



**CITY OF BELLE ISLE, FLORIDA  
CITY COUNCIL AGENDA ITEM COVER SHEET**

**Meeting Date:** November 19, 2019

**To:** Honorable Mayor and City Council Members

**From:** B. Francis, City Manager

**Subject:** Council Workshops

**Background:** During the Strategic Planning Session and at a few City Council meetings, Councilors brought up the suggestion to go back to holding Council Workshops. Workshops, or Work Sessions, are allowed under the BI Municipal Code, Section 2-53. The purpose of a City Council workshop is to provide an open forum for City Council and City staff members to discuss and share ideas on various subjects related to City operations, projects, and planning. Citizens are welcome to attend; however, since the City Council does not take official action during workshop sessions, citizen comments on workshop items are made only at the request of the Mayor or Council Members.

**Staff Recommendation:** Workshops can provide productive dialogue and open discussions between Council members that is less structured than regular meetings which can lead to positive direction for staff. The main problem that has been encountered in the past has been to hold the workshop, provide direction, and then when it comes on the regular meeting agenda, the same discussions take place at the regular meeting that were done in the workshops. If the Council wishes to go back to workshops, then issues discussed at the workshop should have limited discussion when placed on the regular meeting agenda for formal action.

**Suggested Motion:** I move that, starting in February 2020, the Council meeting in a workshop on the first Tuesday of the month starting at 6:30 PM.

**Alternatives:** Do not hold workshops and continue with two regular meetings every month.

**Fiscal Impact:** N/A

**Attachments:** None