



King County

Metropolitan King County Council

Regional Policy Committee

Staff Report

Agenda Item No.: 6

Name: Beth Mountsier

Briefing No.: 2010-B0094

Date: May 12, 2010

Attending: Kevin Kiernan, Director, Solid Waste Division, Department of Natural Resources and Parks

SUBJECT:

A briefing and update on solid waste matters as of May 2010 in King County.

SUMMARY:

Council staff and Solid Waste Division staff will give a verbal status report of what is known regarding solid waste matters in King County, including resolution of contract negotiations between Waste Management and Teamsters 174.

ATTACHMENTS:

1. Press releases from Teamsters 174, Waste Management.
2. Local news articles regarding resolution of contract negotiations



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TEAMSTERS LOCAL UNION #174

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Negotiations -- Waste Management

Negotiation updates are organized by date

May 2010

April 2010

March 2010

February 2010

WASTE MANAGEMENT CONTRACT RATIFIED

On Sunday, May 2, over 200 Waste Management drivers met at the Hall to vote on their contract. The ratification vote was held on a fully-recommended offer after the Local reached a tentative agreement with Waste.

The events leading up to the vote were dramatic. On Thursday April 26, as Waste Management trucks were heading to the transfer stations to dump their garbage trucks, the Local initiated an unfair labor practice strike. Pickets were positioned at each transfer station. A broadcast text arrived on Business Agent phones, picket signs were raised, and the members returned the trucks fully loaded to their barns. They turned in their trucks and picked up a sign.

The Local's goal was to pressure management to return to the bargaining table and negotiate in good faith. The day after the strike started, it ended just as abruptly. The message we had been receiving from Waste Management was we'll meet, but only to answer questions. We didn't want to ask questions, we wanted to negotiate. Early Thursday afternoon, we got the letter agreeing to return to the table and to negotiate in good faith with nopro-conditions.

We returned to the table Monday morning. As we had done many times before, we bargained into the early hours of Tuesday morning, and then returned to the table later in the day. We reached a tentative agreement Tuesday evening.

We informed our members we had reached a deal and scheduled the vote for Sunday. The meeting was long, lasting close to four hours before the members enthusiastically called for a vote. The efforts of the bargaining team were well rewarded, and the offer was ratified by a 96% margin.

This battle couldn't have been won without the assistance of Teamsters Local 117. Under the leadership of Secretary-Treasurer Tracey Thompson and the bulldog coordination of Organizer Brenda Wiest, their staff put in long hours on our behalf, and 100% of their members working at Waste Management honored our picket lines. THANK YOU to the staff and members of Local 117.

**News***From everyday collection to environmental protection, Think Green.®*

Waste Management Announces Contract Ratification

6:30 PM PST, May 2, 2010

Seattle, WA Waste Management is pleased to announce that Teamsters Local 174 drivers ratified a new five-year contract today.

"Our hardworking, professional drivers have endorsed a contract that will provide fair wages and benefits for many families in the Puget Sound Region," said Dean Kattler, Vice President for Waste Management's PNW operations. "Although we are not at liberty to discuss the specifics of the final contract, we are glad that the drivers voted to accept the terms of the contract. We look forward to continuing to provide our customers in communities in King and Snohomish Counties with excellent service."

Waste Management employs 350 Teamsters 174 drivers who provide service to approximately one million customers in King and Snohomish Counties.

More Information

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Attachment 2

The Seattle Times

Sunday, May 2, 2010 - Page updated at 11:01 PM

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Trash haulers approve contract with 96% vote

By Nicole Tsong
Seattle Times staff reporter

After a month without a contract and a two-day strike, local trash haulers voted Sunday night to approve a new accord that calls for wage increases for each of the next five years.

In what was described as a somber four-hour meeting, members of Teamsters Local 174 approved the new contract by a 96 percent vote. The union said the contract calls for a 3 ¼ percent annual increase in total compensation, which covers health benefits, wages and retirement. Top wages for the workers are around \$60,000 a year.

"I don't think it was a great contract, but it was a fair contract," said union member Scott Sheppard, echoing the sentiment of others leaving the meeting.

The hauling company, Waste Management, called the vote "very good news. The vote ratifies a five-year contract that will provide fair wages and benefits for many families in the Puget Sound area," said spokeswoman Jackie Lang. The company declined to release details of the agreement.

Union garbage haulers agreed to go back to work April 22 after a strike that resulted from stalled contract negotiations.

The strike — which affected 1 million customers in King and Snohomish counties and could have cost the company up to \$1.5 million in fines — ended almost as abruptly as it began.

The 450 members of Local 174 struck April 21 and 22 then announced they would return to work — unconditionally just as Waste Management announced it was bringing in replacement workers.

Waste Management is the largest garbage-collection company in North America, with 45,000 employees and \$11 billion in annual revenues.

The arrival of replacement workers carried risks for the union, experts said. Under federal labor laws, employers may permanently replace striking workers, although the union workers get priority for job openings once the labor dispute is settled, said Seattle labor attorney Joe Marra after the union announced it was returning to the negotiating table.

"If this strike went on, there might not have been jobs open for the union workers," Marra said.



ELLEN M. BANNER / THE SEATTLE TIMES
Trash haulers line up Sunday at the Teamsters building in Tukwila to vote on the new five-year contract with Waste Management, which was approved. The pact calls for wage increases in each year of the contract.

The company also had asked union members to raise monthly medical payments from \$30 to \$50.

Both sides said that issue had been resolved but declined to elaborate.

Information from reporter Lynn Thompson is included in this report.

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Teamsters Local 174 Ratify Contract With Waste Management



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Posted: 6:19 pm PDT May 2, 2010 Updated: 7:07 pm PDT May 2, 2010

SEATTLE -- Garbage truck drivers represented by Teamsters Local 174 have ratified a contract with Waste Management by a 96 percent yes vote.

The agreement ends a labor dispute that appeared to have stalled in early April. The drivers went on strike for two days on April 21 and 22, but returned April 24 when the two sides agreed to return to the negotiation table.

The union earlier settled a labor contract with Allied Waste Service, which is owned by Republic Services with corporate headquarters in Phoenix, Ariz.

The contract between the union and Allied was ratified April 11.

Waste Management provides trash, recycling and yard waste services for about 1 million customers King County and Snohomish County.

In September 2006, mechanics at Waste Management went on a three-day strike. Drivers joined them to show their support. Garbage was not picked up for three days.

Previous Stories:

- April 28, 2010: [Waste Management, Union Reach Agreement](#)
- April 23, 2010: [Garbage Trucks Rolling, But Dispute Remains](#)
- April 22, 2010: [Striking Garbage Haulers To Return To Work](#)
- April 21, 2010: [Waste Management Drivers Strike](#)

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