

Clifton Journal 12/23/16

LETTERS

2016 bonding pays for Dwasline sidewalks

Since the Dec. 1, 2015 Council meeting where this council approved the construction of Dwasline sidewalks, the public has continually been misled about where the money for this \$250,000 (and counting) project came from. This council and administration have continually not been forthcoming to the public and the reporters covering Clifton in that the money is coming from leftover money from previous bond ordinances. In fact, the Nov. 30 article states the council approved moving "\$197,000 from 2015 road bond ordinance and \$100,000 from previous bond ordinances." This is not truthful.

When any contract is awarded by the council, the CFO must include a certification showing which account the funds are available in to pay for this contract. This information is available to the public through an OPRA request which I completed. When the Dwasline Road sidewalk \$250,000 contract was awarded the CFO certified that the funds were available in account #04-215-55-954-407. My OPRA request revealed that account #04-215-55-954-407 entitled Dwasline Road Sidewalks was created on Sept 12, 2016 as a result of the 2016 Capital Bond Ordinance 7311-16 in that \$350,000 was moved into this account on 9/12/16.

Since time and time again, this council told the public and the reporters the money was coming from previous bond ordinances, I questioned the creation of this "Dwasline Road Sidewalk Account" and asked for any transfers in/out of this account and what accounts the money into/out of came from. The answer from the city clerk's office was clear " this account #04-215-55-954-407 did not exist as of 12/31/14 or 12/31/15 and was cre-

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ated on 9/12/16 as a result of the 2016 Capital Ordinance 7311-16". Clearly, we the taxpayers of Clifton were not told the truth by this council.

If you read the 2016 Capital Ordinance 7311-16 in which it must be detailed where and for what this money will be spent, it does not state any portion of this bonding money will be used for the new construction of sidewalks. What it states is money will be used for "renovations and repairs to various roads, curbs and sidewalks". Clearly, this is misleading and a false representation to the investors who purchased these bonds as there is no way the new construction of sidewalks on Dwasline could be classified as

a renovation or repair. As a side note, as of today not one of the 46 roads listed on the 2016 Bond Ordinance has been repaved. Yet, the Dwasline sidewalk project was started.

It is time the taxpayers of Clifton hold this council accountable and responsible for misleading the public. Trust and honesty is the backbone for good government. It is time we clean house.

Mary Sadrakula
Clifton