



## *Proclamation*

**WHEREAS**, James R. Athas has served as Organist and Director of Music at the Whitewater First United Methodist Church for fifty (50) years, beginning during his college years at the University of Wisconsin–Whitewater, and during that time has provided musical leadership for thousands of worship services, weddings, memorials, and community gatherings; and

**WHEREAS**, throughout his tenure, Mr. Athas has demonstrated exceptional musical range and technical skill, including composing and arranging original works, performing traditional sacred and organ music, leading choirs and cantatas, and supporting larger musical productions and performances hosted in Whitewater that have drawn broad community participation; and

**WHEREAS**, Mr. Athas has consistently shared his talents beyond his home congregation, supporting other churches when needed, providing music for senior living facilities, outdoor and seasonal services, ecumenical celebrations, and longstanding civic traditions such as the annual July 4th services at Cravath Lake, as well as participating in charitable and community fundraising efforts; and

**WHEREAS**, through his steady presence and quiet professionalism, Mr. Athas has contributed to the cultural life of Whitewater in ways that extend well beyond any single institution, with his professional and personal life closely connected to the City across multiple generations of residents;

**NOW, THEREFORE, I, John Weidl, City Manager for the City of Whitewater**, hereby recognize and commend James R. Athas for his fifty years of dedicated service and meaningful contributions to the cultural and civic life of the community, and do hereby designate February 15, 2026, as “James R. Athas Day” in the City of Whitewater.

Adopted this 3rd day of February 2026

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**John S. Weidl, City Manager**