

Staff Responses to Council Questions

3/2/2021

1. Could we be sure to use LED or something environmentally friendly?

Yes, restaurants that choose to install lighting will be encouraged to use LED.

2. Who pays for the electricity used for downtown light poles/christmas lights now?

The Village is billed directly from ComEd at a flat rate per light (unmetered) for the use of electricity in the Downtown that powers street lights and holiday decorations.

3. Can we have them automatically turned off for certain hours (do we do this with Holiday lights or are they "always on")?

Holiday lights remain on continuously. Currently, the outlets that are part of the street lights cannot be turned on and off at certain hours. A timer would have to be installed on control panels to allow lights powered through Village street lights to be activated at certain times.

4. What if lighting was provided by DMC and powered by our light poles?

I'm thinking aesthetics could be improved if lighting was consistent in style/color/magnitude ...

Or, what if we doubled down on the density of holiday lights in the trees and left them up year round?

Village staff has discussed this idea with Erin Venezia, Executive Director of the Downtown Management Corporation (DMC). As expanded outdoor dining transitions to a more permanent program, the coordination of lighting purchased by a single entity and powered by Village street lights may be a viable option. Staff recommends that this be more thoroughly considered beginning in 2022. This would allow the 2021 outdoor dining program to be evaluated and also allow the Village to work with the DMC to ensure that a coordinated approach to lighting is thoroughly considered (to address structural, liability and cost-related issues) and benefits businesses throughout the Downtown.

Attachments

None