



# REQUEST FOR COUNCIL ACTION

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**Title:** Request for Council Action – SHEDG Public Address System Application

**Preferred Agenda:** March 25, 2025

**Submitted By:** Jason Ogden, City Manager

**Reviewed By:** Cecily Hope Pretty, Interim Assistant City Manger

**Type of Action:** Resolution  Motion  Roll Call  Other

**Relevant Code/Policy:** Sweet Home Municipal Code 9.20.020

**Towards Council Goal:** Economic Strength

**Attachments:** Special Event and Park Rental – Public Address System Application

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**Purpose of this RCA:**

The purpose of this RCA is to review and consider approval of a Public Address (PA) Permit for the Santiam Smoke Show event, ensuring that amplified sound can be used while balancing community impact, economic strength, and public engagement.

**Background/Context:**

The Santiam Smoke Show is a new BBQ competition and cook-off event that aims to draw visitors and participants from across the region. It is replacing the Icebox Cookoff, which was traditionally held during the Fourth of July weekend. This event is produced by the Sweet Home Economic Development Group (SHEDG) and brings together elements from both the Icebox Cookoff and Music & Brews to create an expanded experience featuring BBQ, brews, and live music.

At the heart of the Santiam Smoke Show is the BBQ Battle, which continues the legacy of the Icebox Cookoff as the largest cash-paid BBQ competition on the West Coast. It serves as a Jack Daniel’s qualifier and is sanctioned by the Kansas City Barbeque Society (KCBS), drawing over 45 teams to compete for the title of grand champion. Additionally, the event will feature Pacific Northwest-inspired ancillary competitions showcasing local ingredients like mushrooms and hazelnuts.

Live music will be a key component of the event, featuring performances from rock tribute bands and country artists, including Jukebox Heroes (Foreigner Tribute), Hall & Bros (Hall & Oates/Doobie Brothers Tribute), and country singer Clark Hill.

The Santiam Smoke Show is scheduled to take place from May 30 to June 1, 2025, at The Old Mill Site, 1851 Tamarack Street, Sweet Home, Oregon, 97386. The event organizers are requesting to play amplified music in the outdoor venue from 4:00 PM to 11:00 PM on May 30, 2025, and from 2:00 PM to 11:00 PM on May 31, 2025.

The event organizers have submitted a PA permit application requesting approval for sound amplification equipment to be used at the venue. The application specifies that the amplified sound will be projected beyond 1,000 feet, requiring City Council approval per SHMC 9.20.020.

**The Challenge/Problem:**

The primary concern with granting the PA Permit is balancing the interests of event organizers with those of residents and businesses. The event's amplified sound system has the potential to impact nearby neighborhoods, requiring consideration of noise control measures.

**Issues and Financial Impacts:**

The City and the Police Department will not be directly impacted financially. Any costs associated with enforcement or potential complaints will be absorbed within existing resources.

**Elements of a Stable Solution:**

The Sweet Home City Council should determine a fair and equitable solution associated with the PA Permit times, balancing the needs of the business and the surrounding neighborhood while recognizing the event's positive economic impact on the community.

**Options:**

1. Approve the requested PA Permit: This would allow for the event organizers to play amplified music in the outdoor venue from 4:00 PM to 11:00 PM on May 30<sup>th</sup> 2025 and 2:00 PM to 11:00 PM on May 31<sup>st</sup>, 2025.
2. Deny the Request: This would not allow for amplified music at the event.
3. Amend the requested PA Permit: The City Council can choose to amend the request by adjusting the times permitted on one or all days.

**Recommendation:**

Staff recommends Option 1: Approve the requested PA Permit.