residence.
- e. "Person" means the same as that defined in Utah Statute § 68-3-12.5(18).

### **8.16.180.3 COVID-19 Regulations**

In addition, at all times during the Special Event (including set-up and removal/clean-up), a Permittee shall:

1. require each person attending the special event to wear a face mask, including in an area of ingress and egress, indoors and outdoors, except as excepted or exempted by this Section;
2. require at least six feet (6') of physical distance between individuals from separate households who attend the special event, including in an area of ingress or egress;
3. post conspicuous signage at each main event staging areas, ingress and egress, and on the event's website that:
  - a. lists COVID-19 symptoms;
  - b. asks employees and customers experiencing COVID-19 symptoms to stay home; and
  - c. provides notice that face masks are required;
4. include a notification that face masks and social distancing are required in all event advertising and promotional information, including correspondence with participants;
5. re. alcoholic beverages:
  - a. restrict the sale of all liquor, wine, and beer when Grand County is in the High Risk level (or equivalent, as determined by the Utah Department of Health);
  - b. restrict the sale of liquor when Grand County is in the Moderate Risk level (or equivalent, as determined by the Utah Department of Health);

6. re. size of events:
  - a. cancel all indoor events when Grand County is in the High Risk level (or equivalent, as determined by the Utah Department of Health);
  - b. limit total event participants and registrations as follows:
    - i. 0 participants per day for events located inside, and 250 participants per day for events located outside, when Grand County is in the High Risk level (or equivalent, as determined by the Utah Department of Health); and
    - ii. 500 participants per day for events located inside, or 1000 participants per day for events located outside, when Grand County is in the Moderate Risk level (or equivalent, as determined by the Utah Department of Health).

**8.16.180.4 Face Mask Exceptions.** Notwithstanding any other provision of the SEUHD 2020-09GC, an individual who is otherwise required by the Order to wear a face mask may remove the face mask in the following situations:

- a. while the sole occupant of a room, cubicle, or similar enclosure;
- b. while communicating with an individual who is deaf or hard of hearing if communication cannot be achieved through other means and the speaker wears a face shield or is located behind a plexiglass barrier;
- c. while obtaining or providing a service that requires the temporary removal of the face mask, such as dental service or speech therapy services;
- d. while sleeping;
- e. while exercising or recreating while:
  - i. outdoors;
  - ii. indoors if at least six feet (6') of distance is maintained from any individual from a separate household;
  - iii. swimming or on duty as a lifeguard; or
  - iv. actively performing as an athlete at an organized and authorized athletic event;
- f. while engaging in work where wearing a face mask would create a risk to the individual, as determined by government safety guidelines;
- g. when necessary to confirm the individual's identity and if removal is temporary; and
- h. while giving a presentation or performance for an audience, if at least six feet (6') of distance is maintained between the speaker and the nearest individual from a separate household.

**8.16.180.5 Face Mask Exemptions.** The following individuals are exempt from the Face Mask Requires in Section 8.16.180:

- a. a child who is younger than three (3) years old;
- b. an individual who is unconscious, incapacitated, or otherwise unable to remove the face mask without assistance;

- c. an individual with a medical condition, mental health condition, or intellectual or developmental disability that prevents the individual from safely wearing a face mask; provided, however, that businesses may deny entry or service to a patron who qualifies for an exemption under this Section or may request proof of medical condition, mental health condition, or intellectual or developmental disability prior to permitting entry or service; and
- d. an individual who is incarcerated.