

are all affected by this war in one way or another.

If anyone wishes to look through the book of American and Coalition casualties, do stop by the vigil any Tuesday between 5 and 6 p.m.

Oh — one last thing. A correction needs to be made. There were close to 40 people at the vigil. Not 20. Thank you.

**Joan S. Borst  
Sheridan**

## **Looks like Whitney Benefits is bending over backwards**

Editor:

I would like to speak about a \$100,000 check sent to Mr. Paul DelRossi in August of 2007 from the city of Sheridan.

Mr. DelRossi, a local developer, requested the check be mailed to him from funds approved by City Council in February of 2007. Mr. DelRossi was requesting payment be made from funds appropriated by a resolution of City Council.

The resolution authorized the use of \$100,000 of optional 1 percent funds. The money was appropriated to Sheridan Housing Action Committee to provide public infrastructure for the Montana Street development project.

The Montana Street project, also called York Place, was Mr. DelRossi's affordable housing project. In November of 2007, Mr. DelRossi transferred his ownership of this project to Brighton Construction.

However, in August of '07, Mr. DelRossi asked the city to release to him the \$100,000 of 1 percent money. Mr. DelRossi said he needed to pay Buckley Construction for water and sewer lines installed by Buckley at York Place.

DelRossi noted that Buckley had placed a lien for

payment of \$132,079.98 for work performed at the project. In July of '07, Mr. Mike Cole, assistant city public works director, e-mailed Gene Kilpatrick, DelRossi's partner, the following:

"All I need from SHAC is a simple acknowledgment of disbursement of funds from the city to the developer from 1 percent optional funds appropriated for SHAC per resolution ... mainly I need to have something in the file from SHAC so our auditors don't question why we made payment directly to the developer instead of to the SHAC. (The resolution authorizes the appropriation to SHAC.)"

I have asked Marie Lowe, director of SHAC, if she authorized the release of the \$100,000 to DelRossi. She said she did not, and she was not worried about it.

DelRossi received his check on a claim approved on Aug. 21, 2007. Currently Mr. DelRossi is preparing to sell Central Middle School property to Holy Name Church. The sale will advance as soon as DelRossi owns the property.

Whitney Benefits owns CMS and will sell the property for \$7.50 per square foot to DelRossi on an extended option. DelRossi's first option on the property ended Dec. 31 of 2007.

Whitney Benefits extended the option to allow DelRossi additional time to purchase the property. I asked Whitney President Mr. Tom Kinnison why the option was extended on the CMS property.

Mr. Kinnison said, "This is not a sweetheart deal."

Sheridan Mayor Dave Kinskey said in his state of the city address to the Chamber of Commerce that the city of Sheridan has bent over backwards to accommodate developers.

It appears to me that Whitney Benefits is bending over backwards.

**Vicki Taylor  
Banner**

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