

• METRO •

Weather B-5
Deaths B-7
Editorials B-8

RIVER PAR

St. John money may help bui

BY BOB WARREN
River Parishes bureau

Up to \$1 million in St. John the Baptist Parish economic development money could be used to assist the South Louisiana Port Commission in constructing the west bank pier a potential industrial client has requested.

But first the Port Commission will have to submit a budget outlining how

parish money would be used in building the pier, and the Parish Council must approve it, commissioners were told Wednesday night.

In December the commission approved issuing up to \$25 million in revenue bonds to build a 2,000-foot-long pier on the Mississippi River's west bank near Wallace. Formosa Plastics Corp., which has unofficial plans to build a rayon plant in Wallace, requested the pier.

Port officials have said the commission will own the pier and lease it to Formosa.

The Parish Council in February agreed to help the commission in its efforts, using money from the Economic Development Fund parish voters created with a 3/8-cent sales tax increase in 1988. Parish President Lester Millet told commissioners that constitutional resstraints prohibit the parish from giving money directly to industries as an inducement.

ISHIERS

Thursday, March 22, 1990

SECTION
B

id Formosa pier

but that it can be used to help the commission pay for the pier.

However, the agreement between the parish and commission cannot be finalized until the commission establishes what the parish's contributions will be used for. To do that, the commission first must finalize its pier plans with Formosa, Millet said.

Hugh Martin, the parish's bonding attorney who is drafting the agreement, and state Rep. Joe Accardo, hired by the

commission as special projects counsel for the pier project, agreed with Millet.

Accardo said Monday that the port and Formosa have been negotiating proposals on the type of pier and amount of property that will be needed.

To build the pier, the port will have to acquire land in the area, Accardo said. If owners do not want to sell, the port could expropriate the land and pay the owners fair market value for it, he said.