



Memorandum

To: Town Council
From: Thomas Dansie, Director of Community Development
Date: February 6, 2026
Re: **Ordinance 2026-04: Changes to Section 6-1-5 Motor Vehicle Idling Restrictions**

Background

The Town encourages the protection of air quality (see General Plan Natural and Cultural Resources Sub-Goal E). The Town also seeks to preserve the natural quiet by limiting noise nuisances (See General Plan Natural and Cultural Resources Sub-Goal C). To promote these two objectives, in 2013 the Town adopted an ordinance that prohibits idling of motorized vehicles, except in limited circumstances (see [Town Code 6-1-5](#)).

The Utah State Law authorizing local governments to adopt and enforce motor vehicle idling ordinances requires such ordinances to be primarily educational (see [Utah State Code 41-6a-208\(3\)](#)). Importantly, at the time the Town's ordinance was adopted the State Law required three warning citations to be issued before a local government could issue a fine for a violation of the idling ordinance. The Town's ordinance reflects this requirement.

Several years ago the Legislature revised the State Law. Now a local government is only required to issue one warning citation before imposing a fine. This is less restrictive than the Town's current ordinance, which still requires three warning citations to be issued.

Proposed Ordinance Change

To be consistent with State Law the Town could revise section 6-1-5 to require only one warning citation to be issued, and not three. This change could help prompt more compliance with the Town's idling ordinance, which in turn could more effectively promote the General Plan goals of protecting air quality and preserving the natural quiet.

Staff notes that there is no conflict with the Town's ordinance being less restrictive than the State Law. The Town can continue to require three warning citations to be issued before imposing a fine. However, this will limit the effectiveness of the ordinance. The requirement to issue three warnings makes it very difficult to prompt compliance from a recalcitrant idling offender.

Staff has drafted a proposed ordinance that makes the Town's idling regulations consistent with State Law. The proposed change simply reduces the number of required warning citations from three to one. No other changes to the Town's idling ordinance are proposed.

Council Action

The Council should review the proposed change to the Town's idling regulations in Ordinance 2026-04 and determine whether or not to adopt the change from three warning citations to one warning citation.



ORDINANCE 2026-04

AN ORDINANCE OF THE SPRINGDALE TOWN COUNCIL REVISING THE TOWN'S MOTOR VEHICLE IDLING REGULATIONS

Whereas, the Town of Springdale has adopted motor vehicle idling restrictions to promote the General Plan objectives of preserving good air quality and reducing noise nuisances; and

Whereas, Utah State Law contains certain requirements relative to local government idling regulations, including a requirement to issue warning citations prior to imposing a fine for violations; and

Whereas, the State Legislature recently revised the State Law from requiring three warning citations to now requiring only one warning citation; and

Whereas, the Springdale Town Council desires to make the Town's idling regulations consistent with the State Law by reducing the number of warning citations required before imposing a fine;

Now therefore be it ORDAINED by the Springdale Town Council that section 6-1-5 of the Springdale Town Code is revised to read as follows:

Adopted by the Springdale Town Council this 11th day of February, 2026.

Barbara Bruno, Mayor

Attest:

Robin Romero, Town Clerk

ROLL CALL VOTE

R. Aton	Yes	No
B. Bruno	Yes	No
J. Burns	Yes	No
P. Campbell	Yes	No
K. Topham	Yes	No

6-1-5: MOTOR VEHICLE IDLING RESTRICTIONS:

- A. *Purpose:* The Town of Springdale discourages excessive idling of motor vehicle engines. Excessive idling contributes to air pollution, wastes fuel, and causes noise disturbances in the Town. In order to educate operators of motor vehicles about the detrimental impacts of excessive idling and to encourage responsible idling practices, the Town adopts the following policy.
- B. *Anti-idling policy:* No driver operating a motor vehicle within the Town of Springdale shall cause or permit a vehicle's engine to idle for more than five minutes, with exceptions for the following circumstances:
 - 1. Idling while stopped at the direction of a police officer or authorized traffic control personnel.
 - 2. Idling required for the operation of emergency vehicles and appurtenant equipment, including police, fire, and ambulance vehicles.
 - 3. Idling to operate heating or air conditioning equipment inside the vehicle when the external air temperature is below 32°F or above 100°F and when the vehicle is occupied by passengers. Idling to operate heating or air conditioning equipment in unoccupied vehicles is prohibited.
 - 4. Idling of refrigerated delivery trucks to operate refrigeration equipment while the truck is making a delivery.
- C. *Applicability:* This policy applies to idling on all public streets and public property. The policy also applies to any private property that is open to the general public unless the private property owner:
 - 1. Has a private business that has a drive-through service (a window or other opening in the building that allows customers to receive goods and/or services while remaining in their vehicles) as a component of the private property owner's business operations and posts a sign acceptable to the Town informing customers and the public of the Town's time limit for idling vehicle engines, or Adopts an idle reduction education policy approved by the Town.
- D. *Penalties and enforcement:* Violations of this policy will be handled in the following manner:
 - 1. A person must be issued at least ~~three~~ one warning citation~~s~~ before the Town imposes a fine for violations. For the purposes of this section, a "person" is defined as:
 - a. An individual driver of a private motor vehicle, or
 - b. A company operating a fleet of commercial vehicles, such as a tour bus company, a delivery truck company, or other similar company.
 - 2. Fines for violations of this policy shall be assessed according to the fee structure for parking violations.
 - 3. This policy shall be enforced in such a manner as to provide for the safety of law enforcement officers or designees who enforce it.

CERTIFICATE OF POSTING

I, Robin Romero, acting on behalf of the Town of Springdale, hereby certify that accurate copies of Ordinance 2026-04, were posted at three places within the municipality: Springdale Town Hall, Springdale Post Office, and the Canyon Community Center on the _____ day of _____, 2026.