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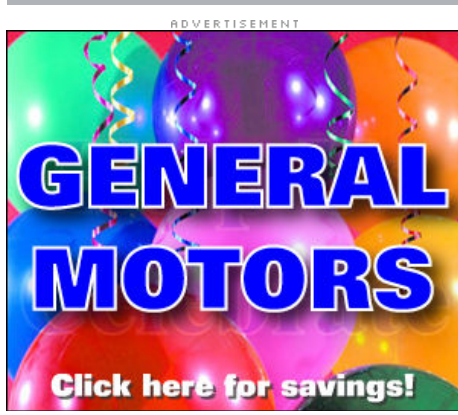
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Local developer files \$25,000 suit against city

SHEBOYGAN PRESS STAFF • SEPTEMBER 19, 2008

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A local developer filed a \$25,000 lawsuit Wednesday against the City of Sheboygan alleging that city staff reneged on a building redevelopment agreement.



The developer, Toby Watson of South Pier LLC in Sheboygan, is seeking up to \$25,219 in damages, according to the lawsuit. The amount would cover a historic building restoration grant that Watson alleges is owed to him by the city for \$100,876 in redevelopment work he completed on several buildings in the 500 block of North Eighth Street.

Watson, who applied for the grant in August 2006, contends his application was approved, and he was led to believe he would be reimbursed for 25 percent of the project's cost.

But one year after applying, and with the project under way, the city notified Watson that the application process had not been conducted properly.

Because the work is complete, the city says the project is no longer eligible for the grant money, according to the lawsuit.

"Only after the work is done do they say, 'No wait, we made a mistake,'" said attorney Jason Dierkes of Dierkes Law Office in Sheboygan, who is representing Watson. "It's not right."

The lawsuit was filed against City Planning and Development Director Paulette Enders and Economic Development Manager Chad Pelishek.

Pelishek declined to comment on the lawsuit, while Enders and City Attorney Steve McLean were out of the office Thursday and unavailable for comment.

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